

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

**Birth, Marriage, Divorce, & Death
Certificates Available at
Your Local Health Department**

Birth, Marriage, and Divorce Certificates:

- Certified copies of these certificates are available at all local health departments if the birth, marriage, or divorce occurred in Virginia.

Death Certificates:

- Certified copies can be obtained at any health department in Virginia, regardless of where the death occurred in the State of Virginia.
- Certified copies are available upon request to eligible people.

Who Can Get Copies of Birth, Marriage, Divorce, and Death Certificates:

- Only immediate family members (mother, father, current spouse, husband, wife, child, brother, sister, or grandparents) can get copies of birth, marriage, death, and divorce certificates, and they must provide a valid ID.
- Legal guardians must provide custody papers in order to get a certificate.
- Aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws, former spouses, etc. cannot get any copies.

Fees for All Certificates:

- \$12 for each certificate and/or search of a vital record.
- Cash, check, money orders, VISA, or MasterCard accepted.

Where to Get Certificates:

Charlottesville/Albemarle County Health Department, Entrance #3 1138 Rose Hill Drive Charlottesville 22903 434-972-6219	Fluvanna County Health Department Route 15, County Office Building Palmyra, VA 22963 434-591-0165	Greene County Health Department 50 Standard Street Stauntonville, VA 22973 434-959-2262
Louisiana County Environmental Health Department 101 Woolfolk Avenue Suite 202 Louisa, VA 22903 540-967-3707	Nelson County Health Department Nelson Heritage Center 1415 Thomas Nelson Highway Arrington, VA 22922 434-963-4907	 VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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