

[West's Code of Georgia Annotated](#)

[Title 31. Health](#)

[Chapter 10. Vital Records](#)

Ga. Code Ann., T. 31, Ch. 10, Refs & Annos

[Currentness](#)

Ga. Code Ann., T. 31, Ch. 10, Refs & Annos, GA ST T. 31, Ch. 10, Refs & Annos  
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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-1

§ 31-10-1. Definitions

Effective: July 1, 2011

[Currentness](#)

As used in this chapter, the term:

- (1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of public health.
  
- (2) "Dead body" means a human body or such parts of such human body from the condition of which it reasonably may be concluded that death recently occurred.
  
- (3) "Department" means the Department of Public Health.
  
- (4) "Fetal death" means death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy; the death is indicated by the fact that after such expulsion or extraction the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles.
  
- (5) "File" means the presentation of a vital record provided for in this chapter for registration by the State Office of Vital Records.
  
- (6) "Final disposition" means the burial, interment, cremation, removal from the state, or other authorized disposition of a dead body or fetus.
  
- (7) "Induced termination of pregnancy" means the purposeful interruption of pregnancy with the intention other than to produce a live-born infant or to remove a dead fetus and which does not result in a live birth.
  
- (8) "Institution" means any establishment, public or private, which provides in-patient or out-patient medical, surgical, or

diagnostic care or treatment or nursing, custodial, or domiciliary care, or to which persons are committed by law.

(9) “Live birth” means the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such expulsion or extraction, breathes, or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached.

(10) “Local custodian” means the person appointed by the state registrar to maintain and certify the local records of birth and death.

(11) “Local registrar” means the person appointed by the state registrar to collect and transmit to the department certificates of birth, death, fetal death, and any other reports required by this chapter.

(12) “Physician” means a person authorized or licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy pursuant to Chapter 34 of Title 43.

(13) “Registration” means the acceptance by the State Office of Vital Records and the incorporation of vital records provided for in this chapter into the vital records registration system.

(14) “Special abstracting agent” means the person appointed by the state registrar to examine and abstract evidence and submit such information to the department in order to file delayed certificates of birth or amend certificates of birth.

(15) “Spontaneous fetal death” means the expulsion or extraction of a product of human conception resulting in other than a live birth and which is not an induced termination of pregnancy.

(16) “State registrar” means the person responsible for the State Office of Vital Records and the state vital records registration system.

(17) “Stillbirth” or “stillborn” means an unintended, intrauterine fetal death after a gestational age of not less than 20 completed weeks or of a fetus with a weight of 350 grams or more.

(18) “Vital records” means certificates or reports of birth, death, marriage, divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment and data related thereto.

(19) “Vital records registration system” means the registration, collection, preservation, amendment, and certification of vital records; the collection of other reports required by this chapter; and activities related thereto including the tabulation, analysis, and print or electronic publication of vital statistics.

(20) “Vital statistics” means the data derived from certificates and reports of birth, death, spontaneous fetal death, induced termination of pregnancy, marriage, divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment and related reports.

#### Credits

Laws 1945, p. 236, § 2; Laws 1952, p. 208, § 1; Laws 1953, Jan.-Feb. Sess., p. 140, § 1; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; [Laws 2004, Act 522, § 1, eff. July 1, 2004](#); [Laws 2008, Act 565, § 2, eff. July 1, 2008](#); [Laws 2009, Act 102, §§ 1-4, 1-6, eff. July 1, 2009](#); [Laws 2010, Act 615, § 11, eff. June 3, 2010](#); [Laws 2011, Act 244, §§ 6-3, 6-5, eff. July 1, 2011](#).

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1702; Code 1933, § 88-1701; [Code 1981, § 31-10-2](#).

#### [Notes of Decisions \(1\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-1, GA ST § 31-10-1  
Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.

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[West's Code of Georgia Annotated](#)

[Title 31. Health](#)

[Chapter 10. Vital Records \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-2

§ 31-10-2. Vital records registration system

Currentness

There is hereby established within the department the State Office of Vital Records which shall maintain and operate the state's official vital records registration system. The system shall be in effect in all areas of the state, and the State Office of Vital Records shall provide for proper administration of the system and preservation of its records.

**Credits**

Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; [Laws 2004, Act 522, § 2, eff. July 1, 2004.](#)

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1702.

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-2, GA ST § 31-10-2

Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.

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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-3

§ 31-10-3. Departmental rules and regulations

Currentness

The department is authorized to adopt, amend, and repeal rules and regulations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

**Credits**

Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1703.

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-3, GA ST § 31-10-3

Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.

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[West's Code of Georgia Annotated](#)

[Title 31. Health](#)

[Chapter 10. Vital Records \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-4

§ 31-10-4. Appointment of state registrar

Effective: July 1, 2012

[Currentness](#)

The commissioner shall appoint the state registrar of vital records, hereinafter referred to as “state registrar,” subject to the rules and regulations of the State Personnel Board, classified service.

#### Credits

Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; [Laws 2009, Act 155, § 2, eff. July 1, 2009](#); [Laws 2012, Act 630, § 2-41, eff. July 1, 2012](#).

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1704.

[Notes of Decisions \(1\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-4, GA ST § 31-10-4

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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-5

§ 31-10-5. Duties of state registrar

Effective: June 3, 2010

Currentness

(a) The state registrar shall:

- (1) Administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter and the rules and regulations issued under this chapter and issue instructions for the efficient administration of the State Office of Vital Records;
- (2) Direct and supervise the State Office of Vital Records and be custodian of its records;
- (3) Direct, supervise, and control the activities of all persons when they are engaged in activities pertaining to the operation of the State Office of Vital Records;
- (4) Conduct training programs to promote uniformity of policy and procedures throughout the state in matters pertaining to the State Office of Vital Records;
- (5) Prescribe, furnish, and distribute such forms as are required by this chapter and the rules and regulations issued under this chapter or prescribe such other means for transmission of data as will accomplish the purpose of complete and accurate reporting and registration;
- (6) Prepare and publish in print or electronically reports of vital statistics of this state and such other reports as may be required by the department; and
- (7) Provide to local health agencies copies of or data derived from certificates and reports required under this chapter, as the state registrar shall determine are necessary for local health planning and program activities. The state registrar shall establish a schedule with each local health agency for transmittal of the copies or data. The copies or data shall remain the property of the department, and the uses which may be made of them shall be governed by the state registrar.



(b) The state registrar may establish or designate offices in the state to aid in the efficient administration of the State Office of Vital Records.

(c) The state registrar may delegate such functions and duties vested in the state registrar to employees of the State Office of Vital Records and to employees of any office established or designated under subsection (b) of this Code section.

#### **Credits**

Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1991, p. 94, § 31; [Laws 2004, Act 522, § 3, eff. July 1, 2004](#); [Laws 2010, Act 615, § 10, eff. June 3, 2010](#).

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1703; Code 1933, § 88-1705; [Code 1981, § 31-10-3](#).

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-5, GA ST § 31-10-5  
Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.

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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-6

§ 31-10-6. State and local registrars; local custodians; appointment and duties

Currentness

(a) The state registrar may appoint a local registrar and local custodian for each county and a special abstracting agent as necessary. Appointees must meet the qualifications and perform the duties required by this chapter and regulations of the department. The state registrar may appoint local deputy registrars as necessary. A local registrar, subject to the approval of the state registrar, may appoint a deputy or deputies. A local custodian, subject to the approval of the state registrar, may appoint a clerk or clerks of records.

(b) Local registrars shall collect and receive vital records, review them for accuracy and completeness, and keep and submit other reports as may be required by the department.

(c) Local custodians shall file, record, and preserve copies of vital records and issue certified copies provided for by law.

(d) Special abstracting agents shall examine evidence, abstract evidence onto prescribed forms, and submit such completed forms to the State Office of Vital Records for the filing of delayed certificates of birth or the amendment of certificates of live birth.

**Credits**

Laws 1914, p. 157, § 18; Laws 1927, p. 353, § 18; Laws 1931, p. 7, §§ 16, 17; Laws 1933, p. 7, § 1; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, §§ 1, 2; [Laws 2004, Act 522, §§ 4, 11, eff. July 1, 2004](#).

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1210; Code 1933, § 88-1706.

