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# State of Maine



## Facts You Should Know About Your Child's Birth Certificate



**Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
(Maine CDC)  
Vital Records Office  
220 Capitol Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
(207) 287-3771 Fax: (207) 287-1093  
TTY Users: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)**

This pamphlet describes the information needed in the preparation of your child's Birth Certificate.

As you know, the Birth Certificate is a valuable document for a person's entire lifetime. It is proof of a precious heritage. It shows that a person is a natural born citizen of the United States of America.

All through life the Birth Certificate is the major source of information on your child's:

- Full Name (First, Middle, Last)
- Place of Birth
- Date of Birth

In addition, the Birth Certificate provides information on names and other items of personal importance to you and others.

The Birth Certificate is a legal document. Filed at the time of birth, it provides proof of age and identity. This is important for inheritance reasons and for obtaining rights to travel in foreign countries.

The Birth Certificate is also needed, in most cases, for the following:

- Social Security
- Entrance to School
- Work Permits
- Travel
- Driver's License
- Marriage License
- Welfare Benefits
- Entrance to the Armed Forces

In addition, the Birth Certificate provides physicians and health workers with vital information related to the health of your child. This is often used for planning future maternal and childcare programs as well as providing services to you.

Some of the information requested is of a very personal nature. Please have complete confidence that this type of information will be considered as confidential and will be treated accordingly. This information is needed for statistical and medical research purposes.

The preparation of your child's Birth Certificate depends on the information you provide. It is important to both you and your child that the information in the Birth Certificate be as complete and accurate as possible. If you have questions, do not hesitate to ask for help. Your cooperation is essential and greatly appreciated.

Please review the Worksheet for your child's Birth Certificate carefully, to ensure that all information on it is correct. Be very careful that all information that you give is true and accurate, as there are penalties for providing false information. If an entry needs correcting, please contact your nurse immediately so needed changes can be made before the certificate is officially filed.

Certain legal questions sometimes arise at the time the Birth Certificate is being prepared. These can be technical and confusing. Often the questions concern parents who are divorced or unwed. Sometimes they involve the name to be given to the child or the name of the father that will appear on the Birth Certificate. All these questions cannot be answered in a pamphlet of this nature. If you have a special problem or question, do not hesitate to ask for assistance. It is very important to have these matters resolved in accordance with the law.

If you discover an error on your child's Birth Certificate at a later date, please contact the municipal clerk of the city or town where the child was born. The clerk will assist you in the proper procedures for making corrections.

Copies of your child's birth certificate may be obtained from the city or town clerk at the birthplace either in person or by mail. Copies are also available from the city or town clerk in which the mother resides at the time of the child's birth or from the Maine CDC vital records office. A fee is charged for the copies.