

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the: Certificate of Birth Resulting in a Stillbirth

Question: Does the State require birth certificates for all stillbirths?

Answer: No. However, under a new law passed by the Montana Legislature 50-15-208 MCA, gives parents who have experienced a pregnancy loss resulting in a stillbirth the option to request that “A Certificate of Birth Resulting in a Stillbirth” be created and issued.

Question: Who can request that a certificate be created?

Answer: Only the parents, who have experienced a pregnancy loss resulting in a stillbirth, provided that the stillbirth reached a minimum of 20 weeks gestation.

Question: How can a person request that a certificate be created?

Answer: The hospital where the stillbirth occurs after January 1, 2008 and meets the fetal death filing requirement of 350 grams will automatically have a certificate created. If it does not meet the requirement of 350 grams but has reached a minimum of 20 weeks gestation, parents will need to direct the hospital to file a certificate.

A funeral home assuming responsibility for final disposition, upon request of the parents may file the certificate with the Office of Vital Records.

If not requested in the hospital or funeral home, the parents may contact the Office of Vital Records for instructions on how to file a certificate.

Question: Do I need to decide right now?

Answer: No. The mother or father can make a request at any time to the Office of Vital Records. The Office of Vital Records will still create a certificate, provided that the Parents have satisfied the additional documents required to file the certificate to meet filing requirements.

Question: Can I get a certificate if I had a stillbirth before January 1, 2008?

Answer: Yes. Contact the Office of Vital Records to get information on how to file the certificate and what documentation is needed to substantiate the stillbirth.

Question: What happens with the Certificate after it is created?

Answer: By law, the Certificate of Birth Resulting in a Stillbirth is filed at the Department of Public Health and Human Services, Office of Vital Records where other vital records pertaining to birth, death and fetal death are maintained.

Question: Who may get a copy of this certificate from the Office of Vital Records?

Answer: By law, certified copies may only be issued to the mother and the father listed on the Certificate. Certified copies are available only from the Office of Vital Records at the address listed below. You may request a certified copy from the Office of Vital Records at any time. A fee will apply.

Question: Who may I contact for more information?

Answer: Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
Office of Vital Records
111 N Sanders, Rm 6
PO Box 4210
Helena, MT 59604
(406) 444-2685



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Public Health and Safety Division ♦ Financial Services & Operations Bureau

Office of Vital Records ♦ 111 N Sanders Rm 6 ♦ PO Box 4210 ♦ Helena, MT 59604-4210

Phone: (406) 444-2685 ♦ Fax: (406) 444-1803

Steve Bullock, Governor

Sheila Hogan, Director

Parents information for requesting a copy of a Certificate of Birth Resulting in a Stillbirth

On January 1, 2008, Montana State Law 50-15-208 gives parents who have experienced a pregnancy loss resulting in a stillbirth the option to request that a Certificate of Birth Resulting in a Stillbirth can be created and issued. The Office of Vital Records can only issue copies of a certificate to the mother or the individual listed as the father at the time of the stillbirth.

1. Those stillbirths which occur after January 1, 2008 and meet the fetal death filing requirement of 350 grams will automatically have a certificate of birth resulting in a stillbirth filed. Stillbirths that do not meet the fetal death filing requirements but occurs after a minimum of 20 weeks gestation can only be created at the request of a parent.
 - a. If requested in the hospital, the hospital must file the certificate.
 - b. If not requested in the hospital but a funeral home assumed responsibility for final disposition, the funeral home may file the certificate.
 - c. If not requested in the hospital and a funeral home is not involved, contact either the Local County Registrar or the Office of Vital Records.
2. For stillbirths that occurred before January 1, 2008 contact the Office of Vital Records.

To request a copy of the Certificate of birth Resulting in a Stillbirth or to get information regarding the Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth, contact the Montana Office of Vital Records at:

Montana Office of Vital Records
PO Box 4210
Helena MT 59604
(406) 444-2685

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

WHO CAN ORDER A CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH RESULTING IN A STILLBIRTH?

Only the parent's listed on the Birth Resulting in a Stillbirth Certificate may obtain a certify copy of a record.

IDENTIFICATION IS REQUIRED

The person signing the request must provide an enlarged legible photocopy of both sides of their valid driver's license or other legal picture identification with a signature or the requestor must have this application notarized.

Suggested Identification

Picture ID with a Signature	OR Two Forms of ID – One MUST have a Signature	OR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver's License • State ID Card • Passport • Military ID Card • Tribal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Security Card • Work ID Card • Car registration/Insurance • Doctor/Medical record • Fishing License • US Military DD214 • Utility Bill with a current address • Voter Registration Card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit/Debit/ATM Card • School ID Card • Library Card • Insurance Record • Pay Stub • Traffic/ Pawn ticket • Court record • Year Book
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notarized Montana Office of Vital Statistics Statement to Identify certified Birth or Death Certificate Applicant form (you must provide the original letter, not a photocopy or faxed copy) • Have an authorized family member that has an ID order the certificate

If a picture ID with a signature is not available, two other forms of identification are required; one **MUST** have a signature. Please include photocopies of **both sides** of the ID when mailing your request

IMPORTANT: If the identification requirement is NOT met or if the application is incomplete, your request will be returned and significant delays in processing your order may occur.

FEE (All fees must be U.S. funds)

- **CERTIFIED COPIES OF A CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH RESULTING IN A STILLBIRTH** cost \$12.00 for the first copy, \$5.00 for each additional copy of the same record. (non-refundable)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MONTANA VITAL RECORDS

Please complete the following information.

FULL First, Middle and Last Name on Stillbirth certificate: _____

Date of Delivery: _____ Place of Delivery(City or County): _____

Mother's **Full Maiden** Name: _____

Father's Full Name: _____ # of copies needed _____

Your relationship to the certificate holder : _____ (mother, father etc) Reason the Stillbirth Certificate is needed: _____

Mailing or Delivery Address:

Name: _____ Applicant's Signature _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Daytime Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Notary_ (For use if needed)

This document was signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me
 on _____ By _____

 Notary's Signature

[Official Stamp]

Official Use Only

Date _____
 Rec# _____
 Amount _____
 Cert # _____
 Ser # _____
 Comment _____

NOTICE: STATE LAW PROVIDES PENALTIES FOR PERSONS WHO WILLFULLY AND KNOWINGLY USE OR ATTEMPT TO USE THIS CERTIFICATE FOR ANY PURPOSE OF DECEPTION. (50-15-114, MCA)