



Correcting a Birth Certificate

Who Can Apply for a Correction?

- The person named on the certificate if he/she is at least 18 years old.
- Parents or legal guardians of the person less than 18 years of age named on the certificate.

Anyone applying must submit current (not expired), signed photo identification. If both parents' names appear on the record, both must sign application and submit photocopy of each parent's identification. We accept photocopies of identification with mailed applications. Photocopies must be clear and include front and back of identification.

If the hospital where your child was born made a mistake on the birth certificate, you must submit your application and the newborn certificate you received to the hospital if the child is less than 1 year of age.

How Do I Make a Correction?

- Submit original documents (for example, a marriage record or a religious document) on official letterhead or with an original seal depending on the kind of correction you want (photocopies, altered documents or notarized copies are not accepted). *See Box 1 on Page 2.*
- Submit one photocopy with each of the original documents.
- Complete and sign the application.
- **Pay a non-refundable \$40 processing fee for most corrections plus \$15 per copy for each new certificate.**
- If you are applying by mail, include a self addressed, stamped envelope so that we can return your documents.

What Kind of Document Do I Need?

You must send original documentation on letterhead or certified copies with your application. Certified copies are documents issued by a government office that has a raised seal, like birth certificates or marriage certificates. Usually a fee is required to obtain a certified copy from an office or agency. **Notarized copies, photocopies or altered documents are unacceptable.**

Generally, a document must have been established prior to the child's 7th birthday or it must be at least 10 years old. This helps us establish that the documentation you are submitting is legitimate. Documents should include the following:

- **Child's Name**
- **Listed Date of Birth**
- **Parent's Name(s)**

If your documents are in a language other than English, you must obtain an official translation of documents needed. Foreign consulates often will translate official documents for you. We also accept translations from established translation services. If you can't provide the required documents, ask for help by calling 311.

FEES: How Much Does It Cost to Make a Correction?

The Health Department charges a **non-refundable \$40 application processing fee** to make most corrections. Where fees apply, the application is only \$40 even if more than one item is corrected.

Birth Certificate Corrections

Application Fee Applies:

1. Adding a child's given name by family more than 60 days after birth.
2. Family's errors and omissions, except adding a given name within 60 days of birth.
3. Hospital and licensed midwife errors and omissions after 12 months.
4. Adoptions (Court Order).
5. Amend sex based on convertive surgery.
6. Re-submitting an application more than 1 year after rejection.

No Fee Applies:

1. Acknowledgments of Paternity.
2. Orders of Filiation/Order of Paternity.
3. Adding a parent who was married prior to the birth of the child.
4. Adding a child's given name.
 - a. If submitted by family within 60 days of birth to the Health Department.
 - b. If submitted by family to the hospital within 12 months of date of birth.
5. Correcting hospital errors and omissions.
 - a. If submitted by the hospital of birth within 12 months of birth.
6. If applying for Delayed Registration of Birth use form VR34 .

Box #1: Document List

| I Want To . . . (please check all that apply) Where fees apply, the application is only \$40 even if more than one item is corrected. | | You will need one of the documents below: (see box 2) |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correct a hospital error before 1st birthday (Please return application to hospital of birth) | | No Documentation Required |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correct an error or omission made by the hospital after child's 1st birthday | | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correct child's first or middle name, or add a child's middle name BEFORE child's 1st birthday <i>Example: Dabid to David</i> | | 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 or 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correct first or middle name after 1st birthday. | | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add child's first and middle name BEFORE child's 1st birthday at the hospital of birth. No Fee | | No Documentation Required |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add a child's first and middle name BEFORE 60 days of birth at DOHMH. No Fee | | No Documentation Required |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add a child's first and middle name AFTER 60 days of birth. | <input type="checkbox"/> Child less than 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> Child over 1 year | No Documentation Required 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correct spelling of child's last name (all documents must be dated PRIOR to birth of child) | | 10, 11, 12 or 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correct child's date of birth or sex | | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correct spelling of parent's information | | 9, 11 or 16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add name of another parent. Fee may apply. See fee section on bottom of page 1. | | See Box 3 below |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal name change <i>Example: June to Edna</i> | | 12 with a name change petition or 14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remove information from birth record | | 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amend sex based on convertive surgery (Legal name change is also required) | | Medical documentation from the physician and 14 |

Box #2: List of Documents Accepted by the New York City Health Department

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Letter from hospital where child was born including child's correct name, date of birth, and parent's name(s). | 11. Parent's marriage record if parents were married before child's birth, last name corrections only (New York State does not recognize common law marriage). |
| 2. Letter from hospital admitting error. | 12. Parent's naturalization certificate. |
| 3. Immunization record showing child's name, date of birth, parent name and the health care facility's stamp. | 13. Birth certificate of an older brother or sister. |
| 4. First census record taken after birth or census taken at least 10 years ago (federal or state). | 14. Certified Court Order which must include Date of Birth, Place of Birth and Certificate Number. You must go to Civil Court if you live in NYC. Outside of NYC go to the appropriate court for this action. |
| 5. Letter from physician including treatment dates. | 15. Usually requires a State Supreme Court Order unless the hospital of birth made a mistake. If hospital made the error request an admission in writing from the hospital. |
| 6. School admission letter including date of admission. | 16. Parent's birth record, older child's birth record, religious document or naturalization certificate. Marriage Record may be used for last name only. |
| 7. Religious document. | |
| 8. Child's life insurance policy. | |
| 9. Parent's birth certificate (for corrections of child's last name, the certificate of the parent who has the child's last name is required). | |
| 10. Parent's passport. | |

Box #3: Adding Another Parent's Name

Adding the name of another parent to a birth certificate, typically the father, depends on the marital status of the mother. Married same sex parents also can add their names to birth certificates. See table below to find out what you must do.

