

Birth Certificates

Birth Registration

When a child is born the birth must be registered within 60 days. Registering a birth is free. Parents usually receive a Birth Registration Form from the hospital, or the midwife if it was a home birth. In the case of a multiple birth, a separate form needs to be filled in for each child.

You can complete the birth registration online, or contact the Births Deaths and Marriages Registry Office on 03 6165 3450 for a paper copy.

Both parents are responsible for registering the birth of their child, and both must consent to the information provided on the Birth Registration form.

If only one parent has completed and signed the form, they will need to attach a letter to the Registrar explaining why the other parent has not signed. The letter should contain details of the other parent's identity and their last known address. A parent will not be added to the Birth Certificate unless they agree to sign it.

Same sex couples can obtain a 'Same Sex Parents Birth Registration Statement' from the Registry.

Birth Certificates

Registering a birth is not the same as applying for a Birth Certificate. Once a birth is registered, the parents may then apply to receive a copy of the Birth Certificate.

Applications for Birth Certificates can be lodged in person at a Service Tasmania shop, or you can complete an online application through the Births, Deaths and Marriages website. Parents will need to:

- fill out the Birth Certificate Application form,
- show or upload identification,
- provide a reason for your application, and
- pay the fee (currently \$55.62).

If you are unable to visit a Service Tasmania shop to lodge your form, you can post your application to:

Births, Deaths and Marriages
30 Gordons Hill Road
Rosny Park TAS 7018

Amending a Birth Certificate

Where a Birth Certificate contains spelling mistakes or incorrect information, a person may apply to correct the error.

The person will need to provide the following:

- the original incorrect Birth Certificate,
- a description of the error,
- evidence to confirm the correct details (this must be dated close to the time of the event),
- a return postal address, and
- payment of the fee.

The fee for amending a Birth Certificate will depend on the type of change you are requesting.

Adding or removing a biological father's details to a Birth Certificate

A father's details can be added to a Birth Certificate at a later date. To do this, parents must apply by lodging the following documents with the Registry:

- a completed 'Add Biological Father's Details to a Birth Record' application, signed by both parents in the presence of a Justice of the Peace or Commissioner for Declarations,
- a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, and
- identification for both parents (eg. their birth certificate, passport, or driver's licence).

You will need to supply DNA evidence to support your application if:

- a father is already included on the birth record, or
- only one parent is applying.

Just because a father is not on the birth certificate does not mean that they will not be recognised as the father of the child, however it is in the best interests of both parents and the child to have both parents named on the Birth Certificate.

Removing a father from a Birth Certificate can only be done through a court order. A court order will usually be granted if DNA testing shows that the person listed on the Birth Certificate is not the father.

Adding Marriage Details to a Birth Certificate

Marriage details can also be added to a child's Birth Certificate. To do this, parents must apply by lodging the following documents with the Registry:

- a completed application to 'Add Marriage Details to a Birth Record Form' signed by both parents in the presence of a witness, over the age of 18 years,
- a certified copy of the child's Birth Certificate,
- a certified copy of the parent's marriage certificate, and
- payment of the fee.

Birth Certificates and Child Support

For Child Support purposes, parentage can be presumed, even if the father is not on the birth certificate. A person can be presumed to be the parent of the child if they:

- were married, and the child was born during the marriage to one of the parties to the marriage,
- cohabitated with the mother during the presumed period of conception,
- legally adopted the child,
- signed a statutory declaration acknowledging they are the parent, or
- have a court order which states they are the parent.

Contacts

Additional help is available by contacting the following organisations:

- Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National), phone 13 1450
- Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania, phone 03 6221 0999.
- Women's Legal Service Tasmania can be contacted on **1800 682 468**.

This publication is intended to give general information. Whilst we have made every effort to ensure the contents of this publication are accurate at the time of writing, the law and services can change. Legal and service exactness is not possible in a publication of this nature, and this publication should not be used as a substitute for legal advice.

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February 2021