



How to Register Your Baby's Birth

Following a home birth, it is your responsibility to register your baby's birth with the county in which you reside.

This will make it possible for you to obtain an official birth certificate for your baby and subsequently to apply for a social security number for him or her.

Registration of the birth should take place as soon as possible, and never more than one year after the fact, as it then becomes a legal process involving court proceedings.

Because our families live in far ranging locales, it is not possible for us to come to your registration appointment and therefore, according to current state regulations, a midwife's signature will not appear on the birth certificate. The mother, the baby, and a witness to the birth will all need to be present at the appointment.

The appointment is usually 30-45 minutes. You will not automatically receive a copy of the baby's birth certificate. To order a certified copy or copies check with your registrar for fees and ordering instructions. To schedule a birth registration appointment:

In Berkeley: Call Vital Records at (510) 981-5320

In all other Alameda County areas: Call Joan at (510) 267-8075

In Contra Costa County: Call Vital Records in Martinez at (925) 313-1125

Bring with you to your registration appointment all the items listed below:

- Letter from your midwife
- Affidavit signed by your midwife
- Completed Out-of-Hospital Worksheet
- Carbon copy of your baby's Newborn Screen test form (or a copy of the actual test report if you have it)
- Identification (valid driver's license, state ID, passport, military ID, green card) for mother and witness
- Proof of residency (e.g. utility bill, credit card bill) that covers the time of the birth
- Copy of RDP or marriage certificate for same-sex couples if you want both parents' names on the birth certificate
- Signed Declaration of Paternity (*if the parents are not married and you want the baby's father's name on the birth certificate, call the Paternity Opportunity Program at 866-249-0773 to obtain this form or check with your registrar – forms may be available in their office at the time of your appointment*)

To download the complete home birth registration packet for Alameda County, see the Public Health Department's website at: <http://www.acphd.org/vital-registration.aspx>.