

Statewide Vital Records

FIND YOUR ANCESTORS' OFFICIAL BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH CERTIFICATES

State records start			Wait time (mail-in requests)	Restrictions	Where to look for state-level records and indexes online
Birth	Marriage	Death			
Alabama < adph.org/vitalrecords >					
Jan 1908	Aug 1936	Jan 1908	n/a	Birth less than 125 years, death less than 25 years: immediate family (including grandchild for deaths) or legal representatives.	Ancestry: Marriage (to 1969) and death (to 1959) indexes. FamilySearch and MyHeritage: Marriage (to 1957) and death (to 1974) indexes. Findmypast: Death index (to 1974).
Alaska < vitalrecords.alaska.gov/dph/bvs >					
Jan 1913	Jan 1913	Jan 1913	4-6 weeks	Birth: named person or legal representative, parents. Death: spouse, parent, child, sibling. Marriage: family or friends may order "heirloom" certificates.	Ancestry, FamilySearch: Some mixed vital records.
Arizona < www.azdhs.gov/vital-records >					
Jul 1909	county only	Jul 1909	n/a	Birth: 75 years, death: 50 years. Otherwise named individual, parents, spouse, grandparent, sibling, child, grandchild.	< genealogy.az.gov > (free PDF birth and death records)
Arkansas < www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/program/certificates-and-records >					
Feb 1914	1917	Feb 1914	7-14 days	Birth less than 100 years; death, 50 years: named person or family members.	Ancestry: Marriage (to 1957) and death (to 1950) indexes. FamilySearch: Marriage (to 1944) and death (to 1950) indexes.
California < www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/Vital-Records.aspx >					
Jul 1905	Jul 1905	Jul 1905	6-7 weeks	No restrictions for noncertified copies.	Ancestry and FamilySearch: Birth (to 1995), marriage (1949-1959, 1960-1985) and death (to 1997) indexes. MyHeritage: Birth (to 1995) and death (1940-1997, some images) indexes. Findmypast: Birth (1970-1995) and death (1940-1997) indexes.
Colorado < www.colorado.gov/cdphe/categories/services-and-information/birth-death-and-other-vital-records >					
1907	1900-1939, 1975-today	1907	3-5 business days	Proof of relationship required. State provides marriage verification only.	FamilySearch: Marriage index (to 2006).
Connecticut < www.portal.ct.gov/DPH/Vital-Records/State-Vital-Records-Office--Home >					
July 1897	July 1897	July 1897	6-8 weeks	Birth 100 years: named person, parent, member of a Connecticut genealogical society.	Ancestry: Marriage (1959-2012) and death (1949-2012) indexes. FamilySearch: Marriage (1959-2001) and death (1949-2001) indexes.
Delaware < www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/ss/vitalstats.html >					
1881	1847	1881	n/a	Person named, child, parent, genealogy researcher (deaths, marriages).	Ancestry: Birth (to 1932), marriage (to 1933) and death (to 1933) indexes and images. FamilySearch: Birth (to 1922), marriage (1913-1954) and death (to 1961) indexes and images.
District of Columbia < dchealth.dc.gov/service/vital-records >					
Aug 1874	1811	1855 (none 1861-1865)	n/a	Person named, immediate family, others with "a direct and tangible interest."	Ancestry: Marriage (to 1953) index. FamilySearch: Death (to 1961) index and images. MyHeritage: Marriage (to 1921) index. Findmypast: Death (to 1964) index.

