



Children's Defense Fund

**APPLYING FOR CERTIFIED COPIES OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES  
STATE PRACTICES**

<b>State</b>	<b>Who, Besides Parents, is Eligible to Obtain a Copy of a Birth Certificate?</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Required Documentation</b>	<b>Response Time (when application requested by regular mail)</b>	<b>Agency Phone Number</b>
Alabama	legal guardian, legal representative, person who can demonstrate legal right to the record	\$12.00	none	not specified	(334) 206-5418
Alaska	legal guardian	\$20.00	photo ID, notarized and certified copy of guardianship papers	3-5 work days	(907)465-3391
Arizona	grandparents, legal guardian	\$10.00	name or birth certificate of child's parents, government ID or notarized signature	not specified	(602) 364-1300
Arkansas	person related to the registrant, person who can demonstrate a right to the record	\$12.00	none	4-6 weeks	(501) 661-2174
California	grandparents, legal guardian	\$15.00	notarized, sworn statement of identity authorizing release	4 weeks	(916) 445-2684
Colorado	grandparents, step-parents, legal representatives, person with a direct and tangible interest	\$15.00	photo ID, proof of relationship	2 weeks	(303) 692-2200
Connecticut	grandparents, guardians	\$15.00	photo ID, proof of relationship	not specified	(860) 509-7897
Delaware	legal guardian	\$10.00	photo ID, proof of guardianship	not specified	(302) 744-4549
District of Columbia	immediate nuclear family member, legal guardian or representative	\$23.00	photo ID	2 weeks	(202) 671-5000

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Florida	legal guardian, legal representative	\$9.00	photo ID, notarized proof of guardianship	7 business days	(904) 359-6900
Georgia	immediate family, grandparents	\$10.00	photo ID	not specified	(404) 679-4701
Hawaii	grandparent, legal guardian, direct and tangible interest	\$10.00	none	4-6 weeks	(808) 586-4533
Idaho	immediate family (includes grandparents), legal guardian, legal representative	\$13.00	photo ID, proof of guardianship	5-7 business days	(208) 334-5988
Illinois	legal guardian, legal representative	\$15.00	photo ID	3-4 weeks	(217) 782-6553
Indiana	grandparent, person with a personal financial or legal interest	\$10.00	photo ID	3-4 weeks	(317) 233-2700
Iowa	grandparent, legal representative or guardian	\$15.00	photo ID, notarized signature	up to 3 weeks	(515) 281-4944
Kansas	immediate family member, legal guardian, necessary for personal or property rights	\$12.00	photo ID	5-10 business days	(785) 296-1400
Kentucky	no restrictions	\$10.00	none	up to 30 working days	(502) 564-4212
Louisiana	grandparent, legal guardian	\$15.50	photo ID	8-10 weeks	(225)342-9500
Maine	no restrictions	\$15.00	none	7-10 working days	(207) 287-3181
Maryland	legal guardian, or certified representative	\$12.00	photo ID, proof of residence	20-30 business days	(410) 764-3038
Massachusetts	legal guardian, attorney	\$18.00 in person, \$28.00 by mail	photo ID	30 days	(617) 740-2600
Michigan	legal guardian, legal representative	\$26.00	photo ID, proof of guardianship	up to 4 weeks	(517) 335-8656
Minnesota	grandparent, legal guardian	\$16.00	photo ID, notarized signature	4-6 weeks	(651) 201-5970

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Mississippi	legitimate and tangible interest	\$12.00	none	not specified	(601) 576-7981
Missouri	grandparent, legal guardian	\$15.00	photo ID, guardianship papers	6-8 weeks	(573) 751-6387
Montana	legal guardian	\$12.00	notarized proof of guardianship	2-3 weeks	(406) 444-2685
Nebraska	demonstrate sufficient interest, legal guardian	\$8.00	photo ID	10-15 working days	(402) 471-2871
Nevada	relationship or legal need	\$13.00	photo ID	not specified	(775) 684-4280
New Hampshire	direct and tangible interest	\$12.00	none	one week	(603) 271-4654
New Jersey	legal guardian, legal need	\$25.00	photo ID, proof of relationship	6-8 weeks	(609) 292-4087
New Mexico	grandparent, immediate family	\$10.00	none	4 weeks	(505) 827-2338
New York (state)	legal guardian	\$30.00	photo ID, proof of guardianship, New York State court order	4 weeks	(518) 474-3075
New York City	legal guardian	\$15.00	photo ID, proof of guardianship, notarized letter from parent authorizing release	not specified	(212) 788-4520
North Carolina	grandparent, immediate family, legal guardian	\$15.00	none	6-8 weeks	(919) 733-3526
North Dakota	relationship to the child	\$7.00	none	5-7 business days	(701) 328-2360
Ohio	no restrictions	\$16.50	none	2-3 weeks	(614) 466-2531
Oklahoma	next-of-kin or authorized agent, working in the best interest of the registrant	\$10.00	photo ID	not specified	(405) 271-4040
Oregon	immediate family members, legal representatives	\$20.00	proof of guardianship	not specified	(503) 731-4095
Pennsylvania	grandparent, legal representative	\$10.00	photo ID	3 weeks	(215) 685-9401

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Rhode Island	grandparent, legal guardian	\$15.00	photo ID	not specified	(401) 222-2811
South Carolina	legal guardian, legal representative	\$12.00	none	more than 4 weeks	(803) 898-3630
South Dakota	grandparent, next of kin, guardian	\$10.00	photo ID	not specified	(605) 773-4961
Tennessee	legal guardian, grandparent	\$12.00	photo ID, proof of guardianship, written permission from parent with parent's ID (for grandparents)	up to two weeks	(615) 741-1763
Texas	grandparent, legal guardian, representative	\$22.00	photo ID	4-6 weeks	(512) 458-7111
Utah	grandparent or legal guardian	\$15.00	photo ID	3 weeks	(801) 538-6105
Vermont	no restrictions	\$9.50	intended use	not specified	(802) 863-7275
Virginia	next of kin, immediate family (does not include grandparents)	\$12.00	photo ID	2-4 weeks	(804) 662-6200
Washington	no restrictions	\$17.00	none	up to 6 weeks	(360) 236-4300
West Virginia	grandparent, legal guardian	\$5.00	none	up to 3 weeks	(304) 558-2931
Wisconsin	grandparent, legal guardian	\$12.00	none	one month	(608) 266-1373
Wyoming	parent, legal guardian	\$12.00	photo ID, guardianship papers	not specified	(307) 777-7591

Note: In all states, parents are eligible to acquire their own childrens' birth certificates. This chart indicates which individuals, in addition to the parents, are eligible in each state. If grandparents are indicated as being eligible, even grandparent caregivers who are not legal guardians can access their grandchildren's birth certificates. States that require photo identification do accept photocopies of state issued IDs in mail-in applications. In most states, birth certificates can be obtained by walk-in visit, mail, or internet application. This chart represents the information on each state's department of vital records website. Applications for birth certificates were examined when these the websites did not contain enough information. To confirm state requirements, it is important to contact the state office when you are ready to apply. For access to vital records websites refer to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm>.