Birth Certificates

Birth records maintained by the Division of Vital Records start with February 1, 1914 and go through to the present. Vital Records does have a limited number of birth records prior to 1914. The birth records dated prior to 1914 were filed with the Division of Vital Records after 1914. Original copies of Little Rock and Fort Smith births from 1881 are also available.

What types of birth copies are issued?
The Division of Vital Records issues a certified copy of the original birth certificate in paper form.

How much do birth records cost?
The cost of a birth record is $12.00 for the first copy and $10.00 for each additional copy ordered of the same record at the same time.

If no record is found or no copy is made, state law requires that we keep $12.00 for a searching fee. The customer may request a refund of any amount paid over the required $12.00 search fee. If the customer has used the express credit card service, both the express fee and the search fee of $12.00 are not refundable. You will receive a credit of any credit card fees paid in excess of the search and express fees.

Who may order a Birth Certificate?
You can get a birth record of yourself, specific relatives, people you represent, for academic research groups, and if you have a right to the record. Arkansas Statute 20-18-305 does not allow public release of birth records which are less than 100 years old.

Contact Information
Arkansas Department of Health
Division of Vital Records, Slot 44
4815 W. Markham Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
Phone: 501-661-2336
Phone: 800-637-9314
Fax: 501-661-2717

What Information must I Provide?
- The full name of the person on the birth certificate (name when born)
- The date of birth
- The city or town and county of birth
- The father’s full name
- The mother’s full name, to include her maiden name
- Your relationship to the person named on the certificate
- Your reason for requesting the certificate
- Government-issued photo ID (like a Driver’s License)
- A check or money order payable to Arkansas Department of Health (See above for Cost)

Can a Birth Certificate be changed?
Yes, but changes can be denied. You must call the Division of Vital Records at 800-637-9314. Changes, with or without a court order, cost $15.00. If you want a copy of an amended birth certificate, then you must pay an extra $12.00.

Sometimes, you must have a court order to change parts of a birth certificate. You will usually need an attorney. Here are some examples:
- Creation of a new birth certificate after you have adopted a child
- Adding the natural father if the mother was married to another man at time of birth
- Changing the father on a birth certificate
- Changing a surname
- Changing the sex
- Surrogate motherhood

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This fact sheet is given to you as a guide to help you generally understand the way legal matters are handled. Local courts interpret things differently. The information and statements of law contained in this fact sheet are not intended to be used as legal advice. Before you take any action, talk to an attorney and follow his or her advice. Always do what the court tells you to do.