

- 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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# Birth Certificate ID Requirements in Texas



## 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.