

Vital Records

What are vital records?

Vital records are official documents that record important life events. These include births, deaths, marriages, and divorces. These records help prove who you are and document important moments in your life. People often need them to apply for a passport, enroll in school, get benefits, or handle legal matters.

Who keeps vital records in Virginia?

The Virginia Department of Health keeps birth, death, marriage, and divorce records for events that happen in Virginia. Many local health departments can give you certified copies. Some records can also be requested at certain Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles customer service centers.



Who can get a copy of a vital record?

Virginia law protects these records to keep personal information private. Certified copies can be given to:

- The person named on the record
- Immediate family members (parent, current spouse, child, sibling, or grandparent)
- A legal guardian with custody paper
- Extended family members like aunts, uncles, cousins, and in-laws cannot get copies unless they have legal permission.

How much does a vital record cost?

- \$12.00 for a certified copy or search of a record
- Payment options may include cash, check, money order, or credit card depending on the location

For more information visit: www.vdh.virginia.gov/vital-records



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