Effective February 1, 2001, we made changes to our certification paper. Under Virginia law §32.1-272 of the Code of Virginia and 12 VAC 5-550-510 of the Regulations Governing Vital Records, I have met the requirements for the issuance of vital records. Statute only requires that the seal of the issuing office be impressed (not raised) on the certification. The new certification paper provides a more cost effective and efficient manner to process vital record requests.

Before issuing the new certification paper to the public, samples of the new certification paper were sent to passport offices across the country as well as other state, federal and local agencies. If you encounter any agency that questions this certification paper, please direct them to this office. The telephone number is (804) 662-6200.

[Signature]
Janet M. Rainey
Director and State Registrar