

New Vital Records Law Goes Into Effect

On July 12th, a new law preventing fraudulent use of vital records goes into effect. Vital records include birth certificates, fetal death and death certificates, marriage certificates, and domestic partner registrations. Maine's new law will require a person requesting a copy of records less than 100 years old to provide documentation establishing their direct and legitimate interest in the records.

Until now, Maine has been one of just a handful of states that have allowed anyone, including individuals with bad intentions and for profit entities, access to these records. Information from vital records will become completely open to the public 100 years from the date of the event.

Individuals who may access vital records less than 100 years old include:

- The person named on the record;
- The person's spouse or registered domestic partner;
- The parent(s) named on the record;
- Descendants of the person named on the record;
- Registrant's legal custodian, guardian, or conservator or respective authorized representative (includes attorney, physician, or funeral director); and
- Genealogists who have a Maine CDC issued researcher identification card.

Proof of identity must also be presented to the municipal and city clerks or state Vital Records Office staff. A brief application for securing a copy of the vital record must be filled out and presented, along with positive identification such as a driver's license, passport, or other government issued picture identification that clearly shows that the person requesting the record is who they say they are. Identification requirements apply whether the records are requested in person or by mail.

More information on this issue may be found at www.mainepublichealth.gov.

Marriage License

Full Maiden Name of Bride:

Full Name of Groom:

Date of Marriage: _____

How many copies? _____

Applicant Name:

Applicant Address:

Indicate your Relationship to the person on requested record below:

- Self/Spouse
- Parent
- Guardian
- Descendant
- Attorney of person on record
- Genealogist ID # _____

By signing below, I swear/affirm that the information above is true and correct.

Applicant Signature:

Today's Date: _____

\$15 for 1st copy, \$6 for each additional copy

Proof of identity of applicant:

Applicant must provide one of these:

- Driver's License
- Passport
- Government issued picture I.D.

OR two of these:

- Utility bills
- Bank statements
- Vehicle registration
- Income tax return
- Personal Check w/ address
- A previously issued vital record
- Letter from government agency requesting record (DHHS, WIC)
- Department of Corrections I.D. card
- Social Security Card
- DD 214
- Hospital; birth worksheet
- License/rental agreement
- Pay stub
- W-2
- Voter Registration card
- Disability award from SSA
- Other _____

Establishing eligibility to acquire record:

- Related applicants must provide proof of lineage.
- Domestic Partners must provide proof of registration of domestic partnership
- Attorneys must provide a signed, notarized release from family
- Genealogists must provide a state-issued card

Do not retain copies of proof provided or note any specific numbers

Birth Certificate

Name on birth record:

Date of Birth: _____

How many copies? _____

Parents Names (with mother's maiden):

Applicant Name:

Applicant Address:

Indicate your Relationship to the person on requested record below:

- Self
- Spouse
- Registered Domestic Partner
- Parent
- Guardian
- Descendant
- Attorney of person on record
- Genealogist ID # _____

By signing below, I swear/affirm that the information above is true and correct.

Applicant Signature:

Today's Date: _____

Proof of identity of applicant:

Applicant must provide one of these:

- Driver's License
- Passport
- Government issued picture I.D.

OR two of these:

- Utility bills
- Bank statements
- Vehicle registration
- Income tax return
- Personal Check w/ address
- A previously issued vital record
- Letter from government agency requesting record (DHHS, WIC)
- Department of Corrections I.D. card
- Social Security Card
- DD 214
- Hospital; birth worksheet
- License/rental agreement
- Pay stub
- W-2
- Voter Registration card
- Disability award from SSA
- Other _____

Establishing eligibility to acquire record:

- Related applicants must provide proof of lineage.
- Domestic Partners must provide proof of registration of domestic partnership
- Attorneys must provide a signed, notarized release from family
- Genealogists must provide a state-issued card

Do not retain copies of proof provided or note any specific numbers

Death Certificate

Full Name of Decedent:

Date of Death: _____

How many copies? _____

Applicant Name:

Applicant Address:

Indicate your Relationship to the person on requested record below:

- Spouse
- Registered Domestic Partner
- Parent
- Guardian
- Descendant
- Attorney of person on record
- Genealogist ID # _____
- None of the above (short form will be issued)

By signing below, I swear/affirm that the information above is true and correct.

Applicant Signature:

Today's Date: _____

\$15 for 1st copy, \$6 for each additional copy

Proof of identity of applicant:

Applicant must provide one of these:

- Driver's License
- Passport
- Government issued picture I.D.

OR two of these:

- Utility bills
- Bank statements
- Vehicle registration
- Income tax return
- Personal Check w/ address
- A previously issued vital record
- Letter from government agency requesting record (DHHS, WIC)
- Department of Corrections I.D. card
- Social Security Card
- DD 214
- Hospital; birth worksheet
- License/rental agreement
- Pay stub
- W-2
- Voter Registration card
- Disability award from SSA
- Other _____

Establishing eligibility to acquire record:

- Related applicants must provide proof of lineage.
- Domestic Partners must provide proof of registration of domestic partnership
- Attorneys must provide a signed, notarized release from family
- Genealogists must provide a state-issued card

Do not retain copies of proof provided or note any specific numbers