[Notes of Decisions \(3\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-6, GA ST § 31-10-6  
Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.

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[West's Code of Georgia Annotated](#)

[Title 31. Health](#)

[Chapter 10. Vital Records \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-7

§ 31-10-7. Contents and form of certificates and reports

Currentness

(a) In order to promote and maintain nation-wide uniformity in the system of vital records, the forms of certificates and reports required by this chapter, or by regulations adopted under this chapter, shall include as a minimum the items recommended by the federal agency responsible for national vital records and statistics.

(b) Each certificate, report, and other document required by this chapter shall be on a form or in a format prescribed by the state registrar.

(c) All vital records shall contain the date received for registration.

(d) Information required in certificates or reports authorized by this chapter may be filed and registered by photographic, electronic, or other means as prescribed by the state registrar.

**Credits**

Laws 1914, p. 157, § 17; Laws 1927, p. 353, § 17; Laws 1931, p. 7, §§ 16, 17; Laws 1933, p. 7, § 1; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1991, p. 94, § 31.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1207; Code 1933, § 88-1708; Code 1933, § 88-1707; [Code 1981, § 31-10-8](#).

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-7, GA ST § 31-10-7  
Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.

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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-8

§ 31-10-8. Fees

Currentness

(a) The local registrar shall certify to the treasurer of the county each month the number of birth and death certificates and spontaneous fetal death reports filed with the state office of vital records with respect to the treasurer's county and the amount due. Upon certification, any fees due shall be paid by the county treasurer out of the general fund of the county.

(b) Each local registrar shall receive from the county treasurer the sum of \$2.00 for each complete certificate of birth, death, or spontaneous fetal death report which occurred in that local registrar's county and is personally signed by that local registrar within the time prescribed by this chapter. A fee of 50¢ shall be paid for certificates or reports filed after the limits shown in this chapter except as noted by regulations adopted by the department.

(c) The local custodian of vital records shall be paid a fee of \$1.00 for each birth and death certificate properly recorded and indexed. Said fee shall be paid from county funds by the county treasurer.

(d) Special abstractors shall be paid a fee of \$2.00 for the complete filing of an abstract of evidence for a delayed certificate of birth or an amendment to a certificate of live birth which originates in the abstractor's county. Said fee shall be paid from county funds by the county treasurer.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code section, in counties where the local registrar or local custodian of vital records or special abstracting agent are employees of the county board of health, fees payable under this subsection shall be paid to the county health department monthly.

**Credits**

Laws 1914, p. 157, § 19; Laws 1927, p. 353, § 19; Laws 1945, p. 236, § 32; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1975, p. 1179, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1991, p. 669, § 1.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1211; Code 1933, § 88-1707; Code 1933, § 88-1708; [Code 1981, § 31-10-7](#).

[Notes of Decisions \(1\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-8, GA ST § 31-10-8  
Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.

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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-9

§ 31-10-9. Birth registration

Currentness

(a) A certificate of birth for each live birth which occurs in this state shall be filed with the State Office of Vital Records within five days after such birth and filed in accordance with this Code section and regulations of the department.

(b) When a birth occurs in an institution or en route thereto, the person in charge of such institution or that person's designated representative shall obtain the personal data, prepare the birth certificate, certify, either by signature or by an electronic process established or approved by the State Office of Vital Records, that the child was born alive at the place and time and on the date stated and file the certificate with the State Office of Vital Records. The physician or other person in attendance shall provide the medical information required by the certificate within 72 hours after the birth occurs.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, when a birth occurs outside an institution, the certificate shall be prepared and filed by one of the following in the indicated order of priority:

- (1) The physician or certified nurse midwife in attendance at or immediately after the birth; or in the absence of such person:
- (2) Any other person in attendance at or immediately after the birth; or in the absence of such a person:
- (3) The father or the mother; or in the absence of the father and inability of the mother:
- (4) The person in charge of the premises where the birth occurred.

(d) When a birth occurs on a moving conveyance within the United States and the child is first removed from the conveyance in this state, the birth shall be registered in this state and the place where it is first removed shall be considered the place of birth. When a birth occurs on a moving conveyance while in international waters or airspace or in a foreign country or its airspace and the child is first removed from the conveyance in this state, the birth shall be registered in this state but the certificate shall show the actual place of birth insofar as can be determined.

(e) The name of the natural father or putative father shall be entered on the certificate of live birth as follows:

(1) If the mother was married either at the time of conception or at the time of birth, the name of the husband shall be entered on the certificate as the father of the child unless paternity has been determined otherwise by a court having jurisdiction, in which case the name of the father as determined by the court shall be entered;

(2) If the mother is not married at either the time of conception or at the time of birth, the name of the putative father shall not be entered on the certificate of birth without the written consent of the mother and the person to be named as father;

(3) In any case in which paternity of a child is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, the name of the father and the surname of the child shall be entered on the certificate of birth in accordance with the finding and order of the court;

(4) If the father is not named on the certificate of birth, no other information about the father shall be entered on the certificate; or

(5) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, in all other cases, the surname of the child shall be the legal surname of the mother at the time of the birth entered on the certificate as designated by the mother. When a paternity acknowledgment is completed, the surname of the child shall be entered as designated by both parents.

(f) The birth certificate of a child born to a married woman as a result of artificial insemination, with consent of her husband, shall be completed in accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) of this Code section.

(g) Either of the parents of the child, or other informant, shall verify the accuracy of the personal data entered on the certificate in time to permit the filing of the certificate within the time period prescribed in subsection (a) of this Code section.

(h) All birth certificates filed and registered must identify the recorded person by name and the name of each legal parent of such person and the name of all other persons required by this Code section or by regulation. No obscenities, numbers, symbols, or other such nonidentifying name information will be accepted. If a legal parent has not decided upon a first or middle name for the child before the time limits established in this Code section, the birth record shall be registered without the child's first or middle name, or both, unless a court order provides otherwise.

#### Credits

Laws 1914, p. 157, §§ 12, 13; Laws 1927, p. 353, §§ 12, 13; Laws 1945, p. 236, §§ 8, 11; Laws 1953, Jan.-Feb. Sess., p. 140,



**§ 31-10-9. Birth registration, GA ST § 31-10-9**

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§ 4; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1984, p. 22, § 31; Laws 1991, p. 669, § 2; Laws 2004, Act 522, § 5, eff. July 1, 2004; Laws 2005, Act 19, § 31, eff. April 7, 2005.

**Formerly** Code 1933, §§ 88-1201, 88-1202; Code 1933, § 88-1709; [Code 1981, § 31-10-30](#).

[Notes of Decisions \(3\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-9, GA ST § 31-10-9  
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[West's Code of Georgia Annotated](#)

[Title 31. Health](#)

[Chapter 10. Vital Records \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-9.1

§ 31-10-9.1. Social security account numbers of child's mother and father to be entered on birth certificate

Effective: July 1, 2009

[Currentness](#)

(a) Social security account information of the mother and father, if paternity is acknowledged by the father, of a child born within this state shall be entered in the medical and health statistics section of the certificate of live birth at the time of filing the certificate of birth as provided in [Code Section 31-10-9](#).

(b) The state registrar shall make available the records of parent name and social security number to the Child Support Enforcement Agency of the Department of Human Services for its use in the establishment of paternity or the enforcement of child support orders.

(c) Information obtained by the Child Support Enforcement Agency of the Department of Human Services pursuant to this Code section may be used in an action or proceeding before any court, administrative tribunal, or other body for the purpose of establishing a child support obligation, collecting child support, or locating individuals owing the obligation.

**Credits**

Laws 1992, p. 1270, § 1; Laws 1997, p. 1613, § 35; [Laws 2009, Act 102, § 2-2, eff. July 1, 2009](#).

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-9.1, GA ST § 31-10-9.1  
Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.

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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-10

§ 31-10-10. Registration of infants of unknown parentage

Currentness

(a) Whoever assumes the custody of a live born infant of unknown parentage shall report on a form and in a manner prescribed by the state registrar within ten days to the State Office of Vital Records the following information:

- (1) The date and place of finding;
  - (2) Sex, color or race, and approximate birth date or age of child;
  - (3) Name and address of the person or institution with whom the child has been placed for care;
  - (4) Name given to the child by the custodian of the child; and
  - (5) Other data required by the state registrar.
- (b) The place where the child was found shall be entered as the place of birth.
- (c) A report registered under this Code section shall constitute the certificate of birth for the child.
- (d) If the child is subsequently identified and a certificate of birth is found or obtained, the report registered under this Code section shall be placed in a special file and shall not be subject to inspection except upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction or as provided by regulation.

