

# Ottawa County Health Department

1856 E. Perry St., Port Clinton, OH 43452

(419) 734-6800

## Vital Statistics Records Request Instructions

<b>Notice to All Vital Statistics Customers:</b>	Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3705.29, it is unlawful to purposely obtain, possess, use, sell, furnish, or attempt to obtain, possess, use, sell, or furnish to another for the purpose of deception any certificate, record, or certified copy of it that relates to the birth of another person, whether living or dead.
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### Who Can Order a Record:

Vital records (records of births, deaths, and fetal deaths) are public records in Ohio. This means that anyone who can submit the basic facts of a record may request a copy.

### Placing an Order:

For the fastest response, we recommend placing your order in person. See our website at [www.ottawahealth.org](http://www.ottawahealth.org) or contact the Ottawa County Health Department at (419) 734-6800 for further explanation of these options.

Please complete one application form for each record or search requested. Please submit your applications with all available identifying information. If you do not have sufficient information to allow us to identify the certificate, you may request a search be performed rather than requesting a certified copy of the record.

### Birth Certificates:

Please complete the "Record Information" portion of the application with the information as you believe it to be listed on the original birth record. If there have been any changes to the name of the person on the record, also provide the new name. Please identify the parents on the record as "mother", "father", or "parent", and provide their names prior to their first marriage (also known as maiden name). Birth records will be issued as certified abstracts unless you indicate that you are requesting the certified copy for the specific purposes of obtaining dual citizenship, international marriage or legal proceedings, or genealogy.

### Death Certificates and Social Security Numbers:

As of October 15, 2015, for the *first five years after the date of death* the social security number of the deceased will not be included on the death certificate unless the requestor is:

- The deceased's spouse, or lineal descendant
- The deceased's executor, attorney, or legal agent
- A representative of an investigative government agency
- A private investigator
- A funeral director (or agent responsible for disposition of the body) acting on behalf of the deceased's family
- A veteran's service officer
- An accredited member of the media

Individuals requesting a death certificate with the social security number included must indicate on their application that they are requesting the SSN be included and submit satisfactory identification to the registrar or clerk. Examples of documentation include, but are not limited to: driver's license, power of attorney, birth certificate, and marriage license. Please contact the Ottawa County Health Department for explanation of satisfactory documentation at (419) 734-6800.

### Fees:

In accordance with section 3705.24 of the Ohio Revised Code we are required by law to charge a fee for each certified copy of a vital record issued. The fee at this office for each certified copy of a birth, death, or fetal death record is \$22.00 per certified copy.