

Passport News

IMPORTANT NOTICE **Birth Certificates from California**

New Requirements Effective July 1, 2003

The occurrence of identity theft is on the rise and the California legislature has identified the release of birth and death records as a vulnerable point in this regard. Legislation was enacted to help protect the records from misuse. Effective July 1, 2003 there will be a new process for ordering birth or death certificates.

Pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code , Section 103526, only specific individuals are allowed to receive an AUTHORIZED CERTIFIED COPY of a birth or death record. An AUTHORIZED CERTIFIED COPY of a birth record is required to obtain a driver's license, passport, social security card, and other services related to an individual's identity. An AUTHORIZED CERTIFIED COPY of a death record may be required to obtain death benefits, claim insurance, proceeds, notify Social Security and obtain other services related to an individual's estate. Please see below for a list of authorized individuals.

When ordering in person an authorized individual must complete an approved application including a sworn statement under penalty of perjury to receive an AUTHORIZED CERTIFIED COPY. A notarized Certificate of Identity and completed application form signed under penalty of perjury by the authorized requestor are required for all orders sent by mail. Applications and Certificates of Identity forms are available via the Internet at www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/publications/forms/pdf/vs111.pdf

Individuals permitted to receive an AUTHORIZED CERTIFIED COPY:

- The registrant (individual listed on certificate) or a parent or legal guardian of the registrant.
- A party entitled to receive the record as a result of a court order, or an attorney, or licensed adoption agency seeking the birth record in order to comply with the requirements of Section 3140 or 7603 of the Family Code.
- A member of a law enforcement agency or a representative of another government agency, as provided by law, who is conducting official business.
- An attorney representing the registrant or the registrant's estate, or any person or agency empowered by statute or appointed by court to act on behalf of the registrant or the registrant's estate.
- A child, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse or domestic partner of the registrant.

