



How to Obtain Certified Copies of Still Birth and Fetal Death Records



Upon request, this document will be made available in Braille, large print, and audiocassette or computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write:

California Office of Vital Records
M.S. 5103
P.O. Box 997410
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410
Telephone: (916) 445-2684
California Relay: 711/1-800-735-2929
www.cdph.ca.gov

Certified Copies of Still Birth and Fetal Death Records

What is the Office of Vital Records?

The Office of Vital Records (OVR) is the State Registrar for the State of California. OVR maintains a permanent, public record of every birth and death that has occurred in California since July 1905, and has more than 50 million records on file.

What services are available from OVR?

- When we receive an application and the required fee for a Certificate of Still Birth, we will provide certified copies to the mother or father only.
 - When we receive an application and the required fee for a Certificate of Fetal Death, we will provide certified copies to anyone who can provide enough information to identify a specific record.
 - We do not release information contained in vital records except through certified copies.
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What is the fee for a certified copy of a Certificate of Still Birth or a Certificate of Fetal Death?

- Certificate of Still Birth: \$20
Certificate of Fetal Death: \$9
 - Fees are nonrefundable (per state law).
 - Fees are established in the California Health and Safety Code, which authorizes our office to keep the fee when it searches for a record even if no certified copy is issued. For this reason, you should provide as much information as possible so we can locate the correct record.
 - If we cannot locate the record based on the information you provide, we will keep the fee (for our searching efforts) and issue a Certificate of No Public Record.
 - OVR is separate from the local registrars and county recorders, so fees previously paid to those offices cannot be transferred to our office.
 - We do not issue free copies except to: 1) district attorneys for child support enforcement, 2) veterans for the sole purpose of establishing military benefits, and 3) victims of crime in connection with a claim under the Victims of Crime Act.
 - Fees should be paid by check or money order made payable to the **Office of Vital Records**. International money orders for out-of-country requests should be payable in U.S. dollars.
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What do I submit to get a Certificate of Still Birth or Certificate of Fetal Death?

- Applications are included in this pamphlet (you can photocopy additional copies if needed, or download them from our website).
- Complete the appropriate application for the type of record you are requesting (Still Birth or Fetal Death) – be sure to complete all items on the application.
- Complete a separate application for each record requested.
- Mail the following items to our office using the address on the front of this pamphlet:
 - Completed application.
 - Appropriate fee.
- If any of the required items aren't included, your request will be returned to you for correction.

How will I know if my request has been accepted?

- If your request is not accepted (e.g., due to insufficient fee, insufficient information, etc.), we will return your request to you with a letter explaining what needs to be corrected.

Processing Time:

- 12 weeks – Fetal Death
- 12 weeks – Still Birth

What if I still have questions?

If you have read this pamphlet thoroughly and still have questions that weren't answered in this pamphlet, please call our Customer Service Unit at (916) 445-2684 (Monday through Friday).