**Credits**

**§ 31-10-10. Registration of infants of unknown parentage, GA ST § 31-10-10**

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Laws 1945, p. 236, § 13; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; [Laws 2004, Act 522, § 11, eff. July 1, 2004.](#)

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1710; Code 1981, § 31-10-35.

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-10, GA ST § 31-10-10  
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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-11

§ 31-10-11. Delayed registration of birth

Currentness

(a) When a certificate of birth of a person born in this state has not been filed before that person's first birthday, a delayed certificate of birth may be filed in accordance with regulations of the department. The certificate shall be registered subject to such evidentiary requirements as the department shall by regulation prescribe to substantiate the alleged facts of birth.

(b) Delayed certificates of birth filed after the first birthday shall be made on forms prescribed by the state registrar, marked "Delayed," and shall show on their face the date of the delayed registration.

(c) A summary statement of the evidence submitted in support of the delayed registration shall be endorsed on the delayed certificate of birth.

(d) When an applicant does not submit the minimum documentation required in the regulations for delayed registration or when the state registrar has reasonable cause to question the validity or adequacy of the applicant's sworn statement or the documentary evidence, and if the deficiencies are not corrected, the state registrar shall not register the delayed certificate of birth and shall advise the applicant in writing of the reasons for this action and shall further advise the applicant of the applicant's right of judicial appeal.

(e) The department may by regulation provide for the dismissal of an application which is not actively prosecuted.

(f) No delayed certificate of birth shall be registered for a deceased person.

**Credits**

Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1975, p. 1179, § 2; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1983, p. 732, § 1; Laws 1991, p. 669, § 3.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1711; **Code 1981, § 31-10-31.**

**§ 31-10-11. Delayed registration of birth, GA ST § 31-10-11**

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Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-11, GA ST § 31-10-11  
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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-12

§ 31-10-12. Judicial procedure to establish facts of birth

Effective: July 1, 2008

[Currentness](#)

(a) If a delayed certificate of birth is rejected under the provisions of [Code Section 31-10-11](#), a petition signed and sworn to by the petitioner may be filed in either the superior court or the probate court in the county of residence of the person for whom a delayed certificate of birth is sought for an order establishing a record of the date and place of the birth and the parentage of the person whose birth is to be registered and shall allege:

- (1) That the person for whom a delayed certificate of birth is sought was born in this state;
- (2) That no certificate of birth of such person can be found in the files of the State Office of Vital Records or the office of any local custodian of vital records;
- (3) That diligent efforts by the petitioner have failed to obtain the evidence required in accordance with [Code Section 31-10-11](#) and regulations adopted pursuant thereto;
- (4) That the state registrar has refused to register a delayed certificate of birth; and
- (5) Such other allegations as may be required.

(b) The petition shall be accompanied by a statement of the state registrar made in accordance with [Code Section 31-10-11](#) and all documentary evidence which was submitted to the state registrar in support of such registration.

(c) The superior court or probate court, as the case may be, shall fix a time and place for hearing the petition and shall give the state registrar not less than ten days' notice of said hearing. The state registrar or his authorized representative may appear and testify in the proceeding.

(d) If the superior court or probate court finds, from the evidence presented, that the person from whom a delayed certificate of birth is sought was born in this state, it shall make findings as to the place and date of birth, parentage, and such other findings as may be required and shall issue an order, on a form prescribed and furnished by the state registrar, to establish a delayed certificate of birth. This order shall include the birth data to be registered, a description of the evidence presented as prescribed by [Code Section 31-10-11](#), and the date of the court's action.

(e) The clerk of superior court or the probate court, as the case may be, shall forward each such order to the state registrar not later than the tenth day of the calendar month following the month in which it was entered. Such order shall be registered by the state registrar and shall constitute the certificate of birth from which certified copies may be issued in accordance with this chapter.

### Credits

Laws 1943, p. 424, §§ 1-7; Laws 1949, p. 384, § 1; Laws 1956, p. 791, §§ 1, 2; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 3, § 31; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; [Laws 2004, Act 522, § 11, eff. July 1, 2004](#); [Laws 2008, Act 410, § 1, eff. July 1, 2008](#).

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1712; [Code 1981, § 31-10-32](#).

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-12, GA ST § 31-10-12  
Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.

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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-13

§ 31-10-13. Reports of adoption

Currentness

(a) For each adoption decreed by a court of competent jurisdiction in this state, the court shall require the preparation of a report of adoption on a form prescribed and furnished by the state registrar. The report shall include such facts as are necessary to locate and identify the original certificate of birth of the person adopted; shall provide information necessary to establish a new certificate of birth of the person adopted; and shall identify the order of adoption and be certified by the clerk of court.

(b) Information necessary to prepare the report of adoption shall be furnished by the petitioner for adoption or the petitioner's attorney. The appropriate agency or any person having knowledge of the facts shall supply the court with such additional information as may be necessary to complete the report. The provision of such information shall be prerequisite to the issuance of a final decree in the matter by the court.

(c) Whenever an adoption decree is amended or annulled, the clerk of the court shall prepare a report thereof, which shall include such facts as are necessary to identify the original adoption report and the facts amended in the adoption decree as shall be necessary to amend the birth record properly.

(d) Not later than the fifteenth day of each calendar month or more frequently, as directed by the state registrar, the clerk of the court shall forward to the state registrar reports of decrees of adoption, annulment of adoption, and amendments of decrees of adoption which were entered in the preceding month, together with such related reports as the state registrar shall require.

(e) When the state registrar shall receive a certificate of adoption, report of annulment of adoption, or amendment of a decree of adoption of a person born outside this state, the state registrar shall forward such certificate or report to the state registrar in the indicated state of birth.

(f) The following shall apply to certificates of birth of adopted persons born in a foreign country:

(1) If a person was born in a foreign country, is not a citizen of the United States, and does not meet the requirements of the federal Child Citizenship Act of 2000, [P.L. 106-395, 114 Stat. 1631](#), but was adopted through a court in this state, the

state registrar shall prepare and register a certificate in this state. The certificate shall be established upon receipt of a report of adoption from the court decreeing the adoption and proof of the date and place of birth of the child. The certificate shall be labeled "Certificate of Foreign Birth" and shall show the actual country of birth. A statement shall also be included on the certificate indicating that it is not evidence of United States citizenship for the person for whom it is issued. After registration of the birth certificate in the new name of the adopted person, the state registrar shall seal and file the report of adoption which shall not be subject to inspection except upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction or as provided by statute;

(2) If a person was born in a foreign country and was not a citizen of the United States at the time of birth but meets the requirements of the federal Child Citizenship Act of 2000, [P.L. 106-395, 114 Stat. 1631](#), and was adopted through a court in this state, the state registrar shall prepare and register a certificate in this state. The certificate shall be established upon receipt of a report of adoption from the court decreeing the adoption and proof of the date and place of birth of the child. The certificate shall be labeled "Certificate of Foreign Birth" and shall show the actual country of birth. After registration of the birth certificate in the new name of the adopted person, the state registrar shall seal and file the report of adoption which shall not be subject to inspection except upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction or as provided by statute; and

(3) If a person was born in a foreign country and was a citizen of the United States at the time of birth, the state registrar shall not prepare a "Certificate of Foreign Birth" and shall notify the adoptive parents of the procedure for obtaining a revised birth certificate for their child through the United States Department of State.

### Credits

Laws 1945, p. 236, § 10; Laws 1953, Jan.-Feb. Sess., p. 140, § 3; Laws 1955, p. 208, § 1; Laws 1959, p. 304, § 1; Laws 1961, p. 120, § 1; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1965, p. 546, § 1; Laws 1965, p. 651, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 15; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1984, p. 1015, § 1; Laws 1991, p. 669, § 4; Laws 1992, p. 2410, § 1; [Laws 2003, Act 207, § 9, eff. July 1, 2003](#).

