

The British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency provides a number of services and certificates for genealogical and special occasion purposes. Listed below are the services which we provide.

Genealogy

Our genealogy certificates are an important resource for the family historian, as they provide details contained in birth, marriage, and death registrations. Birth records collected after 1943 may include weight and exact time of birth. This information is of use to persons interested in numerology and astrology as well as for general interest purposes and will be provided when available on the original record.

Records of birth, marriage, and death occurring in the province of British Columbia since 1872, if registered with the Agency, are available to qualified applicants.

Each certificate type includes full names, ages, birthplaces of the event subject, place and date of event, and names of parents, if recorded on original record. **Birth** records may also include birthplace of parents and **Marriage** records may contain names of witnesses. **Death** records may contain deceased's residence, spouse (if any), occupation, informant's name, parents' birthplaces and cause of death. To learn more about genealogy or to view copies of the Genealogical Certificates, visit our web site at <http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/genealogy/>.

The British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency and British Columbia Archives now provide an electronic index to British Columbia's historical birth, death, and marriage records from as early as 1872. Access to this electronic index is through http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/textual/governmt/vstats/v_events.htm or you can link to this site through our web page at the address noted in the previous paragraph. In addition to searching the index online, many of these records may now be purchased online using a web "shopping basket". These records are sent by e-mail, where you may view the record, print it or store it on your computer or within a computer program for genealogy records.

Adoption Services

Over the last few decades, social attitudes towards adoption have changed, and as such, many people involved in adoptions want greater openness and access to information.

To ease the access to adoption information, a new *Adoption Act* came into effect on November 4, 1996. The new *Adoption Act* allows an adopted person 19 years of age or older to obtain a copy of their birth registration and adoption order, if the events occurred in British Columbia.

The act also allows the birth parents access to the adopted person's birth registration and adoption order, once the adopted person reaches his/her 19th birthday.

To learn more about Adoption Services, pick up the pamphlet entitled, "Accessing Records from the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency Under the New *Adoption Act*: Filing a Disclosure Veto or No-Contact Declaration", visit our web site at <http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca>, or contact a Vital Statistics Representative at 250-952-2681.

Special Event Certificates

These certificates commemorate special birth or marriage events that have occurred in British Columbia. The Special Event Anniversary Certificate features roses over the names of the bride and groom, and the date and place of marriage. The Special Event Birthday Certificate features gold embossed inscription and includes the name of the child and the date and place of birth. Samples are displayed in our four regional offices (see locations on back of form) or view samples of the certificates on our web site at <http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/commemorate/>.

Commemorative Certificates

The agency recently introduced a decorative series of commemorative birth certificates suitable for framing. There are five certificate styles in the series. The Newborn style features playful toys and gentle baby colours as well as a place to display a newborn's photograph. The Classic style features the Flag and Coat of Arms of British Columbia. Three different and unique certificates comprise the Nature series, one features the flowers of British Columbia, another features native birds of the province and the third displays a collection of wild animals of the province.

Colour samples of the new "11 x 14" certificates are displayed in our four regional offices. More information and colour samples are also available from our web site at <http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/comemorate/>.

Genealogical Resources for British Columbians

After acquiring a genealogy certificate or using the Vital Events Indexes, many individuals inquire to the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency about additional sources of genealogical information. To help individuals begin their genealogical research, the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency published the guide, *Genealogical Resources for British Columbians*. This resource guide contains descriptions of various institutions' genealogical holdings and provides contact information. Readers will find information on genealogical societies, vital statistics offices, libraries, churches, internet sites, and many other sources of genealogical information.

The guide can be downloaded and printed from our website at: <http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/forms/genealogy2000.pdf>

British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency Web Site

The British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency web site located at <http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca> is an excellent source of information about the Vital Statistics Agency's services and products. Users starting at the Vital Statistics Agency homepage can access a wide variety of informative pages, download forms, read electronic versions of some Agency publications, access the Vital Events Indexes and view samples of some certificates.

General Inquires

250-952-2681 or
by fax at 250-952-2527.

Ordering by Credit Card

250-952-2557 or
by fax at 250-952-2182.
Toll free: 1 888-876-1633

Mailing Address

British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency
PO BOX 9657 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9P3

Office Locations

Victoria

818 Fort Street
250-952-2681

Vancouver

250-605 Robson Street
250-952-2681

Prince George

433 Queensway Street
250-565-7105

Kelowna

101-1475 Ellis Street
250-712-7562

APPLICATION FOR GENEALOGY CERTIFICATE

MAILING ADDRESS INFORMATION				SHADED AREAS FOR OFFICE USE ONLY							
NOTE: Please PRINT your name, address and identifying information clearly. This portion will be used when mailing your service or correspondence.				APPLICANT'S CLIENT NUMBER (FOR CORPORATE OR GOVERNMENT CLIENTS)							
SURNAME		GIVEN NAMES									
MAILING ADDRESS											
CITY, PROVINCE/STATE, COUNTRY			POSTAL CODE								
HOME PHONE NUMBER (INCLUDING AREA CODE)		WORK PHONE NUMBER (INCLUDING AREA CODE)									