2 STATEWIDE VITAL RECORDS

State records start			Wait time (mail-in requests)	Restrictions	Where to look for state-level records and indexes online
Birth	Marriage	Death			
Florida < www.floridahealth.gov/certificates >					
1899	Jun 1927	1917	n/a	Birth: person named, parents. Death less than 50 years ago (with cause of death): immediate family.	Ancestry: Marriage (to 2001) and death (to 1998) index and some images. FamilySearch: Marriage (to 1993) index and images and death (to 1998) index.
Georgia < dph.georgia.gov/VitalRecords >					
Jan 1919	Jun 1952	Jan 1919	2-4 weeks	Certified birth certificates limited.	Ancestry: Death (to 1998) index. FamilySearch: Death (to 1942) index and images.
Hawaii < health.hawaii.gov/vitalrecords >					
1842	1842	1859	n/a	75 years except for person and immediate family. Few records exist until 1896.	FamilySearch: Marriage (to 1954) index.
Idaho < healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/VitalRecordsandHealthStatistics/BirthDeathMarriageDivorceCertificates/tabid/82/Default.aspx >					
Jul 1911	May 1947	Jul 1911	n/a	Birth less than 100 years; marriage and death, less than 50 years: immediate family.	Ancestry: Birth (to 1917), marriage (to 1964) and death (to 1967) indexes; some marriage and death images. FamilySearch: Marriage (1947-1961) index, death (1911-1937) index and images, and death (1938-1961) index. Findmypast: Death (1911-1937) index and images.
Illinois < www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/birth-death-other-records >					
1916	1962	1916	n/a	Birth less than 75 years; death, less than 20 years: authorized persons. Marriage verification only.	Death (1916-1950) index at < cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/home.html > and FamilySearch (1916-1947).
Indiana < www.in.gov/isdh/26754.htm >					
Oct 1907	county only	1900	n/a	Birth less than 75 years: named person and immediate family. Deaths less than 75 years: immediate family.	Ancestry: Birth (to 1940), marriage (to 2005, county records but compiled by state) and death (to 2011) indexes and images. < digital.statelib.in.us/legacy/search.aspx?index=2 >: Marriage (1958-2015) index.
Iowa < idph.iowa.gov/health-statistics/vital-records >					
Jul 1880	Jul 1880	Jul 1880	4-6 weeks	None for noncertified copies. Death can be requested beginning July 1904; marriages, beginning July 1916.	Ancestry: Delayed birth (1856-1940), marriage (1880-1940) and death (1920-1940) indexes and images. FamilySearch: Same except slightly different date ranges, no marriage images. Findmypast: Death index (to 1990).
Kansas < www.kdhe.state.ks.us/vital >					
Jul 1911	May 1913	Jul 1911	n/a	Named person, immediate family or "direct interest" only.	county data only
Kentucky < chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/vsb/Pages/default.aspx >					
1911	June 1958	1911	30 business days	Must explain relationship to person named in record.	Ancestry: Birth (to 1999), marriage (1973-1999) and death (to 2000) indexes; some death images to 1965. FamilySearch: Birth, marriage and death index (to 1999); death index and images (to 1965). Findmypast: Birth and death indexes (to 2007). MyHeritage: Death index (to 1999).

3 STATEWIDE VITAL RECORDS

State records start			Wait time (mail-in requests)	Restrictions	Where to look for state-level records and indexes online
Birth	Marriage	Death			
Louisiana <ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/subhome/21>					
1911	parish only	1911	n/a	Birth less than 100 years and death less than 50 years ago: immediate family. Older records at state archives.	Ancestry: Death index (to 1964). FamilySearch: Death index and images (to 1960).
Maine <www.maine.gov/dhhs/faq.htm#certificates>					
1892	1892 (1967-1976 missing)	1892	n/a	Birth less than 75 years, marriage 50 years, death 25 years: named person and immediate family.	<www.maineancestry.net>: Marriage (1892-1966, 1977-2009) and death (1996-2009) indexes. Ancestry: Birth (to 1922) index and images, marriage index (1892-1996) and images (to 1922), and death index (1960-1997). FamilySearch: Death index (1960-1996) and combined vital records index and images (1892-1921).
Maryland <health.maryland.gov/vsa/Pages/home.aspx>					
1898	2007	1969	n/a	Birth: person, parent/guardian, surviving spouse. Death: immediate family. Nonrelatives, contact state archives.	County and church records only.
Massachusetts <www.mass.gov/orgs/registry-of-vital-records-and-statistics>, <www.sec.state.ma.us/arc>					
1841	1841	1841	n/a	Except for relatives, genealogical records only available in person. Request 1841-1926 records at state archives.	<www.sec.state.ma.us/vitalrecordsearch/VitalRecordsSearch.aspx>: Indexes to 1841-1910. American Ancestors: Indexes 1841-1910, 1911-1915, 1916-1920. FamilySearch: Indexes and images (listing pages only) to 1915. Ancestry: Indexes and images (list pages only) for most years. Findmypast: Death index (1969-2010).
Michigan <www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551_4645---,00.html>					
1867	1867	1867	4-5 weeks	Birth less than 100 years: named person or guardian.	Ancestry: Marriage (1867-1950) index and images, death index (1971-1996) and images (1867-1952). FamilySearch: Birth (1867-1902) and marriage (1868-1925) index and images, death indexes (1921-1952, 1971-1996). Seeking Michigan <seekingmichigan.org>: Death (1897-1952) index and images (to 1947).
Minnesota <www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/osr>					
1900	County only	1908	7-10 days	Birth and death: person named, immediate family or others with "tangible interest;" request must be notarized.	<mnhs.org>: Indexes to birth (1900-1934) and death (1904-2001). Ancestry and FamilySearch: Indexes (incomplete) for most years. Findmypast: Death index (1955-2001).
Mississippi <www.msdc.state.ms.us/phs>					
Nov 1912	1926 (1938-1942 at counties)	Nov 1912	7-10 business days	Birth less than 100 years and death less than 50 years: person named or immediate family.	Only county records available.
Missouri <health.mo.gov/data/vitalrecords/index.php>					
Jan 1910	county only	Jan 1910	n/a	Birth from 1910 on: person named or immediate family.	<s1.sos.mo.gov/records/Archives/ArchivesMvc/DeathCertificates#searchDB>: Death certificate index and images (1910-1967). Ancestry: Death (to 1931) index and images.