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1713; [Code 1981, § 31-10-33](#).

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-13, GA ST § 31-10-13  
Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.

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[Chapter 10. Vital Records \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-13.1

§ 31-10-13.1. State registrar's receipt of order of legitimation

Effective: July 1, 2006

[Currentness](#)

(a) For each legitimation, annulment of legitimation, and amendment of an order of legitimation decreed by a court of competent jurisdiction in this state, the clerk of the court shall not later than the fifteenth day of each calendar month or more frequently, as directed by the state registrar, forward to the state registrar a certified copy of each order of legitimation, annulment of legitimation, and amendment of an order of legitimation which was entered in the preceding month. Each order of legitimation, annulment of legitimation, and amendment of an order of legitimation shall comply with paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of [Code Section 31-10-23](#).

(b) When the state registrar receives a certified copy of the order of legitimation, annulment of legitimation, or amendment of an order of legitimation of a person born outside this state, the state registrar shall forward such certified copy of the order to the state registrar in the indicated state of birth.

**Credits**

[Laws 2004, Act 660, § 1, eff. July 1, 2006.](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-13.1, GA ST § 31-10-13.1  
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[Title 31. Health](#)

[Chapter 10. Vital Records \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-13.2

§ 31-10-13.2. State registrar's receipt of paternity orders

Effective: July 1, 2006

[Currentness](#)

(a) In each case in which an order declaring paternity is entered by a court of competent jurisdiction in this state or by the Office of State Administrative Hearings, the clerk of the court or the Office of State Administrative Hearings shall not later than the fifteenth day of each calendar month or more frequently, as directed by the state registrar, forward to the state registrar a certified copy of each order of paternity, annulment of paternity, and amendment of an order of paternity which was entered in the preceding month. The order of paternity, annulment of paternity, and amendment of an order of paternity shall comply with paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of [Code Section 31-10-23](#).

(b) When the state registrar receives a certified copy of an order of paternity, annulment of paternity, or amendment of an order of paternity of a person born outside this state, the state registrar shall forward such certified copy of the order to the state registrar in the indicated state of birth.

**Credits**

[Laws 2004, Act 660, § 2, eff. July 1, 2006.](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-13.2, GA ST § 31-10-13.2  
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Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-14

§ 31-10-14. New certificates of birth following adoption, legitimation, paternity determination and paternity acknowledgment

Effective: July 1, 2006

[Currentness](#)

(a) The state registrar shall establish a new certificate of birth for a person born in this state when the state registrar receives the following:

(1) A report of adoption as provided in [Code Section 31-10-13](#) or a report of adoption prepared and filed in accordance with the laws of another state or foreign country, or a certified copy of the decree of adoption, together with the information necessary to identify the original certificate of birth and to establish a new certificate of birth. A new certificate of birth shall not be established if the court decreeing the adoption directs that a new birth certificate not be issued;

(2) A certified copy of an order of legitimation, annulment of legitimation, or amendment of an order of legitimation as provided in [Code Section 31-10-13.1](#) that requires the establishment of a new certificate of birth;

(3) A certified copy of an order of paternity, annulment of paternity, or amendment of an order of paternity as provided in [Code Section 31-10-13.2](#) that requires the establishment of a new certificate of birth; or

(4) A request that a new certificate be established as prescribed by regulation and such evidence as required by regulation proving that both parents married to each other have acknowledged the paternity of such person and request that the surname be changed to that of the father.

(b) When a new certificate of birth is established pursuant to this Code section for a person born in this state, the date of birth contained on the original certificate shall be shown. The true place of birth shall be shown if the adoptee is the natural child of the spouse of the adoptive parent in the case of step-parent adoptions. The true place of birth shall be shown for all legitimations. For full adoptions, where neither parent is the natural parent of the adoptee, the place of birth shall be, at the election of the adoptive parents, either the true place of birth of the adoptee or the residence of the adoptive parents at the time of the adoptee's birth. The place of birth indicated must be located in Georgia.

(c) Upon receipt of a report of an amended decree of adoption, the certificate of birth shall be amended as provided by regulation.

(d) Upon receipt of a report or decree of annulment of adoption, the original certificate of birth shall be restored to its place in the files and the new certificate and evidence shall not be subject to inspection except upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction or as provided by regulation.

(e) If no certificate of birth is on file for the person for whom a new birth certificate is to be established under this Code section and the date and place of birth have not been determined in the adoption, legitimation, or paternity proceedings, a delayed certificate of birth shall be filed with the state registrar as provided in [Code Section 31-10-11](#) or [31-10-12](#) before a new certificate of birth is established. The new birth certificate shall be prepared on the delayed birth certificate form.

(f) When a new certificate of birth is established by the state registrar, the original birth certificate shall not be subject to inspection except as provided in this Code section. All copies of the original certificate of birth in the custody of any other custodian of vital records in this state shall be sealed from inspection and forwarded to the state registrar, as the state registrar shall direct.

(g) The new certificate shall be substituted for the original certificate of birth in the files and the original certificate of birth and the evidence of adoption, legitimation, or paternity determination shall not be subject to inspection except upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction or as provided by statute.

### Credits

Laws 1945, p. 236, § 25; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1965, p. 546, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1991, p. 94, § 31; Laws 1992, p. 2410, § 2; [Laws 2003, Act 207, § 10, eff. July 1, 2003](#); [Laws 2004, Act 660, § 3, eff. July 1, 2006](#).

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1714; Code 1981, § 31-10-34.

### [Notes of Decisions \(3\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-14, GA ST § 31-10-14  
Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.

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[West's Code of Georgia Annotated](#)

[Title 31. Health](#)

[Chapter 10. Vital Records \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-15

§ 31-10-15. Death registration

Effective: July 1, 2010

[Currentness](#)

(a) A certificate of death for each death which occurs in this state shall be filed with the local registrar of the county in which the death occurred or the body was found within ten days after the death as follows:

(1) If the place of death is unknown but the dead body is found in this state, the certificate of death shall be completed and filed in accordance with this Code section. The place where the body is found shall be shown as the place of death. If the date of death is unknown, it shall be the date the body was found and the certificate marked as such; or

(2) When death occurs in a moving conveyance in the United States and the body is first removed from the conveyance in this state, the death shall be registered in this state and the place where it is first removed shall be considered the place of death. When a death occurs on a moving conveyance while in international waters or airspace or in a foreign country or its airspace and the body is first removed from the conveyance in this state, the death shall be registered in this state but the certificate shall show the actual place of death insofar as can be determined.

(b) The funeral director or person acting as such who first assumes custody of the dead body shall file the certificate of death within 72 hours. Such director or person shall obtain the personal data from the next of kin or the best qualified person or source available and shall obtain the medical certification from the person responsible therefor.

(c)(1) The medical certification as to the cause and circumstances of death shall be completed, signed, and returned to the funeral director or person acting as such within 72 hours after death by the physician in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death, except when inquiry is required by Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45, the "Georgia Death Investigation Act." In the absence of said physician or with that physician's approval the certificate may be completed and signed by an associate physician, the chief medical officer of the institution in which death occurred, or the physician who performed an autopsy upon the decedent, provided that such individual has access to the medical history of the case, views the deceased at or after death, and death is due to natural causes. If, 30 days after a death, the physician in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death has failed to complete, sign, and return the medical certification as to the cause and circumstances of death to the funeral director or person acting as such, the funeral director or person acting as such shall be authorized to report such physician to the Georgia Composite Medical Board for discipline pursuant to [Code Section 43-34-8](#).

