Montana’s Vital Statistics Information Management System  
(VSIMS)  
User Manual  
Volume III: Birth Registration  
January 2017
Montana’s Vital Statistics Information Management System

Volume III: Birth Registration

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Montana’s Vital Statistics Information Management System

Volume III: Electronic Birth Registration

General Information: The Electronic Birth Registration (EBR) module is a component of the Vital Statistics Information Management System (VSIMS). It is a web based secure 128 bit encrypted system that requires login access. User ID’s are assigned by the department and are reviewed and verified every six months. The system incorporates several features designed to ensure a user only has access to allowed data, the correct data is submitted, and to limit the amount of typing required. The terminology screen, tab and page may often be interchanged. A screen, tab or page is what is displayed when a menu item is selected. Therefore, for this manual a screen, a tab or a page are the same.

Data Entry: In some cases, data response is limited to pull down menu options; a down arrow in the right hand corner of the field box identifies these. Data need only be provided once; if the same data is used elsewhere in another portion of the certificate a single entry will populate all similar fields. Some fields are linked to tables, when activated selections are limited to only the applicable data. For example, when the county of residence is selected, only the cities and towns in that county are listed. When a town or location is not listed on the list, a selection of “Other” will allow the entry in the “Other Specify field”. If for some reason an event crosses the county line, for example, if the birth takes place in one county but the mother or father lives in another, there is a “Show all Counties” button at the top of each listing, selection of this will show in alphabetical order all of the selection for the category. Other features will be identified throughout the narrative of the screen prints. Screen prints of common tables i.e. Counties, Towns, etc. will be presented at the end of this narrative in Appendix A.

Note: Additional information regarding the data collected in the standard birth certificate can be found in the Office of Vital Statistics: Montana DPHHS Preparer’s Handbook, October 2007.

At the bottom left hand side of most pages, there are two links:

1. “Home” will return the user to the home page from anywhere in the process with logging out
2. “Logout” will log the user out of the system.
Part I: Login

1. Welcome Screen: When the web site is accessed, a Welcome Screen will be displayed. The menu on the left side of the screen offers three choices: Login, Contact Us, and PHHS Home. Contact us will direct the screen to open the email and allow the user to send the Office of Vital Statistics a message. PHHS home opens the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Service (DPHHS) home page.

![Figure 1.1: Welcome Screen](image)

2. Login Screen: Selection of the “Logon” option on the left menu presents a popup window used to enter the system. The user name is assigned by the Department of Public Health and Human Services after the user has completed training and has signed a DPHHS form OM-300B Non-DPHHS Employee System/File Access Request. A password is initially determined by DPHHS network administration, but should be changed by the user during the first session this is covered later in this manual. Access is reviewed and verified every six months. **Note:** The “Remember my password” function is disabled.

![Figure 1.2: Login Popup](image)
3. **Homepage Screen:** Once logged in the user will be sent to a Birth Registration Home Page. At the top right of the page, it acknowledges who is logged in and the present role selected. There are only two roles available for hospital use: Hospital Supervisor and Hospital Staff. A hospital supervisor can see all of the births being registered in the facility; while a hospital staff can only see the births they created and are working on. The menu on the left side of the page controls the functions available to the user. For example, hospital supervisor role will have Birth, Death, Messages, and Admin displayed. Births is used to activate the birth registration functions, Death is available when hospital staff transcribes a cause of death certificate for the certifying physician (see Montana’s Electronic Death Registration System, User Manual Volume I Data Entry for instructions). “Messages” are used to send messages, this is discussed below. “Admin” is used to activate the user maintenance features selecting this will being a secondary menu with one option “User Maintenance”. Selecting “User Maintenance” will open a screen with the side options changing to “My Profile” and “Change Password”. My Profile allows you to view your profile information. The change password opens a screen the will allow you to change your password it is recommended you do this as soon as you are granted access to the system.

The middle section of the screen indicates if there are any messages that need to be read. In the figure below there are no pending messages. Below these are generic selections of “Help” this is not implemented yet, “Home” will return you to this page and Admin allows you to change your password and some limited user profile activities.

![Figure 1.3: Home Page](image_url)

Messages can be sent to all users for things such as scheduled down time or to an individual user or group of users to inquire about a certificate. A banner “You have messages” will appear as in the screen below. To display the message, click on the banner.