Marriage records or other documents must be submitted with the application. In cases where the parent has been married more than once, divorce records also must be submitted.

New York State recognizes same sex marriage performed in other states, Washington DC and abroad. It does not recognize common law marriage.

How Do I Add the Name of Another Parent? Look below to see which description fits your situation.

| Marital Status of Parent | You Need To: |
|---|--|
| Mother not married during pregnancy and not married now and wants to add a father → | Complete an Acknowledgment of Paternity Form (DSS 4418) or go to Family Court for an Order of Filiation |
| Mother married during pregnancy, want to add spouse's name (male or female) → | If you were married at the time of your child's birth, complete Section 4 on page 4 of the application |
| Mother not married during pregnancy but now married to biological father → | Complete an Acknowledgment of Paternity form (DSS 4418) or go to Family Court for an Order of Filiation |
| Mother married after birth but not to biological father → | Go to Family or Supreme Court for an Order of Adoption |
| Mother married to a male during pregnancy but not to biological father → | Go to Family Court for an Order of Filiation |
| Same Sex Parents (Female) not married → | Go to Family or Supreme Court for an Order of Adoption |
| Same Sex Parents (Male) married or not married → | Go to Family or Supreme Court for an Order of Adoption |

Acknowledgment of Paternity Forms (DSS 4418) are available in the Corrections Department lobby and enclosed with all applications ordered by mail. Not available online.

Reference
No.

Birth Certificate Correction Application Form

Please use blue or black ink ONLY.

Section 1: What Is Your Name? You Must Be At Least 18 Years Old

[illegible]

Section 2: Birth Certificate Information

Birth Certificate Number

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|

 -

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

 -

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Name on Birth Certificate as it now appears

| | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name |
|------------|-------------|-----------|

Sex

☐ Male ☐ Female

Date of Birth

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|---|-----|--|---|------|--|
| | | / | | | / | | |
| Month | | | Day | | | Year | |

Mother's Maiden Name

| | |
|-------|------|
| First | Last |
|-------|------|

Place of Birth

[illegible]

Name of Hospital, birthing center or if born at home, street address, city, state, ZIP)

Section 3: What Do You Want To Correct?

Please use one line per correction. We cannot accept white-outs or cross-outs; if you make a mistake, please use a new application form.

| List items to be corrected | Write errors as they appear on birth record | What should it say on birth record? |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Example: Child's First Name | Not Shown | Michael |
| Example: Date of Birth | October 16, 2009 | October 19, 2009 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Section 4: Second Parent Information

If you want to add the name of another parent, please fill out this section. You must have been married prior to the birth of the child. See "How Do I Add the Name of Another Parent?" on page 2.

Name of Second Parent

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---------------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | | | <input type="text"/> |
| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name of Second Parent | Parent's Country of Birth |
| Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female | Second Parent's Date of Birth <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> | Second Parent's Age at Time of Child's Birth <input type="text"/> | |
| | Month | Day | Year |

Child's Last Name (as it will appear on the certificate even if it will remain the same)

Signature of Second Parent

Date

Section 5: Sign Your Application

Please sign the form where appropriate. If both parents' names appear on the birth certificate, both must sign if the child is under 18.

| | |
|--|------|
| Signature of Mother/Parent/Legal Guardian | Date |
| Signature of Father/Parent/Legal Guardian | Date |
| Your Signature (if you are 18 or older and are requesting a correction of your own birth certificate) | |
| Signature of Self | Date |

Warning! No person shall make a false, untrue or misleading statement or forge the signature of another on an application required to be prepared pursuant to the New York City Health Code. A violation of the Health Code shall be punishable as a misdemeanor. (NYC HEALTH CODE 3.19)

How to Submit Your Application:

A copy of the corrected certificate costs \$15. This fee is waived if you enclose a certified copy of a certificate purchased within the past 3 months and want to exchange it for a corrected certificate.

Figure out the cost: Processing Fee: \$40 (See page 1 for applicable fees. \$ _____
(not all corrections have a fee.)
Copy Fee: number of copies _____ X \$15 each \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make your check or money order payable to the: **New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.**

Cash not accepted. Walk-in customers may pay using a credit or debit card.

Make certain you have enclosed everything necessary (please check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Completed, signed application with a copy of photo identification for each parent named on birth record | <input type="checkbox"/> One photocopy of each original or certified copy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Original or certified documents | <input type="checkbox"/> Payment if applicable |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> If mailing, self-addressed, stamped envelope. |

Submitting false identification is a crime and violators are subject to prosecution.

MAIL TO: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Corrections Unit
125 Worth Street, Room 144, CN-4
New York, NY 10013

FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Certification by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

This is to certify that I have examined the original record that this application seeks to correct, and any original documents required to verify the correction. There are no omissions or apparent errors in the original record that have not been covered. Therefore, the application is approved.

Signature of Deputy City Registrar

Date

DOCUMENT
NO.