- (2) In any area in this state which is in a state of emergency as declared by the Governor due to an influenza pandemic, in addition to any other person authorized by law to complete and sign a death certificate, any registered professional nurse employed by a long-term care facility, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, registered nurse employed by a home health agency, or nursing supervisor employed by a hospital shall be authorized to complete and sign the death certificate, provided that such person has access to the medical history of the case, such person views the deceased at or after death, the death is due to natural causes, and an inquiry is not required under Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45, the “Georgia Death Investigation Act.” In such a state of emergency, the death certificate shall be filed by the funeral director in accordance with subsection (b) of this Code section; or, if the certificate is not completed and signed by an appropriate physician or coroner, the public health director of preparedness shall cause the death certificate to be completed, signed, and filed by some other authorized person within ten days after death.
- (d) When death occurs without medical attendance as set forth in subsection (c) of this Code section or when inquiry is required by Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45, the “Georgia Death Investigation Act,” the proper person shall investigate the cause of death and shall complete and sign the medical certification portion of the death certificate within 30 days after being notified of the death.
- (e) If the cause of death cannot be determined within 48 hours after death, the medical certification shall be completed as provided by regulation. The attending physician or coroner shall give the funeral director or person acting as such notice of the reason for the delay, and final disposition of the body shall not be made until authorized by the attending physician, coroner, or medical examiner.
- (f) When death occurs on or after July 1, 1985, in a county other than the county of the residence of the deceased person, a copy of such person’s death certificate shall be forwarded as soon as practicable by the department to the custodian of records of the county of the residence of such deceased person. The custodian of records shall file such death certificate as a part of the permanent records of such office.
- (g) Any other provision of this chapter or Chapter 16 of Title 45 notwithstanding, when the death of a nonresident burn victim occurs in a treatment facility following the transportation of such victim from an incident occurring in another state, only the attending physician shall be required to complete and sign the death certificate.
- (h) On or before the tenth day of each month, the state registrar shall furnish to the Secretary of State’s office, in a format prescribed by the Secretary’s office, a list of those persons for whom death certificates have been filed during the preceding month. Such list shall be used by the Secretary of State to notify local registration officers for the purpose of purging the voter registration list of each county.

### Credits

Laws 1914, p. 157, § 7; Laws 1927, p. 353, § 7; Laws 1945, p. 236, § 16; Laws 1953, Jan.-Feb. Sess., p. 140, § 8; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1967, p. 617, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1983, p. 3, § 22; Laws 1985, p. 1417, § 1; Laws 1991, p. 94, § 31; Laws 1991, p. 669, § 5; Laws 1992, p. 2758, § 1; Laws 1996, p. 1201, § 1; [Laws 2004, Act 522, § 6, eff. July 1, 2004](#); [Laws 2009, Act 29, § 1, eff. July 1, 2009](#); [Laws 2010, Act 546, § 1, effective July 1, 2010](#);



**§ 31-10-15. Death registration, GA ST § 31-10-15**

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Laws 2010, Act 624, § 31, eff. June 3, 2010; Laws 2010, Act 632, § 36, eff. July 1, 2010.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1214; Code 1933, § 88-1715; Code 1981, § 31-10-71.

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-15, GA ST § 31-10-15  
Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.

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[West's Code of Georgia Annotated](#)

[Title 31. Health](#)

[Chapter 10. Vital Records \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-16

§ 31-10-16. Determination of death and immunity therefor

Effective: July 1, 2009

[Currentness](#)

(a) A person may be pronounced dead by a qualified physician, by a registered professional nurse authorized to make a pronouncement of death under [Code Section 31-7-176.1](#), or by a physician assistant authorized to make a pronouncement of death under subsection (j) of [Code Section 43-34-103](#), if it is determined that the individual has sustained either (1) irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory function or (2) irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brain stem.

(b) A person who acts in good faith in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section shall not be liable for damages in any civil action or subject to prosecution in any criminal proceeding for such act.

(c) The criteria for determining death authorized in subsection (a) of this Code section shall be cumulative to and shall not prohibit the use of other medically recognized criteria for determining death.

**Credits**

Laws 1975, p. 1629, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1992, p. 1392, § 3; [Laws 2009, Act 243, § 9, eff. July 1, 2009](#).

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1715.1; Code 1933, § 88-1716; Code 1981, § 31-10-70.

[Notes of Decisions \(1\)](#)

Footnotes

\* Date of approval.

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-16, GA ST § 31-10-16  
Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.



West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-17

§ 31-10-17. Copies of death certificates and certificates of record

Currentness

(a) When a death certificate is filed with a local registrar, it shall be transmitted to the State Office of Vital Records for state registration immediately upon receipt. After registration and the assignment of a state file number, an authorized copy of the death certificate shall be returned to the local custodian. Certified copies of such death certificates may then be issued from the authorized copy by the local custodian.

(b) After a death certificate is filed with a local registrar, but before the death certificate has been registered by the State Office of Vital Records, the local custodian shall be authorized to issue copies of the death certificate to be known as a "certificate of record." Each certificate of record shall have printed thereon the following: "This is an exact copy of the death certificate received for filing in \_\_\_\_\_ County." Such certificate of record shall be signed by the local custodian and have the correct seal affixed thereto.

**Credits**

Laws 1976, p. 677, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; [Laws 2004, Act 522, § 7, eff. July 1, 2004.](#)

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1715.1; Code 1933, § 88-1717; Code 1981, § 31-10-72.

[Notes of Decisions \(1\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-17, GA ST § 31-10-17  
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Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-18

§ 31-10-18. Reports of spontaneous fetal death

Currentness

(a) A report of spontaneous fetal death for each spontaneous fetal death which occurs in this state shall be filed with the local registrar of the county in which the delivery occurred within 72 hours after such delivery in accordance with this Code section unless the place of fetal death is unknown, in which case a fetal death certificate shall be filed in the county in which the dead fetus was found within 72 hours after such occurrence. All induced terminations of pregnancy shall be reported in the manner prescribed in [Code Section 31-10-19](#). Preparation and filing of reports of spontaneous fetal death shall be as follows:

(1) When a dead fetus is delivered in an institution, the person in charge of the institution or that person's designated representative shall prepare and file the report;

(2) When a dead fetus is delivered outside an institution, the physician in attendance at or immediately after delivery shall prepare and file the report;

(3) When a spontaneous fetal death required to be reported by this Code section occurs without medical attendance at or immediately after the delivery or when inquiry is required by Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45, the "Georgia Death Investigation Act," the proper investigating official shall investigate the cause of fetal death and shall prepare and file the report within 30 days; and

(4) When a spontaneous fetal death occurs in a moving conveyance and the fetus is first removed from the conveyance in this state or when a dead fetus is found in this state and the place of fetal death is unknown, the fetal death shall be reported in this state. The place where the fetus was first removed from the conveyance or the dead fetus was found shall be considered the place of fetal death.

(b) The medical certification portion of the fetal death report shall be completed and signed within 48 hours after delivery by the physician in attendance at or after delivery except when inquiry or investigation is required by Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45, the "Georgia Death Investigation Act."

(c) The name of the father shall be entered on the spontaneous fetal death report in accordance with the provisions of [Code](#)

[Section 31-10-9.](#)

**Credits**

Laws 1945, p. 236, § 17; Laws 1953, Jan.-Feb. Sess., p. 140, § 9; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; [Laws 2005, Act 19, § 31, eff. April 7, 2005.](#)

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1716; Code 1933, § 88-1718; Code 1981, § 31-10-74.

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-18, GA ST § 31-10-18  
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Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-19

§ 31-10-19. Reports of induced termination of pregnancy

Currentness

Each induced termination of pregnancy which occurs in this state, regardless of the length of gestation or weight, shall be reported directly to the department within ten days by the person in charge of the institution or clinic, or designated representative, in which the induced termination of pregnancy was performed. If the induced termination of pregnancy was performed outside an institution or clinic, the attending physician shall prepare and file the report within the time specified by this Code section.

**Credits**

Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1719.

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-19, GA ST § 31-10-19  
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Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-20

§ 31-10-20. Final disposition permits

Currentness

(a) The funeral director or person acting as such or other person who first assumes custody of a dead body or fetus shall obtain a disposition permit for cremation or removal from the state. A disposition permit may be required within the state by local authorities.

(b) Such disposition permit shall be made available by the local registrar of the county where the death or fetal death occurred, or body or fetus was found, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The registrar will issue a disposition permit immediately upon request from the licensed funeral director or his agent in charge of the body or fetus. The request for a disposition permit may be received by the registrar either orally or in writing. The registrar may respond to the request by any means utilized in the normal course of transacting business including, but not limited to, transmission by facsimile machine.

(c) A disposition permit issued under the law of another state which accompanies a dead body or fetus brought into this state shall be authority for final disposition of the body or fetus in this state.

