

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION AN OHIO BIRTH

An Application for Registration of Birth Record can only be filed for an Ohio birth. The procedure to register a birth requires an application to be filed in the Probate Court. The Application for Registration of Birth Record must be filled out completely and properly notarized before filing.

Before filing an application to register a birth, you must obtain a statement or letter from the Ohio Department of Health and from the local office where your birth should have been recorded, stating that there is no record of your birth.

This information must be attached to your application.

## **For births occurring:**

### **Within Cincinnati City Limits**

Cincinnati Department of Health  
Division of Vital Statistics  
1525 E. Elm Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45210  
(513) 352-3120

### **Within Reading City Limits**

City of Reading Health Department  
1000 Market Street  
Reading, Ohio 45215  
(513) 733-3725

### **Within Norwood City Limits**

Norwood Health Center  
2059 Sherman Avenue  
Norwood, Ohio 45212  
(513)458-4600

### **Within St. Bernard City Limits**

St. Bernard City Hall  
110 Washington Street  
St. Bernard, Ohio 45217  
(513) 242-7772

### **Within Hamilton County but outside City Limits of Cincinnati, Reading, Norwood, and St. Bernard**

Hamilton County Department of Health  
Division of Vital Statistics  
250 William Howard Taft Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219  
(513) 946-7800

**State of Ohio**

Vital Statistics  
Ohio Department of Health  
246 North High Street  
P.O. Box 15098  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-0098  
(614) 466-2531

All forms should be typewritten or legibly printed in black ink.

**A fee is required at the time of filing.** Additional court costs will be charged for **each** deposition taken, if needed. **Current Court Costs are posted at:** <https://www.probatect.org/about/general-resources>.

Please confirm the actual amount with the Cashier since filing fees may have changed subsequent to the publication of this instruction sheet. **This fee must be paid in cash, money order, certified check, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express. No personal checks will be accepted.**

**The forms may be obtained from the Issue Desk on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the Probate Court, 230 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Cincinnati, Ohio or by downloading the forms from the web site.**

<b>STEP 1: Obtain letters</b>
Obtain statement from the Ohio Department of Health and local register where you were born stating there is no record of your birth.
<b>STEP 2: Gather 2 witnesses and/or documentary evidence</b>
If you wish, start gathering documentary evidence to present at the hearing to establish the facts stated in the application. Documentary evidence includes any record established in the past that proves the facts stated in the application. The following are examples of documentary evidence: baptism certificate, insurance policies or photo static copies of same, school records, lodge records, marriage records, family bible, federal census records, family genealogy, child’s birth record, hospital records, military records, birth and death certificates.
If you are unable to provide appropriate documentation you may have 2 witnesses appear in Court with you or be deposed by a notary outside of court, pursuant to a commission to take deposition. The witnesses must have personal knowledge of the facts stated in the application to register the birth record. Blood relatives are preferred but other witnesses having personal knowledge of the facts stated in the application may be used.
<b>Step 3: Filing the Application</b>
When all forms have been completed, present them to the magistrate’s assistant at the information desk on the 9 <sup>th</sup> Floor of Probate Court for a magistrate to be assigned and at this time the clerk will notarize the application. If you have two witnesses and/or documentary evidence at this time, the magistrate may waive setting a hearing date and take testimony. If you do not reside in Hamilton County, please contact the court to determine if the application can be submitted through the mail. The magistrate will render a decision. The magistrate will send you to the cashier to pay the filing fee and file the paperwork. The cashier will keep the papers and deliver them to the docket clerk who will process the paperwork.
Usually you will receive a copy of the Order to Register Birth within a day or two after your hearing notifying you that the paperwork has been completed. The Clerk will also prepare the Ohio Department of Health Finding and Order Establishing Registration of Birth sending it to the Ohio Department of Health. The <b>Finding and Order Establishing Registration of Birth</b> is used in place of an actual birth certificate. To obtain a certified copy of the Finding and Order Establishing Registration of Birth <b>you</b> must write or go to the Ohio

Department of Health and apply for the copy. You must submit an application fee. Your birth registration records will be maintained only at the Ohio Department of Health.