![Figure 1.4: Home page with Message](image_url)
Figure 1.5: Message menu

To read the message click on the subject of the message, this will be in blue and will be next to the word “Subject”. The message screen below will be displayed.

Figure 1.6 View Message

4. Assigned Roles: The “Current Assignment” the facility or role currently being used will be at the top right of the screen, to change facilities or to change roles, click on the role listed in the right hand corner (it will be in Blue). Note: The menu on the left side of the screen will change, select “Assignments” from the menu. After selecting ‘Assignments” the following screen will be displayed and all roles that have been assigned by the Office of Vital Statistics will be displayed. To change your role select the desired role using the radio buttons to the right, and select “Complete”. The screen will return to the Birth Main Action and side menu will change to the functions allowed for the chosen role. Note roles also can be changed using the “Admin” selection on the Home Page, this will be discussed later.

Figure 1.7 Role Assignments

5. Admin: the selection of “Admin” changes the side menu to one selection “User Maintenance” selecting this option offers two options “My Profile” and “Change Password”.

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“My Profile” is for the maintenance of personal information such as general, address, Email, Telephone numbers. General and Assignments provide a summary of the information the VSIMS administrator has inputted into the system to grant access and rights. Use of this is optional and will not affect your use of the system. Note some of the fields are grayed out this indicates an ability to view the information but it cannot be changed. There is an button on the lower right side of the screen that can be used to change your password this can be used as an alternate path to open the screen so you can change to change your password the other path is to select “Change Password” from User Maintenance options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Menu Selection</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>Provides a summary of the information the VSIMS administrator has inputted into the system to grant access and rights. Can access screen to change password</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>Displays all roles that have been assigned by the Office of Vital Statistics. To change your role select the desired role using the radio buttons to the right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Allows the user to enter personal address information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Allows the user to enter an email address may be used in future devolvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>Allows the user to enter telephone numbers may be used in future devolvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validation</td>
<td>Will display any validation issues when the user maintenance Validate button is selected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action History</td>
<td>A display of all the actions taken by this user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Agreement</td>
<td>Not used by Montana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit Log</td>
<td>Displays a history of the update to the users maintenance system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Main/ Action</td>
<td>Returns the user to the User Maintenance menu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Returns the user to the VSIMS Homepage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logout</td>
<td>Logs the user out of the VSIMS system</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.1 Left Side Menu (Admin -User Maintenance)
Part II Births New Certificates

1. **Birth Main Action:** When “Births” is selected from the left menu, the “Birth Main/Action” screen is displayed. This page gives three options “New Birth Certificate”, “Query Birth Certificate” or “Reports”. The lower selections also have changed to “Birth Main/Action,” “Home”, and “Log Out”. “Birth Main/Action” will always return to the Birth Main/Action page, this part of the side menu will remain consistent for here on out. “Home” will return to the homepage selections. Logout will log you out of the application.

The drop down box in the upper part of the main section of this page is used to display various pending actions. Selection of “Incomplete birth certificates (user only)” will list all of the records which the individual has open and are pending. “Incomplete births certificates (facility)” will list all of the pending certificates assigned to the facility to which the current user is associated.

Below this option box is a list of the certificates that have been started and that have not been completed or submitted to the State. Each block identifies the last and first name of the child (in bold), the role of the assignment, the date of birth, the date the certificate was begun and the user to whom the certificate belongs. Selecting the “Edit/View” option will open that certificate for additional edits. Once a certificate has been completed and submitted to the State it is removed from this list.

![Incomplete Birth Certificates](image)

**Figure 2.1 Birth Main/Actions**

2. **New Birth Certificate:** When “New Birth Cert” is selected from the left menu, it is first necessary to check and ensure that the certificate does not exist or has been started by someone else. Selection of the “New Birth Certificate” will open a search page entitled “Birth Certificate Duplicate Check”. This page is used to ensure that no one has either started or completed the birth certificate that is about to be entered. A duplicate check must be completed before a new certificate can be entered. Queries entered in this page will search the entire database and will match any possible complete and incomplete records.

