

Massachusetts

Place of event	Cost of copy	Address	Remarks
Birth or Death	\$18.00 (In person) \$28.00 (Mail request) \$3.00 (State Archives)	Registry of Vital Records and Statistics 150 Mount Vernon Street 1 st Floor Dorchester, MA 02125-3105	<p>State office has no records previous to 1916. For earlier records, write to The Massachusetts Archives at Columbia Point, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125 (617) 727-2816.</p> <p>Personal check or money order should be made payable to Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To verify current fees, the telephone number is (617) 740-2600. This will be a recorded message.</p> <p>Information on how to obtain certified copies is also available via the Internet at http://www.state.ma.us/dph/bhsre/rvr/vrcopies.htm</p>
Marriage	Same as Birth or Death	Same as Birth or Death	Records since 1916.
Divorce	No Fee	Same as Birth or Death	Index only since 1952. Inquirer will be directed where to send request. Certified copies are not available from State office.
Divorce	Varies	See remarks	Registrar of Probate 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>