**Application is set for hearing where testimony is taken by deposition:**

If you are filing the Application for Registration of Birth Record by mail you must make sure your signature is notarized. You must also fill out the "Information to Take Testimony" sheet if you and/or your witness(es) cannot appear, printing the required information. The two letters stating that there is no record of your birth, Application for Registration of Birth Record documentary evidence and the "Information to Take Testimony" sheet should be mailed to Probate Court with the filing fee (additional fee for each deposition taken). **This fee must be paid in cash, money order or certified check. No personal checks or credit cards will be accepted.**

A magistrate will verify that you submitted all the required paperwork to proceed and take your forms to the cashier to get a case number. The cashier will then deliver the paperwork to the docket clerk to enter your application into the computer. The clerk will then issue a Commission to the notary listed on the Information to Take Testimony sheet to take the deposition of you and/or witness(es).

Once the deposition(s) have been returned to the Court, the magistrate will read the deposition(s), review the evidence and render a decision. The decision will be filed with a clerk.

If the Application is granted, you will receive a copy of the Order to Register Birth within a day or two after your hearing. The clerk will also prepare the Ohio Department of Health Finding and Order Establishing Registration of Birth sending it to the Ohio Department of Health. The **Finding and Order Establishing Registration of Birth** is used in place of an actual birth certificate. To obtain a certified copy of the Finding and Order Establishing Registration of Birth you must write to the Ohio Department of Health and apply for the copy.

## OBTAINING THE AMENDED BIRTH RECORD

The court will be submitting your paperwork directly to the Bureau of Vital Statistics (ODH/VS) for processing. Once the court paperwork has been received by our office, it will take approximately **three to four** weeks to amend your certificate and have it available for purchasing.

**FOR NAME CHANGES:** You will need to send a certified copy of the entry approving the name change to Bureau of Vital Statistics (ODH/VS) for processing. Please **DO NOT** send applications for amended certificates with money/payment with your court paperwork. Please allow time to process the corrections to make the request.

Below are the three ways that a certificate can be purchased. Please do not place an order for a certificate if you have not allowed at least 30 days for processing. You can confirm if the change has been completed by calling the Vital Statistics **Customer Service** line at 614-466-2531 prior to placing your order.

### Local Health Department

A birth certificate can be purchased from any local health department for persons born in Ohio. It is not restricted to where the birth occurred. Below is the information for the local health department(s) in your county. Please contact the office directly to verify how an order can be placed, the cost and whether the office is available for same day service. Certificates will be available for issuance after allowing 30 days for processing.

Hamilton County General Health Dist 250 William Howard Taft Rd, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Cincinnati, OH 45219 <b>Phone:</b> (513) 946-7800	Cincinnati Health Dept., Office of Vital Records 1525 Elm St., 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Cincinnati, OH 452020 <b>Phone:</b> (513) 352-3120	Norwood City Health Department 2059 Sherman Ave Norwood, OH 45212 <b>Phone:</b> (513) 458-4600
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### Online

Ordering a birth record through the ODH/VS online portal is the fastest way to obtain a certificate. Most orders are filled within five business days and go out first class mail. Each certificate is \$21.50 and can be ordered using credit card. Please go to the following website to place your order after allowing 30 days for processing.

<https://odhgateway.odh.ohio.gov/OrderBirthCertificates/>

### Via Mail – USPS

Customers can also apply for a new certificate via mail. These requests go directly to the ODH/VS office and take approximately two to three weeks to fulfill. Applications should not be sent until four weeks after the paperwork was mailed by the court. A check or money order can be made payable to “Treasurer, State of Ohio” for \$21.50 for each birth certificate requested. Applications can be found online at <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/vital-statistics/How-to-Order-Certificates> and can be mailed to the address below with the appropriate payment for copies.

Ohio Department of Health  
Bureau of Vital Statistics  
P.O. Box 15098  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-0098