The minimum information needed to do a search is last name and full date of birth. When the desired data is entered, pressing “Continue/Search” will activate the search. “Reset” removes the information on the form for a new search. Enter as much of this information as you have available then click on the "Continue/Search" button. The system will then check for matching
data to avoid duplication. You will then have the opportunity to select from possible matching records or continue to create a new one.

**Figure 2.2: Birth Certificate Duplicate Check**

Figure 2.3 shows the results of a new certificate duplicate search when no record matches. The buttons at the bottom allow a “New Search” this will return to the “New Certificate Inquiry” Page and the “New Record” will open the “Child Information Tab” so a new record can be started. If a new record is started, the information already entered as search criteria, will populate the appropriate fields.

**Figure 2.3: Birth Certificate Duplicate Check (No Match)**

Figure 2.4 is the screen display if a record matched an existing complete or incomplete record. Note that there is no file number listed; this indicates that the record has not been file. If the record were filed a state file number would be displayed; a filed record could opened and viewed but could not be edited. If the record found is not the recorded being entered selecting “New Record” will initiate the “Child Information Tab” so a new record can be started.
Figure 2.4: Birth Certificate Duplicate Check (Match)
Part III: New Certificate Entry and Edit

1. General Information

Left Side Menu: To begin a new certificate, select “New Record” this will open the “Child Information” screen. This will also change the left-hand side menu selections to those displayed in Table 3.1. The screen contents of each selection will be described in detail as the screen is discussed. Any information already entered as search criteria, will populate the appropriate fields. Because some screens are long and will not fit on a single page, they may be described in sections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>View</th>
<th>Menu selection*</th>
<th>Subsections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child Information</td>
<td>1. Child information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Birth information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marital Information</td>
<td>1. Marital and paternity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Mother’s Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Father’s Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Certifier/Attendant</td>
<td>1. Attendant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Certifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prenatal Care</td>
<td>1. Prenatal Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Mother’s Pregnancy History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Pregnancy Additional Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Transfer Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medical Information</td>
<td>1. Pregnancy Medical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Newborn Information</td>
<td>1. Newborn Medical Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Newborn Medical Anomalies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Infant additional information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other Services</td>
<td>1. Metabolic Screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Newborn Hearing Screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Immunization Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Validation Results</td>
<td>1. Soft edits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Validation errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Print Certificates</td>
<td>1. Information from certificates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional Numbers</td>
<td>1. (Optional Use) Additional number related to this record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>1. Additional Comments related to this record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Action History</td>
<td>1. Action History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>1. Allows an incomplete record to be deleted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Data will be lost and will need to be re-entered if a “Save” is not done when using the side menu to move between tabs

Table 3.1 Left Side Menu (Data Entry)
b. **Bottom Buttons:** There are five buttons common to all the screens located across the bottom of the every data entry screen, these buttons are used to navigate and validate the birth certificate during data entry. They function as described below:

1. **Save:** This saves work done to the point, no validation or checks are done and the system remains on the current screen. When data are changed on the page, the button title will change to “SAVE” once the button is selected the data is saved and the button title will be change to “SAVED”
2. **Continue:** This saves work done and moves the user to the next screen down on the side menu listing. No validation or checks are done.
3. **Validate:** When this button is pressed a validation process defined for the current open actions are performed and the user is transferred to the “Validation Results” page where a list of any problems encountered during validation is displayed. This process can be reiterated as many times as desired. All information is saved.
4. **Transfer /Reject:** This is functional only for the death registration not used in birth registration.
5. **Complete:** When this button is pressed, the user is indicating that they believe they have completed all required data entry and that they wish to close or file the record and pass control of the record to the State. The first thing this button does is to save any changes and check the validation for the current action. If the record does not pass the validation the user is transferred to the “Validation Result” page just as though they had pressed the “Validate” button. If the record passes the validation then the current action is closed and the user is transferred back to their Birth/main Action screen, the completed record is removed from the incomplete list and control of the record is passed to the State Office of Vital Statistics.

![Figure 3.1 Bottom Buttons (Visible on all tabs)](image)

c. **Calendars and Date Entry:** From this point forward when a date is required, pops up calendars are available for the date field. To activate the calendar click on the icon that looks like a calendar to the right of the field, this will display a calendar of the current month. To move ahead or back a month click on the single arrow “<” “>” to month ahead or back a full year click on the double arrows “<<” “>>”. Once at the desire month and year are displayed, clicking on the desired day will populate the date field and close the calendar.

