

Need your Birth Certificate and can't get it?

If you are a minor and don't have a permanent place to stay - and your parent, guardian or grandparent won't help you,

A new law can help you.

To get a copy of your Birth Certificate, you have to go to a Vital Records Office with the Homeless Liaison from your school or a staff person from a shelter. Here's what to do:

1. Ask the Homeless Liaison in your school district for help.

If you don't know who that is, go to www.sde.ct.gov and type "homeless liaison" in the search box. Or ask at your school, or call Louis Tallarita at the State Department of Education at 860-807-2058.

2. Or, call a shelter and ask for help.

Janus Center for Youth in Crisis
203-374-9473
1100 Boston Ave, Building 5A
Bridgeport, CT

Kids In Crisis
203-327-5437
One Salem Street
Cos Cob, CT

The Bridge Family Center
860-521-8035
1022 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT

Women and Families Center
203-213-8667 (call or text)
169 Colony Street
Meriden, CT

Youth Continuum
203-777-8445
924 Grand Avenue
New Haven, CT

3. Go to Vital Records with the person who is helping you.

Call before you go to find out which office to go to:

- Vital Records Office in your town (\$20)
- Vital Records Office in the town your mother lived in when you were born (\$20)
- State Vital Records Office at 410 Capitol Ave, Hartford, Mon-Fri from 8:15 to 3:30 (\$30)

You, and the person going to Vital Records with you, both have to bring identification.

It is best to bring a valid state ID. If you do not have a valid state ID, bring two substitutes. See the complete list of substitute ID on the back of this flyer.

Do you have questions about your legal rights?

Go to speakupteens.org or call

Attorney Stacey Violante Cote at 860-570-5327 or Attorney Edwin Colon at 203-335-0719

To get a copy of your birth certificate, you and the Homeless Liaison or Shelter Staff person who goes to the Vital Records Office with you must bring identification.

You must both bring a photo ID. This will prove that you are eligible to get a copy of your birth certificate.

Acceptable forms of identification are:

1. A valid state photo ID that includes your date of birth, signature, and an expiration date.

If you do not have a valid state photo ID, copies of two of the following documents can be substituted:

2. Social Security card
3. Social Security card and either an employment identification card, a paycheck stub or a W-2 form. Providing these documents fully satisfies the identification requirements.
4. Automobile registration
5. Copy of utility bill showing name and current address
6. Checking account deposit slip or bank statement stating name and current address
7. Voter registration card
8. Valid government issued trade or professional license
9. Valid government issued firearm permit
10. Probation documents issued by a court or other government agency
11. Letter from a government agency verifying your identity, dated within 6 months of the date of your request
12. Release document from a correctional institution with your photograph and a release date that is within 12 months prior to your request
13. Birth certificate
14. Military discharge papers
15. Current school or college photo ID
16. Government issued photo ID that expired within 12 months of your request

The person who goes to Vital Records with you (Homeless Liaison or Shelter staff) must submit proof that verifies his/her relationship to you.

If you have had your name legally changed by a court decree and your birth certificate does not reflect your new name, you must submit a copy of the court order verifying the legal name change.

If the State or Town Vital Records office doubts the authenticity of a document presented, you may be asked to provide any additional document listed above.