PLEASE INDICATE TYPE AND NUMBER OF CERTIFICATE(S) REQUIRED →

BIRTH	SURNAME (IF FOR MARRIED WOMAN MAIDEN/BIRTH SURNAME) (GIVEN NAMES)			SEX	Standard Certificates <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy Certificate Dogwood <input type="checkbox"/> Special Edition - Happy Birthday Commemorative Certificates <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers <input type="checkbox"/> Birds <input type="checkbox"/> Animals <input type="checkbox"/> Classic Style <input type="checkbox"/> New Born <input type="checkbox"/> Look to the Future Year 2000 Event Only	
	MONTH	DATE OF BIRTH DAY	YEAR	PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE)		BRITISH COLUMBIA
	SURNAME OF FATHER (GIVEN NAMES)			BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY, PROV/STATE, COUNTRY)		
	MAIDEN/BIRTH SURNAME OF MOTHER (GIVEN NAMES)			BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY, PROV/STATE, COUNTRY)		

MARRIAGE	SURNAME OF GROOM (GIVEN NAMES)			BIRTHPLACE OF GROOM (CITY, PROV/STATE, COUNTRY)		Standard Certificates <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy Certificate Dogwood <input type="checkbox"/> Special Anniversary Commemorative Certificates <input type="checkbox"/> Year 2000 Commemorative Year 2000 Event Only	
	SURNAME OF BRIDE PRIOR TO MARRIAGE (GIVEN NAMES)			BIRTHPLACE OF BRIDE (CITY, PROV/STATE, COUNTRY)			
	MONTH	DATE OF MARRIAGE DAY	YEAR	PLACE OF MARRIAGE (CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE)			BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEATH	SURNAME OF DECEASED (GIVEN NAMES)			MONTH	DATE OF DEATH DAY	YEAR	SEX	AGE	<input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy Certificate Dogwood
	PLACE OF DEATH (CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE)			BRITISH COLUMBIA		PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY, PROV/STATE, COUNTRY)			

PAYMENT METHOD SUBMITTED BY <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> In Person <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> In Person <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card (<i>complete Credit Card section on the right</i>) Interac/Cash payment may be made in person at one of our four offices. AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ (\$50.00 per certificate)	CREDIT CARD SUBMITTED BY <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express } <input type="checkbox"/> Mail _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Phone _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Fax _____ Credit Card number: # _____ Card holder name as shown on Credit Card _____ Expiry date _____ <div style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;">Card holder signature</div> NOTE: The additional cost for credit card transactions (\$5.95) is collected as a service fee by VitalChek.
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YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO EVENT Self Mother Father Spouse Other: _____

REASON CERTIFICATE REQUIRED: _____

YOUR SIGNATURE (*written*): _____

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

1) WHO QUALIFIES TO APPLY

- ◆ **Commemorative or Special Event Birth Certificates** may be released to
 - a) you, if the record pertains to your own birth
 - b) parents of a child
 - c) guardian; copy of guardianship papers must be attached
 - d) a person on the written consent of "a" or "b" above.

- ◆ **Special Anniversary - Marriage Certificates** may be applied for by
 - a) you, if the record pertains to your own marriage
 - b) parents of the Bride or Groom
 - c) a person on the written consent of "a" or "b" above

 - d) the daughter or son of the Bride or Groom

- ◆ **Birth Genealogy** (Standard Certificate Dogwood) may be released to
 - a) you, if the record pertains to your own birth
 - b) parents of a child
 - c) guardian; copy of guardianship papers must be attached
 - d) anyone, as long as the person has been dead for 20 years, and proof of death is provided
 - e) anyone, if the record has been in existence for 100 years
 - f) the closest living relative of the person named, on production of proof of death ***
 - g) a person on written consent of an eligible person

- ◆ **Marriage Genealogy** (Standard Certificate Dogwood) may be released to
 - a) you, if the record pertains to your own marriage
 - b) parents of the Bride and Groom
 - c) the closest living relative of the person named, on production of proof of death ***
 - d) anyone, as long as the Bride and Groom have both been dead for 20 years, and proof of death is provided
 - e) anyone, if the record has been in existence for 75 years
 - f) a person on the written consent of an eligible person.

- ◆ **Death Genealogy** (Standard Certificate Dogwood) may be released to
 - a) nearest living relative of the deceased ***
 - b) any unrelated person if the event is more than 20 years
 - c) a person on the written consent of an eligible person

*** Note: Eligible applicants are as follows, and proof of relationship must be provided

Mother Father Son Daughter Sister Brother Spouse Grandparent Grandchild

2) FEES

- ◆ For each certificate \$50.00. Fee is for a search of records and a positive search will result in certification. Where a certificate cannot be issued because no record exists, a \$50.00 search fee will be assessed.
 - ◆ Payment to be made in **Canadian funds** by credit card, cheque or money order payable to the Minister of Finance.
- *Fees effective January 2, 1996. All fees subject to change. If ordering after April 1, 2006, contact our office for current fees.

TO AVOID DELAY

- ◆ Complete the appropriate section in full. *(All requests with incomplete information must be accompanied by a written explanation for the omission. If any portion of the relevant event information is left blank the application will be returned by mail for completion.)*
- ◆ Be sure you are authorized to make the request (see Section 1 above).
- ◆ Enclose the correct fee by cheque, money order or credit card (Canadian Funds).
- ◆ Be sure your address and telephone number are correct and clear.
- ◆ A service charge of \$20.00 will be levied on all cheques not honoured by the payees financial institution.

The information on this form is collected under the authority of the **Vital Statistics Act** (RSBC 1996, c.479, Sec. 36,37,38 & 39). The information provided will be used to fulfill the requirements of the **Vital Statistics Act** for the release of information. The release of this information is in compliance with the **Vital Statistics Act** and the **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**. If you have any questions about the collection or use of this information, please contact a Vital Statistics Representative at 250-952-2681.