![Figure 3.2 Calendar](image)
If a date of birth is entered for a date in the future the popup error message will appear, selecting “OK” will close the error box, removed the date of birth and require reentry.

![Future date error message](image)

**Figure 3.3: Future date error message**

Also a birth date more than a year old will give a warning that the date cannot be more than a year old. Selecting “OK” will retain the month and day but the year will be removed and require reentry.

![Date more than a year old message](image)

**Figure 3.4: Date more than a year old message**

2. Child Information

The top portion of this screen contains information about child’s name the bottom portion of this screen contains data regarding the fact of the birth. Any information entered during the “Birth Certificate Duplicate” check will be already entered here.

a. Child Information If the information is not correct or it has changed; it can be change by retyping the correct information in the box containing the erroneous information. If the child does not have a first or middle name leave the fields blank. **Do not enter** “Baby Boy”, “Baby Girl” for a first name or “NMN” for the middle name. Any suffix (Jr, III, etc.) should be entered in the suffix fields. The bottom part of the screen contains demographic information regarding the birth itself. **NOTE**: At the top of each screen the Child’s first name, last name and date of birth are displayed.

b. Birth Information There are drop-down menus to select standard responses to sex and time of birth. When a new certificate is started, the place of birth and facility name will be populated based on the user ID and the facility they are assigned to. If an individual is not assigned to a facility or if the place of birth is somewhere other than the default facility, the fields will need to be completed.

The Birth City, Birth County, and the Place of Birth Facility Type are all interrelated. That is once the county is selected only those cities and towns in the county will be displayed and only the facilities in that town will be displayed. If needed selecting the “Show All Counties” button will display the complete listings. See Appendix A for examples. Additionally, there are fields labeled “Other”, these are used to clarify data when “Other” is selected on one of the pull down menus.
The child’s place of birth must always occur in Montana and must be in a Montana County. Never select “Other” for the county for towns that are located in multiple counties (i.e. the county line goes through the center of town.) If this occurs, select the county where the birth occurred and use “Other” and type in the City or town field in the “Other Birth City” field.

At the bottom of the Child Information screen are two additional questions, one is for authorization from the parents to request a Social Security Number for the child, if this is selected the Office of Vital Statistics will send the request directly to the Social Security Administration. The second question asks for the parent’s consent so the Office of Vital Statistics is permitted to share information with heath service providers so information of...
available services can be sent directly to the parents. If parents have questions about the available health services you can refer them to [http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cshs](http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cshs).

3. **Marital Information:**
This screen is subdivided into: Marital and Paternity, Mother’s information, and Father’s information subsections.

a. **Marital and Paternity:** The marital and paternity subsection is used to determine the paternal relationship of the father to the child. This is done through a series of question regarding the mother’s marital status, how these questions are answered will determine what actions are available and what documents are to be printed and completed. Table 3.2 should be used for guidance when answering the paternity questions.

The available actions consist of:

1. Father’s data can be entered and saved
2. Paternity acknowledgement form can be printed if they are needed
3. Paternity denial form can be printed if needed
4. If additional paternity documents must be sent to the Office of Vital Statistics, then when the certificate is filed, it will be placed on security and certified copies cannot be issued until the paternity documents are received.

![Marital Information, Child - Jones, Thomas - 06/18/2008](VSIMS_HOSP/Bozeman Deaconess Hospital/Hospital Superintendent)