(d) Prior to final disposition of a dead fetus, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, the funeral director or person acting as such, the person in charge of the institution, or other person assuming responsibility for final disposition of the fetus shall obtain from the parent(s) authorization for final disposition.

(e) Disposition permits shall not be required where disposition of fetal remains is within the institution of occurrence and a registry of such events is maintained by the institution.

(f) Authorization for disinterment and reinterment shall be required prior to disinterment of a dead body or fetus. Such authorization shall be issued by the local registrar to a licensed funeral director or other person acting as such, upon proper application, in the county in which the dead body or dead fetus was originally interred and a local registrar who issues such authorization shall not be civilly or criminally liable therefor if it is issued in good faith. A permit shall not be required when disinterment and reinterment are in the same cemetery.

(g) The department shall prescribe rules and regulations so that the local registrars may permit hospitals, funeral homes, or others in their respective counties to issue disposition permits.



**Credits**

Laws 1927, p. 353, § 5; Laws 1945, p. 236, § 27; Laws 1953, Jan.-Feb. Sess., p. 140, § 13; Laws 1960, p. 1130, § 1; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1975, p. 1179, § 3; Laws 1976, p. 677, § 2; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1983, p. 732, § 2; Laws 1991, p. 669, § 6; Laws 1992, p. 2758, § 2.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1213; Code 1933, § 88-1717; Code 1933, § 88-1720; Code 1981, § 31-10-75.

[Notes of Decisions \(5\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-20, GA ST § 31-10-20  
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Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-21

§ 31-10-21. Marriage registration

Currentness

(a) A record of each marriage performed in this state shall be filed with the department and shall be registered if it has been completed and filed in accordance with this Code section.

(b) The official who issues the marriage license shall cause to be prepared the record on the application supplement-marriage report form, including at a minimum the information set out in subsection (b) of [Code Section 19-3-33](#), upon the basis of information obtained from both of the parties to be married.

(c) A person who performs a marriage shall certify the fact of marriage and return the license to the official who issued the license within ten days after the ceremony. The license shall be completed as prescribed by regulations of the department.

(d) Every official issuing marriage licenses shall complete and forward to the department on or before the tenth day of each calendar month an application supplement-marriage report form for each marriage license returned to such official during the preceding calendar month. Such forms may be transmitted in the form of paper or electronically.

(e) The official issuing a marriage license shall keep the original of the application and license for the county records from which the official may issue certified copies but need not retain the prepared application supplement-marriage report forms except to the extent necessary for transmission of such forms to the registrar and confirmation of transmission or receipt.

(f) In addition to the fee provided by [Code Section 15-9-60](#), the official shall be entitled to a filing fee of \$1.00 to be paid by the applicant upon application for the marriage license.

**Credits**

Laws 1945, p. 236, §§ 34, 35; Laws 1952, p. 103, §§ 5, 6; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1969, p. 959, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1997, p. 1592, § 4; Laws 1998, p. 128, § 31.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1719; Code 1933, § 88-1721; Code 1981, § 31-10-50.

**§ 31-10-21. Marriage registration, GA ST § 31-10-21**

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Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-21, GA ST § 31-10-21  
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Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-22

§ 31-10-22. Divorce, dissolution of marriage and annulment registration

Currentness

(a) A record of each divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment granted by any court of competent jurisdiction in this state shall be filed by the clerk of the court with the department and shall be registered if it has been completed and filed in accordance with this Code section. The record shall be prepared by the petitioner or the petitioner's legal representative on a form prescribed and furnished by the state registrar and shall be presented to the clerk of the court with the petition. In all cases, the completed record shall be a prerequisite to the granting of the final decree.

(b) The clerk of the superior court shall complete and forward to the department on or before the tenth day of each calendar month the records of each divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment decree granted during the preceding calendar month.

**Credits**

Laws 1945, p. 236, § 36; Laws 1952, p. 103, § 8; Laws 1953, Jan.-Feb. Sess., p. 534, §§ 1, 2; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1996, p. 6, § 31.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1720; Code 1933, § 88-1722; Code 1981, § 31-10-51.

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-22, GA ST § 31-10-22  
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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-23

§ 31-10-23. Amendments and corrections of vital records

Currentness

(a) Unless otherwise specified by law, a certificate or report registered under this chapter may be amended in accordance with this chapter and regulations adopted by the department to protect the integrity and accuracy of vital records. Such regulations shall specify the minimum evidence required for a change in any certificate or report. Amendments to birth certificates, death certificates, and application supplement-marriage reports shall be completed by the department and a copy mailed to the proper local custodian, if any. Amendments to applications for a marriage license or the license shall be completed by the judge of the probate court of the county in which the license was issued. An amendment to divorce reports shall be completed by the clerk of the superior court of the county in which the decree was granted.

(b) A certificate or report that is amended under this Code section shall be marked "amended," except as otherwise provided in this Code section. The date of amendment and a summary description of the evidence submitted in support of the amendment shall be endorsed on or made a part of the record. The department shall prescribe by regulation the conditions under which additions or minor corrections may be made to certificates or records within one year after the date of the event without the certificate or record being marked "amended."

(c)(1) Upon receipt of a certified copy of an order to legitimate a child, or an affidavit signed by the natural parents whose marriage had legitimated a child, the director shall register a new birth certificate if paternity was not shown on the original certificate. Such certificate shall not be marked "amended."

(2) If paternity was shown on the original certificate, the record can be changed only by an order from a court of competent jurisdiction or the Office of State Administrative Hearings to remove the name of the person shown on the certificate as the father and to add the name of the natural father and to show the child as the legitimate child of the person so named. The order must specify the name to be removed and the name to be added.

(d) Upon receipt of a certified copy of an order from a superior court, probate court, or other court of competent jurisdiction changing the name of a person born in this state and upon request of such person or such person's parents, guardian, temporary guardian, or legal representative, the state registrar shall amend the certificate of birth to show the new name. When the names of the parent or parents and the child are changed, the state registrar may register a new certificate if requested by the parents, guardian, temporary guardian, or legal representative. Such new certificate shall be marked "amended."

(e) Upon receipt of a certified copy of a court order indicating the sex of an individual born in this state has been changed by surgical procedure and that such individual's name has been changed, the certificate of birth of such individual shall be amended as prescribed by regulation.

(f) An order from a superior court or probate court shall be required to change the year of birth shown on the original birth certificate by more than one year or to correct any item on a delayed birth certificate, or to remove the name of a father from a birth certificate on file. The person seeking such change, correction, or removal shall institute the proceeding by filing a petition with the appropriate court in the county of residence for an order changing the year of birth, correcting a delayed birth certificate, or removing the name of the father from a birth certificate on file. Such petition shall set forth the reasons therefor and shall be accompanied by all available documentary evidence. The court shall set a date for hearing the petition and shall give the state registrar at least ten days' notice of said hearing. The state registrar or the authorized representative thereof may appear and testify in the proceeding. If the court from the evidence presented finds that such change, correction, or removal should be made, the judge shall issue an order setting out the change to be made and the date of the court's action. The clerk of such court shall forward the petition and order to the state registrar not later than the tenth day of the calendar month following the month in which said order was entered. Such order shall be registered by the state registrar and the change so ordered shall be made.

(g) When an applicant does not submit the minimum documentation required in the regulations for amending a vital record or when the state registrar has reasonable cause to question the validity or adequacy of the applicant's sworn statements or the documentary evidence and if the deficiencies are not corrected, the state registrar shall not amend the vital record and shall advise the applicant of the reason for this action and shall further advise the applicant of the right of judicial appeal.

(h) When a certificate or report is amended under this Code section, the state registrar shall report the amendment to the proper local custodian and their record shall be amended accordingly.

### Credits

Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1969, p. 715, § 1; Laws 1975, p. 855, § 1; Laws 1975, p. 1179, § 4; Laws 1976, p. 1062, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1991, p. 94, § 31; Laws 1991, p. 669, § 7; Laws 1997, p. 1592, § 5; Laws 2004, Act 522, § 8, eff. July 1, 2004; Laws 2004, Act 660, § 4, eff. July 1, 2006.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1721; Code 1933, § 88-1723; [Code 1981, § 31-10-12](#).

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-23, GA ST § 31-10-23  
Current through Acts 343 to 669 of the 2014 Regular Session.

