

# Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Your Baby's Birth Certificate

## **Can I give my baby any name I choose?**

Yes. Any name, First, Middle and Last.

## **Is a copy of my baby's birth certificate automatically sent to me?**

No. Birth certificate applications must be completed and ordered online, over the phone or by mail. Visit <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/vital-statistics/birth.aspx> to find the best option for your family. Please note, there is a \$25 application fee for each birth certificate. If your baby will need a passport, please call (206) 808-5700 for passport requirements. In-person visits to the Vital Statistics office are temporarily unavailable.

## **Does Overlake Medical Center provide footprint cards?**

Yes. The hospital provides a card with your baby's footprints, and you may complete the information regarding your baby's birth: date, time and your physician's name.

## **How long does it take to receive a Social Security card if I check "Yes?"**

Within 3-4 weeks of your child's birth, their Social Security card will arrive at your address. If you check "no," you must take a birth verification letter and certified copy of the birth certificate with you to apply in person. For additional information, you may call the Social Security toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 or 1-866-574-2323 for the Bellevue office.

## **If I am unmarried, can the father of the baby be listed on the birth certificate?**

Yes. However, a "Paternity Affidavit" must be completed by both parents and signed before a notary. The notary can be done by a witness, but the witness cannot be related to either parent. The witness must be 18 years of age. According to state law, if this legal document is not completed, notarized and submitted to the state, the father's name will be listed as "None Named."

## **I was married and divorced during my pregnancy. Can I list the biological father on the certificate?**

The Washington state birth certificate protocol is as follows: "If the mother was married at any time during her pregnancy and then divorced her husband, but was not remarried at the time of the birth of the child, the ex-husband is presumed to be the only possible father of the baby unless the mom completes the denial documentation." This type of situation is considered a "complicated paternity situation." If this is your situation, please contact the Birth Information Desk for further instructions.

## ATTENTION PARENTS

- ✓ The King County Vital Statistics Office is available to take orders online or over the phone.
- ✓ To get the birth certificate the same day, check with will-call services and place the order before 10 a.m.
- ✓ Once email confirmation is received, pick up the birth certificate between 1-3 p.m.

## CONTACT

BIRTH INFORMATION DESK:  
(425) 688-5273

KING COUNTY VITAL STATISTICS:  
(206) 897-5100  
[kingcounty.gov/vitalstats](http://kingcounty.gov/vitalstats)

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