**Figure 3.7: Marital Information - Marital and Paternity**
### Table 3.2 MONTANA PATERNITY QUESTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Mother was married at time of conception but not to the father of the child and wants father of child’s name on the birth certificate.                                                                 | 1. The mother and husband will need to sign non-paternity papers, you must have these in your possession before the mother of the child, and the father of the child can sign paternity papers. Paternity papers need also to be in your possession  
  2. Answer the birthing questions as follows:  
  1. Was mother ever married? Yes  
  2. Was mother married at conception, birth or any time between? Yes  
  3. Was mother married to father? No  
  4. Was marriage a Common Law marriage? N/A  
  5. Has husband signed paternity denial? Yes  
  6. Has father signed paternity acknowledgment? Yes  
  3. Now, you may keep the father’s name on the birth certificate. Forward to the State, the non-paternity and paternity papers at the time you submit the certificate to our office (Do Not Hold Forms) |
| Mother was married at time of conception but not to the father of the child and does not want to list husband or the father of the child on birth certificate.            | 1. The mother and husband will need to sign non-paternity papers; you must have these in your possession.  
  2. Answer the birthing questions as follows:  
  1. Was mother ever married? Yes  
  2. Was mother married at conception, birth or any time between? Yes  
  3. Was mother married to father? No  
  4. Was marriage a Common Law marriage? N/A  
  5. Has husband signed paternity denial? Yes  
  6. Has father signed paternity acknowledgment? No  
  3. Make sure no data has been placed in the father tab, then forward to the state, the non-paternity and paternity papers at the time you submit the certificate to our office (Do Not Hold Forms) |
| Mother was married at time of conception but not to the father of the child and the Husband will not sign non-paternity papers.                                                                                                                                  | 1. The mother’s birth information and the husband’s birth information must be placed on the birth certificate.  
  2. Answer the birthing questions as follows:  
  1. Was mother ever married? Yes  
  2. Was mother married at conception, birth or any time between? Yes  
  3. Was mother married to father? No  
  4. Was marriage a Common Law marriage? N/A  
  5. Has husband signed paternity denial? No  
  6. Has father signed paternity acknowledgment? N/A  |
### Mother is claiming to be common law married to the father of the child

1. The mother and father’s birth information must be placed on the birth certificate.

2. Answer the birthing questions as follows:

   1. Was mother ever married? **Yes**
   2. Was mother married at conception, birth or any time between? **Yes**
   3.Was mother married to father? **Yes**
   4. Was marriage a Common Law marriage? **Yes**
   5. Has husband signed paternity denial? **N/A**
   6. Has father signed paternity acknowledgment? **Yes or No**

The mother and father have an option to sign paternity papers. It is suggested that they do sign paternity papers to ensure benefit rights for the child.

3. Forward to the state the signed paternity papers (if applicable) at the time you submit the certificate to our office (Do Not Hold Forms)

### Mother was not married at time of conception and father of child wants to be listed on the birth certificate.

***If mother wants father of child on birth certificate and father is not at hospital to sign paternity papers, **DO NOT** place father’s name on birth certificate and change the question: Will father sign paternity to **NO**. Print out a blank acknowledgment of paternity form and give to mother of child. The mother and father can sign these papers after leaving the hospital and forward the paternity papers to the state. We will place the father on the birth certificate.

1. Mother and father of the child will need to sign paternity papers. These paternity papers must be in your possession.

2. Answer the birthing questions as follows:

   1. Was mother ever married? **No or Yes**
   2. Was mother married at conception, birth or any time between? **N/A or No**
   3. Was mother married to father? **N/A**
   4. Was marriage a Common Law marriage? **N/A**
   5. Has husband signed paternity denial? **N/A**
   6. Has father signed paternity acknowledgment? **Yes**

3. Forward to the state the signed paternity papers at the time you submit the certificate to our office (Do Not Hold Forms)

---

**Note:** Anytime you remove the father from the birth certificate (no paternity papers signed etc.) You need to first go to the Marital Page, change the “Will Father Sign Paternity Affidavit” question to NO, then SAVE this change. This will remove all information concerning the father form the birth certificate.

If the mother of the child is not married and her boyfriend is not the father of the child they **can not** sign acknowledgment of paternity papers to have the boyfriend name added to the child's birth certificate. The only way that the boyfriend's name can be added to the child's birth certificate is by adoption or court order. Please refer these situations to the Office of Vital Statistics.
b. **Mother’s Information:** This section is used to collect the mother’s complete name before her first marriage (maiden name), mother’s date and place of birth, SSN, residence address, her mailing address if different from the resident address, education, Hispanic origin, and race. Most of the data entry is done by typing the information in the labeled box; however there is the calendar option for the date of birth, education is a pull down table selection and Hispanic origin and race are collected by check boxes.

Selection of the “Birth Country” will display a listing of other countries (it is defaulted to the USA). If you begin typing the country name, the list will move to the general area where the country is listed, however since this feature is based on the two letter abbreviation and not the country name, it does not always work for example: Great Britain is abbreviated “UK” for United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates is “AE”, thus typing the country name may not always move you to the general area of the desired country.