4 STATEWIDE VITAL RECORDS

State records start			Wait time (mail-in requests)	Restrictions	Where to look for state-level records and indexes online
Birth	Marriage	Death			
Montana <dphhs.mt.gov/vitalrecords>					
1907	county only	1907	2-3 weeks	Birth: person, spouse, parent, child, grandparent.	Ancestry: Birth index (to 1986) with some images, death index (to 2015). FamilySearch: Death index (1860-2007). Findmypast: Death index (1954-2011).
Nebraska <dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/vital_records.aspx>					
1904	1909	1904	n/a	Birth: person, parent, spouse, child. Marriage: spouses or their children. Death: spouse, parent, child. Records older than 50 years: genealogical versions by mail only.	FamilySearch: Marriage index (to 1995, incomplete).
Nevada <dphh.nv.gov/Programs/BirthDeath/Birth_and_Death_Vital_Records_-_Home>					
Jul 1911	1968	Jul 1911	n/a	Person named or immediate family.	Ancestry: Birth (1975-2012), death (1980-2012) and marriage (1956-2005) indexes, and death certificate images (1911-1965). FamilySearch: Marriage index (1956-2005).
New Hampshire <sos.nh.gov/vital_records.aspx>					
1883	1883	1883	20 business days	Birth less than 100 years; marriage and death less than 50 years: must have a "direct and tangible interest."	Indexes (dates vary) at American Ancestors, Ancestry and FamilySearch, many with images.
New Jersey for 1918 on <www.nj.gov/health/vital>; for 1848-1917 <www.nj.gov/state/archives/cathealth.html>					
1848	1848	1848	n/a	Birth less than 80 years ago; marriage, 50 years; death, 40 years: family only except for noncertified, limited-info copies.	Ancestry: Indexes (dates vary, incomplete, combined with other sources), marriage indexes and images (1901-1966). FamilySearch: Various indexes.
New Mexico <nmhealth.org/about/erd/bvrhs/vrp>					
1920	county only	1920	n/a	Birth less than 100 years ago; death, 50 years: immediate family.	FamilySearch: Deaths index (to 1945).
New York <www.health.ny.gov/vital_records>					
1880	1880	1880	n/a	Birth less than 75 years ago: named person or parent, unless person is dead. Marriage less than 50 years: spouses only, unless both deceased. Death less than 50 years: immediate family.	Ancestry: Marriage (to 1967) and deaths (to 1968) index and images (to 1956). FamilySearch: Death (1957-1963) index. Findmypast: Marriage.
North Carolina <vitalrecords.nc.gov>					
1913	1962	1930	up to five weeks	Certified copies: immediate family. State archives has some death certificates back to 1909.	Ancestry: Birth (to 2000) and death (to 1994) indexes, death certificate images (to 1976). FamilySearch: Birth (to 2000) and death (to 1994) indexes.
North Dakota <ndhealth.gov/vital>					
1907	1925	1907	varies	Certified birth certificates: person or parents. Informational death records for genealogists. Pre-1924 birth and death incomplete. Request marriage records from county.	<apps.nd.gov/doh/certificates/deathCertSearch.htm>; Death index (up to 1 year ago). Ancestry: Marriage index (to 2017) index from state archives.

