

California

Place of event	Cost of copy	Address	Remarks
Birth Death Fetal Death	\$14.00 \$12.00 \$ 9.00	Office of Vital Records CA Department of Public Health MS: 5103 P.O. Box 997410 Sacramento, CA 95899-7410	<p>The State office has records since July 1905. For earlier records, contact the County Recorder in the county where the event occurred.</p> <p>A personal check or money order should be made payable to Office of Vital Records. To verify current fees, the telephone number is (916) 445-2684. This will be a recorded message. Information on how to obtain certified copies is also available via the Internet at http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/.</p> <p>BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS: In order to obtain a Certified Copy, you MUST complete the sworn statement included with the certificate application form, sign the statement under penalty of perjury, and your sworn statement must be notarized. If your request indicates that you want a Certified Copy but does not include a notarized statement sworn under penalty of perjury, the request will be rejected as incomplete and returned to you without being processed.</p>
Marriage (State)	\$13.00	Same as Birth or Death	<p>State office only has indexes for public marriage certificates that occurred from 1949-1986 and 1998-1999, and the processing times can take up to 2-3 years. For any other years or for confidential marriages, contact the County Recorder in the county where the event occurred. Information on how to obtain a marriage certificate is also available via the Internet at http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/Pages/CertifiedCopiesofMarriageandDivorceRecords.aspx.</p>
Marriage (County)	Varies	See remarks	<p>Contact the County Recorder in the county where the license was issued. Contact information is available via the Internet at http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/Pages/CountyRecorderOffice.aspx.</p>
Divorce	\$13.00	Same as Birth or Death	<p>Fee is for search and identification of county where certified copy can be obtained (years 1962 thru June 1984 only). For all other years or for a copy of the decree, write to Superior Court in county where event occurred. Certified copies of decrees are not available from State Health Department.</p>

Varies

See remarks

Clerk of Superior Court in county where divorce was granted.

Introduction

As part of its mission to provide access to data and information relating to the health of the Nation, the National Center for Health Statistics produces a number of publications containing reference and statistical materials. The purpose of this publication is solely to provide information about individual vital records maintained only on file in State or local vital statistics offices.

An official certificate of every birth, death, marriage, and divorce should be on file in the locality where the event occurred. The Federal Government does not maintain files or indexes of these records. These records are filed permanently either in a State vital statistics office or in a city, county, or other local office.

To obtain a certified copy of any of the certificates, write or go to the vital statistics office in the State or area where the event occurred. Addresses and fees are given for each event in the State or area concerned.

To ensure that you receive an accurate record for your request and that your request is filled expeditiously, please follow the steps outlined below for the information in which you are interested:

- Write to the appropriate office to have your request filled.
- Under the appropriate office, information has been included for birth and death records concerning whether the State will accept checks or money orders and to whom they should be made payable. This same information would apply when marriage and divorce records are available from the State office. However, it is impossible for us to list fees and addresses for all county offices where marriage and divorce records may be obtained.
- For all certified copies requested, make check or money order payable for the correct amount for the number of copies you want to obtain. Cash is not recommended because the office cannot refund cash lost in transit.
- Because all fees are subject to change, a telephone number has been included in the information for each State for use in verifying the current fee.
- States have provided their home page address for obtaining current information.
- Type or print all names and addresses in the letter.
- Give the following facts when writing for birth or death records:
 1. Full name of person whose record is being requested.
 2. Sex.
 3. Parents' names, including maiden name of mother.
 4. Month, day, and year of birth or death.
 5. Place of birth or death (city or town, county, and State; and name of hospital, if known).
 6. Purpose for which copy is needed.
 7. Relationship to person whose record is being requested.
- Give the following facts when writing for marriage records:
 1. Full names of bride and groom.
 2. Month, day, and year of marriage.
 3. Place of marriage (city or town, county, and State).
 4. Purpose for which copy is needed.
 5. Relationship to persons whose record is being requested.
- Give the following facts when writing for divorce records:
 1. Full names of husband and wife.
 2. Date of divorce or annulment.
 3. Place of divorce or annulment.
 4. Type of final decree.
 5. Purpose for which copy is needed.
 6. Relationship to persons whose record is being requested

Live Roots

<http://www.liveroots.com/>

Live Roots, launched in October 2008, is an information resource that assists you with locating genealogical resources, including those that are accessible online and others which may require assistance from another researcher. Genealogists use Live Roots to find vital records and original publications, share opinions about online repositories and learn more about tools available to simplify their research projects.

So, is Live Roots a search engine? Is it a specialized link directory? Yes, and No. While this site may have incorporated functionality of a mainstream search engine and/or specialized link directory, the concept behind Live Roots was to transcend some of the inherent limitations of these existing resources. First, by emphasizing original sources, researchers will be able to more clearly see where duplication exists among sites (especially sites that charge fees for access). Second, by focusing on the accessibility of the resources (i.e. online versus offline, free versus paid), researchers will be able to work more efficiently. And lastly, by bridging the gap between online researchers and offline resources, Live Roots will make more information accessible than ever before.

Navigate Geographically

<http://www.liveroots.com/earth/>

Live Roots also includes a feature that allows you to navigate around the globe and see what genealogy resources are available at either the country, state, county and/or city/town level. All resources are geocoded as they are added, and automatically appear on the navigate feature pages. This new feature may be limited in some areas, however, by the quality of information provided to Live Roots.

About this Document

The information contained in this document was extracted from a publication prepared by the National Center for Health Statistics entitled, "Where to Write for Vital Records," (15/Jan/2009 revision). All external links in the document were verified for accuracy, and using the Live Roots catalog will be maintained whenever there are changes, without requiring a re-download of this file.

Additional Vital Records Resources

Vitalrec.com (excellent resource for county level vital records)

<http://www.vitalrec.com/>

Cyndi's List of U.S. - Vital Records

<http://www.cyndislist.com/usvital.htm>

VitalCheck Express (for ordering certificates online)

<http://www.vitalchek.com/>

Ancestry.com - Birth, Marriage & Death Records Search

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/default.aspx?cat=34>