If the country is the United States selection of birth state will list all of the states and territories, typing part of the state or territory name will display a list all the states beginning with that selection. If at anytime something is not listed, “Other” can be used and the non-listed item is entered in the specify field.

**Mother’s Residence and Mailing Address:** On this section a short cut can be used if the zip code is in Montana. Putting the zip code in the “Residence Zip Code” field and pressing the City/County button will populate those the “Residence City” and “Residence County” fields. If the zip code applies to more than one city a pop up will offer the available selection, click on the desired city. This also has the same partial city feature as birth information. That is if a partial city is typed and the city selected the county field will be populated. If the mailing address is the same as the residence address selecting the check box “Same as Residence Address” will populate all of the address fields.

**Education** is selected from a drop-down box; it is based on the highest degree of education completed to date. Below are the selections available from the education pull down menu.

![Figure 3.9: Education Selections](image-url)
Figure 3.8 Marital Information - Mother’s Information

Mother’s Hispanic Origin and Race: This is used to report the Hispanic origin and race(s) of the mother. The race table allows for the selection of as many races as applicable simply by clicking on the check boxes. If further clarification is needed a warning that the “Other” box must be completed is displayed.

Figure 3.10: Marital Information - Mother’s Hispanic Origin and Race
c. Father Information: This contains much of the same information as the mother’s section such as name, birth, SSN, mailing address, education, Hispanic origin, and race, however in addition the father’s phone number, occupation, and employer are also required if paternity issues are involved.

![Figure 3.11: Marital Information - Father Information](image)

4. Certifier/Attendant:
This is the legal certification of the facts of the birth and that the birth occurred as reported. All signatures on this page are electronic. Selecting the button at the right of the attendant or certifier entry box will list all attendants or certified associated with the facility. Once opened the list will have two options “Show All Facilities for this County” and “Show All Counties”. A name can also be found by typing the first three letters of the first or last name, if there is a sole match the
name, title, and license number will populate, if there is more than one probable match, a list of all possible matches will be displayed, select the correct name and the fields will be populated.

Note: If the name of a certified or attendant is not on the list, contact the Office of Vital Statistics to have the name added.

Figure 3.12: Certifier/Attendant

Figure 3.13: Certifier/Attendant Pop up Selection List.

5. Prenatal Care:
This screen is subdivided into four subsections: Prenatal Care, Mother’s Pregnancy History, Pregnancy Additional Information, and Transfer Information.

a. Prenatal Care: This subsection collects information regarding the dates of prenatal care and the total number of prenatal visits. If “No” or “Unknown” is selected in the first question “Did the mother receive any prenatal care?” the other fields in the section will be grayed out and system will not allow data entry, a selection of “Yes” will open the fields for entry.
b. Mother’s Pregnancy History: This subsection collects information about the mother’s present and past pregnancies. This includes a history, weight gain, WIC use, and past pregnancies live birth and other results.

c. Pregnancy Additional Information: This subsection contains information on pregnancy smoking, alcohol consumption, source of delivery payment, and the date of last normal menses.

Transfer Information is used to document if it was necessary to transfer the mother before discharge and where she was transferred to.

![Figure 3.14: Prenatal Care Screen](image)

6. Medical Information:
The Medical Information screen gathers health information regarding this pregnancy. The medical and health items are formatted into check boxes as it has been demonstrated that this format produces higher quality and more complete information than open-ended questions. The
screen consists of seven check-box sections entitled: Risk Factors in this Pregnancy, Infections Present and/or Treated during this Pregnancy, Obstetric Procedures, Onset of Labor, Characteristics of Labor and Delivery, Method of Delivery, and Maternal Morbidity.

*Figure 3.15: Medical Information*

Each section has a check box entitled “Other” that allows additional information to be specified, there are also options for “Unknown” and “None of the above” selections. It is possible to make multiple selections within a section simply by clicking the mouse on the each check box.
However, if a question is an either/or selection, only one selection can be made, no warning is given but once a selection is made the alternate selection will be cleared. If there are items selected then selecting “Unknown” or “None of the above” will trigger a warning message (See figure 3.16) selection “OK” will clear all of the previous selections and cancel will retain the previous selections.

