

Vital Records: Requesting Wisconsin Vital Records

Wisconsin birth, death, marriage, and divorce records from October 1907 to the present are available. You can order them from the [Wisconsin Vital Records Office](#).

Birth, marriage, death, and divorce records are also available through Wisconsin county [Register of Deeds offices](https://www.wrdaonline.org/) (<https://www.wrdaonline.org/>). For Wisconsin birth and death records, you can also contact the [Milwaukee City Health Office](#) or the [West Allis City Health Office](#).

Records may not always be available. It depends on the event type and date.

Online and phone orders

The Wisconsin Vital Records Office works with VitalChek Network Inc. for these services. You can pay with any major credit card. This includes American Express,[®] Discover,[®] MasterCard,[®] or Visa.[®] There is a fee for using VitalChek.

Call VitalChek at 877-885-2981 to place an order by phone.

Requests are completed in about five business days. If you need it sooner, you may be able to get it faster for another fee.

Mailing address

Wisconsin Vital Records Office
PO Box 309
Madison, WI 53701

Once we get your order, it takes about 10 business days to complete. This does not include the time it takes to mail it to and from our office.

\$20 for the first copy of each record

\$3 for each additional copy of the same record

You can pay by cash, check, or money order in U.S. funds. Checks or money orders must be payable through a U.S. financial institution. They should be written out to "State of Wis. Vital Records."

Applications and forms of identification needed

Please use easy-to-read copies of your original identification. Do not send your originals. Also, make sure they are not expired. We cannot use expired documents.

You may send a copy of **ONE** of the items from this list:

- State-issued driver's license or ID card
- U.S. government-issued photo ID
- U.S. or foreign passport
- Tribal or military ID card

Or you may send a copy of **TWO** of the items from this list:

- Bank/earnings statement
- Current, dated, signed lease
- Health insurance card
- Utility bill or traffic ticket
- Vehicle registration/title

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/vitalrecords/applications.htm>

How are certified and uncertified copies different?

A certified copy of a record issued by the State Vital Records Office is printed on security paper. It also has a raised seal and the signature of the State Registrar. State law limits who can get a certified copy of a record. You can find details about who can get one on the second page of the [application](#) form.

An uncertified copy of a record has the same information as a certified copy. However, it's printed on plain white paper. It also includes a stamp showing it cannot be used for legal or identification purposes.

How are long-form and short-form birth certificates different?

Short-form birth certificates work for most legal and identification purposes. Each one includes the person's name, sex, birth date, and place of birth. They also include parents' names, ages or birthdates, and birthplaces.

The long form also includes birth facility, mother's residence, time of birth, birth weight, and crown-heel length. If the information was not given at the time the birth record was filed, it won't be on the long form.

The long form doesn't cost extra. Simply write "Long Form" on the application if you'd like it.