5 STATEWIDE VITAL RECORDS

State records start			Wait time (mail-in requests)	Restrictions	Where to look for state-level records and indexes online
Birth	Marriage	Death			
Ohio < www.odh.ohio.gov/vitalstatistics/vitalmisc/Vital%20Statistics.aspx >					
1908	county only	1908	3-6 weeks	Death certificate with SSN: "authorized requesters."	< resources.ohiohistory.org/death >: Death index (1913-1944, 1954-1963). Ancestry: Birth (to 1964) and death (1908-1932, 1938-2007) indexes. FamilySearch: Death (1908-1932, 1938-1944, 1958-2007) indexes. Findmypast: Death index (1959-2012).
Oklahoma < www.ok.gov/health/Birth_and_Death_Certificates >					
Oct 1908	county only	Oct. 1908	12 weeks	Birth less than 125 years: person or parents, unless deceased (with a family member's OK and proof). Death less than 50 years ago: immediate family or with OK from family member.	None for statewide records.
Oregon < www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/BirthDeathCertificates/Pages/index.aspx >					
Jul 1903	1906	Jul 1903	n/a	Birth: 100 years except immediate family. Marriage: 50 years except immediate family. Death: 50 years except immediate family (no cause of death) or spouse or child (with cause of death).	< genealogy.state.or.us >: Index to birth older than 100 years and marriage and death older than 50 years. Ancestry: Marriage (to 2009) and death (to 1998) indexes. FamilySearch: Death index (to 1998).
Pennsylvania < www.health.pa.gov/MyRecords/Certificates >					
1906	county only	1906	3-9 weeks, longer for mail-in.	Birth after 1912: person or immediate family. Death less than 50 years ago: immediate family or "extended family" (with proof of relationship). Request older, public records from state archives < www.phmc.pa.gov/archives >.	State archives < www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Vital-Statistics.aspx >: Birth index (to 1912) and death index (to 1967). Ancestry: Death certificates (to 1966) with images.
Puerto Rico < welcome.topuertorico.org/vitalrecords.shtml >					
Jun 1931	Jun 1931	June 1931	n/a	n/a	Ancestry and FamilySearch: Index and images (to 2001).
Rhode Island < www.health.ri.gov/records >					
1853	1853	1853	1-2 weeks	Limited to those with a "direct and tangible interest."	FamilySearch: Partial indexes with images.
South Carolina < www.scdhec.gov/vitalrecords >					
1915	Jul 1950	1915	2-4 weeks	Certified birth certificates: person, parents or (if deceased) immediate family. Marriage: person and adult children, otherwise short form issued. Death less than 50 years: immediate family, otherwise short form issued.	Ancestry and FamilySearch: Death (to 1965) index and images.
South Dakota < doh.sd.gov/records >					
1905	1905	1905	n/a	Certified copies: person, parent, spouse, child or other next of kin. Otherwise, informational copies.	< apps.sd.gov/PH14Over100BirthRec/index.aspx >, Ancestry, FamilySearch and Findmypast: Indexes to birth 100+ years. Ancestry: Marriage (1950-2016) and death (to 1955) indexes. FamilySearch: Marriage index.
Tennessee < www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/vital-records.html >					
1914	1915	1914	6 weeks	Person and immediate family, except for data verification. State archives has births older than 100 years; marriages and deaths, 50 years.	Ancestry: Index and images of marriage (to 2002) and death (to 1958). FamilySearch: Index and images of marriage (to 2002) and death (to 1963).

6 STATEWIDE VITAL RECORDS

State records start			Wait time (mail-in requests)	Restrictions	Where to look for state-level records and indexes online
Birth	Marriage	Death			
Texas < www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/General-Public >					
1903	1966	1903	n/a	Birth less than 75 years; death, 25 years: immediate family. Marriage verification only; request certificates from county offices.	Ancestry: Birth index (1903-1997) and images (to 1932), marriage index (to 2014), death index (to 2000) and images (to 1982). FamilySearch: Birth index (1903-1997) and images (to 1935), marriage index (1966-2010), death index (1903-2000) and images (to 1976).
Utah < vitalrecords.utah.gov >					
1905	1978	1905	n/a	Birth less than 75 years; marriage, 75 years; death, 50 years: person and immediate family.	< archives.utah.gov/research/indexes/20842.htm >: Death index (to 1966).
Vermont < www.healthvermont.gov/stats/vital-records >; more than 5 years ago: < www.sec.state.vt.us/archives-records/vital-records.aspx >					
1896	1896	1896	n/a	None for informational copies. Records incomplete before 1909.	Indexes and images on American Ancestors (to 2008), Ancestry (1909-2008), and FamilySearch (to 2003, with images from 1955).
Virginia < www.vdh.virginia.gov/vital-records >					
1912	1936	1912	1-2 weeks	Birth less than 100 years; death and marriage, 25 years: immediate family	Ancestry: Indexes and images of public records (to 2014).
Washington < www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/BirthDeathMarriageandDivorce >					
Jul 1907	1968	Jul 1907	6-8 weeks	"Currently you do not need to provide identification to order a Washington State vital record."	< www.digitalarchives.wa.gov >: Marriage (1969-2014) and death (1907-1960, 1965-2014) indexes. Ancestry: Marriage index and images (to 2014); death index. FamilySearch: Marriage and death Indexes. MyHeritage: Death index.
West Virginia < www.wvdhhr.org/bph/hsc/vital >					
1917	1964	1917	5-19 business days	Birth less than 100 years; marriage and death, 50 years: immediate family. (Fire destroyed many 1917-1921 records.)	Only county records available.
Wisconsin < www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/vitalrecords >					
Oct 1907	Oct 1907	Oct 1907	5 days	Person or immediate family for certified copies. None for uncertified copies.	Ancestry and FamilySearch: Indexes to marriage (1973-1997) and death (1959-1997).
Wyoming < health.wyo.gov/admin/vitalstatistics >					
Jul 1909	May 1941	Jul 1909	n/a	Birth less than 100 years: person or parent. Marriage less than 50 years: named person. Death less than 50 years: spouse, child, parent.	None for state records.