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[West's Code of Georgia Annotated](#)

[Title 31. Health](#)

[Chapter 10. Vital Records \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-24

§ 31-10-24. Reproduction and preservation of vital records

[Currentness](#)

(a) The department is responsible for the preservation or disposition of all vital records at state or county offices. To preserve vital records, the state registrar is authorized to prepare typewritten, photographic, electronic, or other reproductions of certificates or reports in the State Office of Vital Records. Such reproductions when certified by the state registrar or the local custodian shall be accepted as the original records for all purposes. The documents from which permanent reproductions have been made and verified may be preserved or disposed of as provided by regulation.

(b) All preserved original or authorized reproductions by the state and local custodians remain the property of the department. Such original or authorized reproductions shall be surrendered to the department when so ordered.

**Credits**

Laws 1945, p. 236, § 20; Laws 1953, Jan.-Feb. Sess., p. 140, § 10; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; [Laws 2004, Act 522, § 11, eff. July 1, 2004](#).

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1722; Code 1933, § 88-1724; [Code 1981, § 31-10-11](#).

[Notes of Decisions \(1\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-24, GA ST § 31-10-24  
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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-25

§ 31-10-25. Disclosure of information from vital records

Currentness

(a) To protect the integrity of vital records, to ensure their proper use, and to ensure the efficient and proper administration of the system of vital records, it shall be unlawful for any person to permit inspection of, or to disclose information contained in vital records or to copy or issue a copy of all or part of any such record except as authorized by this chapter and by regulation or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. Regulations adopted under this Code section shall provide for adequate standards of security and confidentiality of vital records. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to court records or indexes of marriage licenses, divorces, and annulments of marriages filed as provided by law.

(b) The department shall authorize by regulation the disclosure of information contained in vital records for research purposes.

(c) Appeals from decisions of custodians of vital records, as designated under authority of [Code Section 31-10-6](#), who refuse to disclose information or to permit inspection or copying of records as prescribed by this Code section and regulations issued under this Code section shall be made to the state registrar whose decisions shall be binding upon such custodians.

(d) Information in vital records indicating that a birth occurred out of wedlock shall not be disclosed except as provided by regulation or upon the order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(e) When 100 years have elapsed after the date of birth or 75 years have elapsed after the date of death or application for marriage, or divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment, the records of these events in the custody of the state registrar shall be transferred to the State Archives and such information shall be made available in accordance with regulations which shall provide for the continued safekeeping of the records.

(f) Official copies of records of deaths, applications for marriages and marriage certificates, divorces, dissolutions of marriages, and annulments located in the counties shall remain accessible to the public. While in the temporary custody of the probate court before transmission to the state registrar or confirmation of transmission or receipt, application supplement-marriage report forms shall not be available for public inspection or copying or admissible in any court of law.

**Credits**



**§ 31-10-25. Disclosure of information from vital records, GA ST § 31-10-25**

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Laws 1945, p. 236, § 24; Laws 1953, Jan.-Feb. Sess., p. 140, § 12; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1965, p. 651, § 2; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1997, p. 1592, § 6.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1723; Code 1933, § 88-1725; [Code 1981, § 31-10-13](#).

[Notes of Decisions \(1\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-25, GA ST § 31-10-25  
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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-26

§ 31-10-26. Copies and data from vital records registration system

Effective: January 1, 2013

Currentness

(a) In accordance with [Code Section 31-10-25](#) and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto:

(1) The state registrar or local custodian of vital records appointed by the state registrar to issue certified copies upon receipt of a written application shall issue a certified copy of a vital record in that registrar's or custodian's custody or abstract thereof to any applicant having a direct and tangible interest in the vital record, except that certified copies of certificates shall only be issued to:

(A) The person whose record of birth is registered;

(B) Either parent, guardian, or temporary guardian of the person whose record of birth or death is registered;

(C) The living legal spouse or next of kin or the legal representative or the person who in good faith has applied and produced a record of such application to become the legal representative of the person whose record of birth or death is registered;

(D) The court of competent jurisdiction upon its order or subpoena; or

(E) Any governmental agency, state or federal, provided that such certificate shall be needed for official purposes.

(2) Each certified copy issued shall show the date of registration and duplicates issued from records marked "delayed" or "amended" shall be similarly marked and show the effective date. The documentary evidence used to establish a delayed certificate of birth shall be shown on all duplicates issued. All forms and procedures used in the issuance of certified copies of vital records in this state shall be provided or approved by the state registrar.

(b) The federal agency responsible for national vital statistics may be furnished such duplicates or data from the system of vital records as it may require for national statistics, provided such federal agency shares in the cost of collecting, processing, and transmitting such data and provided further that such data shall not be used for other than statistical purposes by the federal agency unless so authorized by the state registrar.

(c) The state registrar may, by agreement, transmit duplicates of records and other reports required by this chapter to offices of vital records outside this state when such records or other reports relate to residents of those jurisdictions or persons born in those jurisdictions. The agreement shall require that the duplicates be used for statistical and administrative purposes only and the agreement shall further provide for the retention and disposition of such duplicates. Duplicates received by the department from offices of vital statistics in other states shall be handled in the same manner as prescribed in this Code section.

(d) No person shall prepare or issue any certificate which purports to be an original, certified copy or duplicate of a vital record except as authorized in this chapter or regulations adopted under this chapter.

(e) No duplicates or parts thereof of a vital record shall be reproduced or information copied for commercial or speculative purposes. This subsection shall not apply to published results of research.

#### Credits

Laws 1914, p. 157, § 20; Laws 1927, p. 353, § 20; Laws 1931, p. 7, §§ 16, 17; Laws 1933, p. 7, § 1; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1965, p. 651, § 3; Laws 1969, p. 715, § 2; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1991, p. 94, § 31; Laws 2004, Act 522, § 9, eff. July 1, 2004; Laws 2011, Act 52, § 43, eff. Jan. 1, 2013.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1212; Code 1933, § 88-1724; Code 1933, § 88-1726; [Code 1981, § 31-10-14](#).

#### [Notes of Decisions \(28\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-26, GA ST § 31-10-26  
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[Title 31. Health](#)

[Chapter 10. Vital Records \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-27

§ 31-10-27. Fees for searches and services

[Currentness](#)

(a) The department shall prescribe uniform fees to be paid to the State Office of Vital Records, local registrars, and local custodians for certified copies of certificates or records, for a search of the files or records, for copies or information provided for research, statistical, or administrative purposes, or for other services. The fee for each search or service, certified copy, or record shall be determined by the board.

(b) Fees collected by the department under this Code section shall be deposited in the general funds of the state.

(c) Fees for copies or searches by local custodians of vital records shall be retained by them whether the local custodian is paid on a fee basis, a salary basis, or a combination of both, except in counties where the local custodian of vital records is an employee of the county board of health, in which case said fees shall be remitted monthly to the county health department.

#### Credits

Laws 1945, p. 236, §§ 21, 22; Laws 1953, Jan.-Feb. Sess., p. 140, § 11; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1967, p. 541, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; [Laws 2004, Act 522, § 10, eff. July 1, 2004](#).

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1725; Code 1933, § 88-1727; [Code 1981, § 31-10-15](#).

#### [Notes of Decisions \(1\)](#)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-27, GA ST § 31-10-27  
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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-28

§ 31-10-28. Records of persons admitted or confined to institutions

Currentness

(a) Every person in charge of an institution shall keep a record of personal data concerning each person admitted or confined to such institution. This record shall include such information as required for the certificates of birth and death and the reports of spontaneous fetal death and induced termination of pregnancy required by this chapter. The record shall be made at the time of admission from information provided by the person being admitted or confined but, when it cannot be so obtained, the information shall be obtained from relatives or other persons acquainted with the facts. The name and address of the person providing the information shall be a part of the record.

(b) When a dead body or dead fetus is released or disposed of by an institution, the person in charge of the institution shall keep a record showing the name of the decedent or parents of the fetus, date of death, name and address of the person to whom the body or fetus is released, and the date of removal from the institution. If final disposition is made by the institution, the date, place, and manner of disposition shall also be recorded.