![Figure 3.16: Medical Information Warning](image)

7. Newborn Information:
This screen is subdivided into Newborn Medical Information, Newborn Medical Anomalies, and Infant Additional Information.

a. The Newborn Medical Information section contains information about the infant’s weight, Obstetric gestation, APGAR scores, and Plurality. When first entering the newborn’s weight first select the weight unit either pound/ounces or grams once selected the appropriate box or boxes will be displayed, if after the weight is entered the weight unit is changed the weight unit will convert the weight as appropriate.

Use caution when entering the APGAR scores, there are boxes for the 5 minute and 10 minute scores however, only the 5 min APGAR score box is initially displayed. If the 5 minute APGAR is greater than “5”, the 10 minute APGAR score is not required therefore the 10 minute entry box will disappear. In the 5 minute score is less than 5 the 10 minute box will automatically appear.

**Caution:** because the 10 minute APGAR box will not appear if the 5 minute score is above 5 and the box focus immediately goes to the “Plurality” box it is possible to enter the 10 minute APGAR score in the plurality box since this may be a valid plurality entry no warning will appear. For example, what happened below is the 5 minute APGAR is “6” the 10 minute 9 and this is a single birth. Because the 5 minute APGAR was above 5 the 10 minute box did not appear and the focus moved to the Plurality, the 10 minute score was entered in the plurality thus it appears that this is the first born of 9 babies. (See figure 3.17).

![Figure 3.17: APGAR Error](image)
What should have happened is the 5 minute APGAR 6, the ten minute score is not entered and the Plurality of 1 should be entered. See Figure 3.18. Note the “Birth Order” box does not appear.

![Figure 3.18: APGAR Correct](image)

a. **Newborn Medical Anomalies** is divided into two check box sections that gather information about any abnormal conditions or congenital anomalies of the newborn. Each section has a check box entitled “Other” that allows other information to be specified, there are also options for “Unknown” and “None of the above” that can be selected if appropriate.

![Figure 3.19: Newborn Information (Child)](image)

It is possible to make multiple selections simply by clicking the mouse on the check box. However, if the question is an either or selection only one selection can be made, no warning will be given and the alternate selection will be cleared. If there are items selected in a section, selecting “Unknown” or “None of the above” will trigger a warning message (See figure 3.16) selection “OK” will clear all of the previous selections and cancel will retain the previous selections.
c. **Infant Additional Information** is used to document where the infant was transferred if a transfer to another facility was necessary with 24 hours of delivery. Selecting “Yes” to the question “Was infant transferred within 24 hours of delivery?” will open the facility selection box by either typing the beginning of the facility name and hit tab will populate the field or will open a selection listing that most accurately meets initial criteria.

Also collected in the section is information on the survival of the infant. If the answer to the question “Is infant living at time of report?” is “No” check to see if a death certificate has been or is in the process of being filed. The last question asks if the infant being breast fed at the time of discharge, select appropriate answer to the question.

8. **Other Services**: This screen consists of three sections, Metabolic Screening, New Born hearing Screening and Immunization Information collects information. The information is collected on behalf of each of those registries and is exported to the appropriate registry so they can match the birth information to information received from other sources.

![Figure 3.20: Other Services](image)

9. **Validation Results**: When either the “Validate” or the “Complete” buttons are selected, the program activates a series of checks that must be completed before the certificate is filed. All of the errors that are found are listed in the “Warning!” section. These tests will be run anew each time the “Validate” or “Complete” button is selected. When there are validation error, these are linked to the field and page where the problem is clicking on the error will move the user to the page and filed that contains the error.
When the record does pass the validation, the action detail will look like this:

10. **Print Certificates**: Selecting the Print Certificates tab opens a printing option menu. To print from this menu, the system requires "Adobe Reader" software. This can be downloaded from the Adobe website at [http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html). The printing options available will depend on the answers to the marital questions on the Marital Information page. From this page, you will have the option to print a MT Hospital Information certificate, a MT Clerk and Recorder Copy, a MT Parent’s Informational Copy, and the copy of the MT Paternity Acknowledgement and the MT Affidavit of Non-Paternity. Samples of each of these can be found in Appendix B.
11. Additional Numbers (optional): This is an optional screen that can be used to track any additional number which might be associated with this record. To add a number simply select add. Select the type of number from the pull down list and enter the number. To edit or delete an existing number entry click on the number the screen will change and the number type and the number can be edited or the number can be edited.

