



Government of Bermuda

Ministry of Labour and Economy
Registry General

PUBLIC GUIDANCE NOTE

Changes to Applications for Birth Certificates

Registration (Births and Deaths) Amendment Act 2026

In effect from 21 September 2026

1. Purpose

This note explains, for members of the public and for Registry General staff processing applications, the changes made to who may obtain a copy of a birth certificate following the commencement of the Registration (Births and Deaths) Amendment Act 2026 (“the Amendment Act”) on 21 September 2026. It also sets out the documents that will be required to confirm identity and entitlement, and what happens to applications that were already in progress before that date.

2. What has changed

Previously, any person could apply for and obtain a certified copy of an entry in the birth register, including a short certificate of birth. The Amendment Act restricts who may now obtain a certified birth certificate, in order to reduce the risk of the document being misused for identity theft or fraud.

3. Who may obtain a birth certificate

From 21 September 2026, only the following persons may obtain a certified copy of a birth certificate:

- The individual to whom the certificate relates.
- A parent or guardian of the individual, or a child or grandchild of the individual who is at least 18 years of age.
- A person authorised in writing by the individual (who must be at least 18 years of age).
- A legal representative (e.g. an attorney) of any person listed above.
- A police officer, where a court order authorises the obtaining of a copy.
- A public officer whom the Registrar-General is satisfied requires a copy to carry out statutory duties.

Anyone who does not fall into one of these categories may still search the general register and obtain a plain copy of the register entry — this remains public information — but will not be issued with a formal birth certificate in Form F2.

4. Identity and entitlement — documents required from the public

The documents required to prove the identity of an individual requesting a birth certificate depend on the capacity in which the individual is acting. The Registrar General retains discretion to request further evidence where there is doubt as to identity or entitlement.

4.1 Applying for your own certificate

- Valid government-issued photo ID (e.g. Bermuda driver's licence or passport).

4.2 Parent, guardian, child or grandchild (18+) applying on behalf of another

- The applicant's own valid photo ID (driver's licence or passport).
- Evidence of the family relationship to the person named on the certificate. Where the relationship can be verified from the Registry's own records, no further evidence is required.
- Where the relationship cannot be confirmed from internal records (e.g. a child or grandchild not otherwise known to the Registry), additional supporting evidence is required such as the applicant's own birth certificate.

4.3 Person authorised in writing by the individual

- The applicant's own valid photo ID.
- A written authorisation signed by the individual (who must be 18 or over).
- To verify the signature on a letter of appointment, the Registrar General may contact the individual directly to confirm the appointment, or may require a certified copy of the individual's ID.

4.4 Legal representative

- The applicant's own valid photo ID.
- Proof of the appointment or engagement, such as a letter signed by the individual authorising the representative to act.
- To verify the signature on the letter of appointment or engagement, the Registrar General may contact the individual directly to confirm the appointment, or may require a certified copy of the individual's ID.

5. Fees

There is no increase in fees. The Amendment Act consolidates and clarifies, within Head 67 of the Government Fees Regulations 1976, fees that already applied elsewhere:

Service	Fee
Issuing a birth certificate	\$35
Search fee (when registration number is not known)	\$25
Express service (2-day)	\$25

6. Further information

Enquiries about this guidance should be directed to the Registry General, Government Administration Building, , 30 Parliament Street, Hamilton HM12 (Direct Registry General Line: 441 297 7739).

This note is administrative guidance for the Registration (Births and Deaths) Act 1949 as amended. It does not constitute legal advice and should be read alongside the Act itself.

21 September 2026