

- You can obtain a copy of a birth certificate if you have a primary ID, two secondary IDs, or a secondary ID and two supporting documents.
- A Mexican voter registration card (known in Spanish as the “Instituto Nacional Electoral credencial para votar”) counts as a secondary ID. You can obtain a Mexican voter registration card through a Mexican Consulate located in Texas.
- Other secondary IDs include a driver’s license from a foreign country, an El Salvadoran or Honduran consular certification document, and a foreign military ID.
- Examples of supporting documents are cell phone bills, recent utility bills, medical records or bills, pay stubs, bank statements, and public assistance applications or letters.



Birth Certificate ID Requirements in Texas

Have questions?

Call the Department of State Health Services Vital Statistics Unit in Austin at
1-888-963-7111



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Secondary IDs include:

- current student ID
- expired driver's license or visa
- health insurance card
- employment ID from a private employer
- Mexican voter ID (Instituto Nacional Electoral voter card)
- foreign photo ID, such as a driver's license or military ID from Mexico or an El Salvadoran or Honduran consular certification document

Supporting documents include, but are not limited to:

- recent utility bill
- recent pay stub
- public assistance applications or letters
- bank account statement
- cell phone bill or contract
- medical records
- car title
- lease agreement



If your ID is still not being accepted, call the Department of State Health Services Vital Statistics Unit in Austin at

1-888-963-7111

What identification (ID) do I need to present to get a copy of a birth certificate?

- You can obtain a copy of a birth certificate if you have a primary ID, two secondary IDs, or a secondary ID and two supporting documents. Examples of Primary IDs are: driver's license or state ID issued within the United States, U.S. military ID, Permanent Resident Card, or a U.S. passport.
- Secondary IDs include: current student ID, an expired driver's license or visa, a health insurance card, an employment ID from a private employer, a Mexican voter ID (Instituto Nacional Electoral voter card), or a foreign photo ID, such as a driver's license or military ID from Mexico or a consular certification document from the El Salvadoran or Honduran consulate.
- Supporting documents include, but are not limited to: a recent utility bill, a recent pay stub, public assistance applications or letters, a bank account statement, a cell phone bill or contract, medical records, a car title, or a lease agreement. You may obtain a full list of supporting documents from the birth certificate office.
- If you are unsure whether you have sufficient identification to get a copy of a birth certificate, bring all documents that could possibly identify you to the birth certificate office. Documents that may qualify as identification will have your name on them, may have a photo of you, and will likely be mailed to you or will be available to you and no one else. All documents will be reviewed to ensure authenticity and acceptability.

Does my immigration status affect my ability to obtain a copy of a birth certificate?

- Your immigration status does not affect your ability to obtain a copy of your child's birth certificate, so long as you present acceptable identification.
- If you have a Border Crossing Card, United States-issued Visa, Permanent Resident Card or Employment Authorization Document, you may obtain a copy of your child's birth certificate by presenting one of these documents.
- If you are a Mexican citizen or previously resided in Mexico, the following ID may be available to you: Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE) voter card, a driver's license from Mexico, or a Mexican military ID. These all count as secondary identification, so even if you have only one of these IDs, you can obtain a copy of a birth certificate if you present two pieces of supporting documentation, such as a recent cell phone bill or utility bill. If you do not currently have an INE voter card, you may obtain one from a Mexican Consulate located within the United States.
- If you are an El Salvadoran or Honduran citizen, you may be able to obtain a consular certification from an El Salvadoran or Honduran Consulate located within the United States. The consular certification counts as secondary ID, so you can use it to obtain a copy of a birth certificate if you also present two pieces of supporting documentation.

What if I don't have the ID required to get a copy of a birth certificate?

- An immediate family member who has sufficient identification may also obtain a copy of the birth certificate. An immediate family member is a parent, grandparent, guardian, spouse, sibling, or child of the person named in a birth certificate.
- Or, if the person named in a birth certificate has ID (such as a current student ID and two pieces of supporting documentation), he or she can obtain a copy of the birth certificate.

What if I can't get a copy of a birth certificate but I think I have sufficient ID?

- Talk to staff at the birth certificate office. Ask them which ID you've presented is accepted, and if it is accepted, whether it counts as primary, secondary, or supporting documentation.
- Ask for a list of all the types of identification that are accepted. Birth certificate staff should have these lists available for you. If a certain piece of ID is not being accepted but is on the list, point this out to the staff member and ask why it cannot be accepted.
- If your ID is still not being accepted, call the Department of State Health Services Vital Statistics Unit in Austin at 1-888-963-7111.
- If your application or ID is still not accepted, your application can be reviewed by the Vital Statistics Unit Review Officer. You may call 1-888-963-7111 ext 3010 or 512-776-3010 for more information on this process.