



Department of Health

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WHO HAS LEGAL ACCESS TO YOUR RECORD(S)?

As defined in Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) **23-3-23 Disclosure of Records**, only the following people have legal access to a birth, death, fetal death and/or marriage record until the record becomes a public record (100 years for births, fetal deaths and marriages and 50 years after date of death);

- The person whose record is recorded (birth and marriage records)
- His or her issue (child, child's child, etc)
- Parent or Guardian (must have original proof of guardianship)
- Spouse (or legally registered partner)
- Grandparent
- Sibling
- Others in the conduct of their official duties
 - Attorneys
 - Title examiners
 - Members of legally incorporated genealogical societies
 - Funeral Directors (death records only as part of the funeral service)
 - Informant listed on a death record
 - Persons requiring information for the determination or protection of a personal or property right
 - Court Order

It is unlawful for any person to permit inspection of disclose information contained in vital records, or to copy or issue a copy of all or part of any vital record except as listed above and/or as defined in regulations. All requests are subject to the same fees.

Please note:

- Other restrictions/rules may apply in our ability to provide you with a specific record, such as, but not limited to,
 - If there is no father on the birth record, then only the child, if 18 years or older, or the mother/legal guardian has legal access to that birth record per RIGL §23-3-23 (c)
 - The record may be in the midst of being corrected either voluntarily or through a court order
 - The record is damaged and needs to be re-created
- We do not provide any information over the telephone and/or via the internet.