![Figure 3.24: Additional Numbers (With an existing number)](image)

12. Comments and Action History (optional): These screens provide for optional use by the Office of Vital Statistics to add comments regarding the record. The Action History is used to track the actions taken in the filing process.

13. Admin: This Screen has only one function in the data entry role; it is used by anyone entering a certificate to delete it prior to filing it with the State. To use simply select “Delete Certificate” you will be prompted to make sure selecting “OK” will remove the certificate.

![Figure 3.26: Admin](image)
Part IV Query Birth Certificate

1. **Query Birth Cert:** To view a certificate that has been filed use the Query Birth Cert function on left side the Birth Main Action page. A feature of the query page is that the results of the last query made by the current user will be displayed. If the record being queried is already on the list there is not need to rerun the query the record can be viewed just clicking on the blue last name.

Queries can be done using a variety of search options, however the less information provided the longer the search will take. For example, if the search is only on a year, it will take a long time and return thousands of results. The same may be true if just a last name is used, some of the more common last names will take a long time to get results. Conversely, if you provide too much information the search could be too restrictive and not find a match for all of the variables. It is strongly recommended that search criteria at least contain two variables for example first and last name or last name and full date of the event.

Some search options are:

1. First name
2. Middle name
3. Last Name
4. Month of event
5. Day of the event
6. Year of the event
7. Optional end date end range
8. Mother’s Maiden surname
9. Mother’s SSN
10. County or birth
11. City of Birth
12. State file number

![Query Screen](image)

**Figure 4.1 Query Screen**

Selecting “Query Birth Cert” on the “Birth Main Action Page” will bring up the page as in Figure 4.1; this is used to search for a previously completed record or for an incomplete.
When the results are returned the screen is as below. These searches are a “Soundex” search so every variation of the name will be returned. The search results are only for certificates associated with the facility. Note that the first name listed in below has no File Number; this indicates that this certificate has not been filed with the State.

**Figure 4.2 Query Screen (Results)**

If the record is still owned by the user and has not been filed (No file number will be seen.) selecting the last name will open a screen with two options “View the certificate” and “Open existing Birth Hospital – Full action”. The view certificate will allow the requestor to print or view the certificate. Note that all of the fields are prevented from being changed and any attempt to change them will result in a warning as in Figure 4.6.

**Figure 4.3 View Options (Non-filed record)**
If the certificate does not belong to the user or the facility the following warning will appear:

Figure 4.7 Warning Record does not belong to user
Selection of the “Reports” option will change the side menu to offer two selections “MT Paternity Acknowledgement” and “MT Affidavit of Non-paternity”. Selecting either of these will allow you to print a blank copy of the Paternity Acknowledgement or a blank Affidavit of Non-paternity. Use this when the paternity documents cannot be completed by the parents during the hospital visit. Printing the paternity documents from the “Print Certificates” screen will print any information that has been entered in to the system. If paternity documents are printed from the “Reports” screen no information that has been enterer will be printed on the form.
Appendix A: Common Screens

Common Screens- These are screens that are used throughout the process. The content of these screens is usually dependent on data entered in another field. For example, the selection of a county will limit the selections on City, Town, or location screen.

1. County (Montana)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>County Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001</td>
<td>BEAVERHEAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002</td>
<td>BIG HORN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003</td>
<td>BLAINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004</td>
<td>BROADWATER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005</td>
<td>CARSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>006</td>
<td>CARTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>007</td>
<td>CASCADE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>008</td>
<td>CHouteAU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>009</td>
<td>CLUSTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>DANIELS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>DAWSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>DEEP LODGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>FALLON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>FERGUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>FLATHEAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>GALLATIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>GARFIELD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>GLACIER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>GOLDEN VALLEY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>GRANITE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Country (Used for parents’ place of birth outside United States)

3. States (Used for parents’ place of birth in United States)
4. States (Used for parent’s place of birth in Canada)

5. Birth Facility (Hospital) Note the “Show All Counties” option
6. Birth Facility freestanding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Name</th>
<th>Facility Type</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIRTH WITH LOVE</td>
<td>Freestanding Birthing Center</td>
<td>Great Falls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>