(c) A funeral director, embalmer, sexton, or other person who removes from the place of death, transports, or makes final disposition of a dead body or fetus, in addition to filing any certificate or other report required by this chapter or regulations promulgated hereunder, shall keep a record which shall identify the body and such information pertaining to receipt, removal, delivery, burial, or cremation of such body as may be required by regulations adopted by the department.

(d) Records maintained under this Code section shall be retained for a period of not less than three years and shall be made available for inspection by the state registrar or the state registrar's representative upon demand.

**Credits**

Laws 1927, p. 353, § 11; Laws 1945, p. 236, § 26; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1220; Code 1933, § 88-1726; Code 1933, § 88-1728; [Code 1981, § 31-10-10](#).

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-28, GA ST § 31-10-28  
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Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-29

§ 31-10-29. Certain information to be conveyed

Currentness

(a) Any person having knowledge or facts concerning any birth, death, spontaneous fetal death, marriage, induced termination of pregnancy, divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment may disclose such facts to the state registrar, and such disclosure shall be absolutely privileged and no cause or action may be brought or maintained against such person for such disclosure.

(b) Not later than the tenth day of the month following the month of occurrence, the administrator of each institution or that administrator's designated representative shall send to the local vital records registrar a list showing all deaths and fetal deaths occurring in that institution during the preceding month.

(c) Upon receipt of a death certificate by any local vital records registrar of any person 18 years of age or older, the local registrar shall notify the board of voting registrars in the county of the decedent's residence of the name and address of such decedent. If the records of the local registrar reflect that the decedent was a resident of another or other counties within the five years preceding the decedent's death, the local registrar shall also send such information to the board of voting registrars of such county or counties.

**Credits**

Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1984, p. 22, § 31; Laws 1991, p. 669, § 8.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1729.

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-29, GA ST § 31-10-29  
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Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-30

§ 31-10-30. Matching of birth and death certificates

Currentness

(a) To protect the integrity of vital records and to prevent the fraudulent use of birth certificates of deceased persons, the state registrar is authorized to match birth and death certificates, in accordance with written standards promulgated by the state registrar to prove beyond a reasonable doubt the fact of death and to post the facts of death to the appropriate birth certificate and index. Copies issued from birth certificates marked deceased shall be similarly marked.

(b) When a death occurs in this state for which a death certificate must be filed in accordance with [Code Section 31-10-15](#), and the decedent's birth certificate is on file at the state office of vital records, the state registrar shall mark that deceased person's birth certificate with the word "Deceased." The state registrar shall notify the custodian of vital records of the county where the decedent was born that the deceased individual's birth certificate has been marked "Deceased."

**Credits**

Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1996, p. 1201, § 2.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1730.

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-30, GA ST § 31-10-30  
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West's Code of Georgia Annotated

Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-31

§ 31-10-31. Penalties

Currentness

(a) A fine of not more than \$10,000.00 or imprisonment of not more than five years, or both, shall be imposed on:

(1) Any person who willfully and knowingly makes any false statement in a certificate, record, or report required by this chapter, or in an application for an amendment thereof, or in an application for a certified copy of a vital record or who willfully and knowingly supplies false information intending that such information be used in the preparation of any such report, record, or certificate, or amendment thereof;

(2) Any person who without lawful authority and with the intent to deceive makes, counterfeits, alters, amends, or mutilates any certificate, record, or report required by this chapter or a certified copy of such certificate, record, or report;

(3) Any person who willfully and knowingly obtains, possesses, uses, sells, furnishes, or attempts to obtain, possess, use, sell, or furnish to another, for any purpose of deception, any certificate, record, or report required by this chapter or certified copy thereof so made, counterfeited, altered, amended, or mutilated or which is false in whole or in part or which relates to the birth of another person, whether living or deceased;

(4) Any employee of the State Office of Vital Records, or appointed local registrar or local custodian or special abstracting agent who willfully and knowingly furnishes or processes a certificate of birth, or certified copy of a certificate of birth, with the knowledge or intention that it be used for the purposes of deception; or

(5) Any person who without lawful authority possesses any certificate, record, or report required by this chapter or a copy or certified copy of such certificate, record, or report knowing same to have been stolen or otherwise unlawfully obtained.

(b) A fine not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both, shall be imposed on:

(1) Any person who willfully and knowingly refuses to provide information required by this chapter or regulations adopted hereunder;

(2) Any person who willfully and knowingly transports or accepts for transportation, interment, or other disposition a dead body without an accompanying permit as provided in this chapter;

(3) Any person who willfully and knowingly neglects or violates any of the provisions of this chapter or refuses to perform any of the duties imposed upon such person by this chapter.

### Credits

Laws 1927, p. 353, § 21; Laws 1945, p. 236, § 38; Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2; Laws 1992, p. 6, § 31; [Laws 2004, Act 522, § 11, eff. July 1, 2004](#).

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-9929; Code 1933, § 88-1727; Code 1933, § 88-1731; [Code 1981, § 31-10-16](#).

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-31, GA ST § 31-10-31  
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Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-32

§ 31-10-32. Extension of periods for filing of certificates and reports

Currentness

The department may, by regulation and upon such conditions as it may prescribe to assure compliance with the purposes of this chapter, provide for the extension of the periods for the filing of certificates or reports.

**Credits**

Laws 1964, p. 499, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 1; Laws 1982, p. 723, § 2.

**Formerly** Code 1933, § 88-1718; Code 1933, § 88-1732; [Code 1981, § 31-10-9](#).

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-32, GA ST § 31-10-32  
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Title 31. Health

Chapter 10. Vital Records (Refs & Annos)

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-33

§ 31-10-33. Certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth; issuance

Effective: July 1, 2008

[Currentness](#)

(a) For any stillborn child in this state, the State Office of Vital Records shall, within 60 days of a request by a parent named on a fetal death certificate or other eligible person as provided for in subsection (h) of this Code section, issue a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth.

(b) The person who is required to file a fetal death certificate under [Code Section 31-10-18](#) shall advise the parent of a stillborn child:

(1) That the parent may request the preparation of a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth in addition to the fetal death certificate;

(2) That the parent may obtain a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth by contacting the State Office of Vital Records;

(3) How the parent may contact the State Office of Vital Records to request a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth; and

(4) That a copy of the original certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth is a document that is available as a vital record when held by the state registrar system.

(c) The request for a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth shall be on a form prescribed by the state registrar pursuant to [Code Section 31-10-7](#).

(d) The certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth shall contain:

(1) The date of the stillbirth;

(2) The county in which the stillbirth occurred;

(3) The name of the stillborn child as provided on the original or amended certificate of the fetal death certificate. If a name does not appear on the original or amended fetal death certificate and the requesting parent does not wish to provide a name, the State Office of Vital Records shall fill in the certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth with the name “baby boy” or “baby girl” and the last name of the parents;

(4) The state file number of the corresponding fetal death certificate; and

(5) The following statement: “This certificate is not proof of live birth.”

(e) The certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth shall also contain:

(1) Gender;

(2) Place of delivery;

(3) Residence of mother;

(4) The attendant at delivery;

(5) Gestational age at delivery;

(6) Weight at delivery;

(7) Mother’s name;

(8) Father’s name;

(9) Time of delivery; and

(10) Type of delivery, including but not limited to single, twin, or triplet.

(f) A certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth shall be a vital record when held by the state registrar system. The State Office of Vital Records shall inform any parent who requests a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth that a copy of the document is available as a vital record.

(g) A parent may request that the State Office of Vital Records issue a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth regardless of the date on which the certificate of fetal death was issued.

(h) Those individuals who are entitled to request a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth are:

(1) Either parent of the stillborn child listed on the vital record;

(2) A grandparent of the stillborn child;

(3) An adult brother or sister of the stillborn child;

(4) A legal representative of the parent; and

(5) A court of competent jurisdiction.

(i) The State Office of Vital Records shall not use a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth to calculate live birth statistics.

(j) This Code section shall not be used to establish, bring, or support a civil cause of action seeking damages against any person or entity for bodily injury, personal injury, or wrongful death for a stillbirth.

(k) The state registrar shall prescribe by rules pursuant to [Code Section 31-10-5](#) the form, content, and process for the certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth.

**Credits**

Laws 2008, Act 565, § 3, eff. July 1, 2008.

Ga. Code Ann., § 31-10-33, GA ST § 31-10-33  
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