

THE *vital* CONNECTION

Connecting Vital Records Partners Across Georgia

April/May 2015



From The Director's Desk

Over the last several months, we have made significant changes within the State Office of Vital Records to strengthen our alignment and mission within the Georgia Department of Public Health. With input gathered from our stakeholders, constituents, employees, and data partners, we launched a transformation strategy that (1) enhances stakeholder

and constituent experiences; (2) improves processes to increase our efficiency and effectiveness, and (3) ensures record security and fraud prevention.

With a clear strategic agenda in place, I am pleased to announce a series of organizational changes within the State Office of Vital Records that will move us further along in our providing service to you.

Central to our strategy is the realignment of our work processes into four functional areas: 1) Record Retention, 2) Constituent Services, 3) Data Integrity & Reporting, and 4) Program Administration. These functional areas are designed to facilitate accuracy, timeliness, and security of the work we perform. I have included the functional responsibilities of each of the aforementioned areas on page 2. Please note that in some instances, the individual(s) you may have worked with in the past may be in a new role within the organization or a new member has joined our team. However, it is always easiest to reach the appropriate area for assistance by calling our Contact Center at 404-679-4702 and they can route your call.

I am proud of what this organization has already accomplished in the last 8 months and very excited about our prospects for continued success in the future.

I, along with the Vital Records team, want to thank each of you for your ongoing support and suggestions. It is our goal to provide you with the direction and training you need to enhance your local operations and ensure a positive customer experience.

Sincerely,
Donna L. Moore, State Registrar/Director
State Office of Vital Records



GAVERS Marriage Module

In February of 2015, the State Office of Vital Records launched a new service, the marriage module, to GAVERS. As we seek to increase operational efficiencies, reduce the number of paper transactions, and to provide you with a user friendly platform from which to operate, this system will improve the timeliness and accuracy of marriage registrations in Georgia.

This long anticipated module will be used primarily by Probate Judges and their clerks, for the following functions:

- Registration of Georgia Marriage Events
- Statewide Search capability
- Statewide Uniform Marriage License Certificates
- Statewide Standardization of Fees
- Reporting Capability
- Ability to Make Corrections

Training was provided by the State of Georgia Vital Records Regional Consultant assigned to your respective area. We hope you are as excited as we are about the new GAVERS Marriage Module and we look forward to bringing you additional value-added features.

dph.georgia.gov/VitalRecords

HB 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOW THC CANNABIS OIL REGISTRATION BY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH VIA THE STATE OFFICE OF VITAL RECORDS

In this most recent session of the Georgia Legislature, the House and Senate passed House Bill 1 and Governor Nathan Deal signed the bill into law on April 16, 2015. The bill allows caregivers to possess low THC oil (cannabis) for use in treatment of 8 conditions that a physician deems severe or end stage. (Cancer, Lou Gehrig's Disease, Seizure disorders, Multiple Sclerosis, Crohn's Disease, Mitochondrial disease, Parkinson's, and Sickle Cell). The Department of Public Health has been called upon to provide a registry, a registration process, and registration cards for caregivers. This service will be fulfilled through the State Office of Vital Records and will be available no later than September 1st. DPH and the State Office are currently working on establishing procedures and promulgating rules and regulations for the establishment and operation of the registration process and dispensing registry cards to individuals and caregivers. Only individuals residing in Georgia for at least one year or a child born in this state less than one year old are eligible and a physician must authorize the use of low THC oil for their patient.

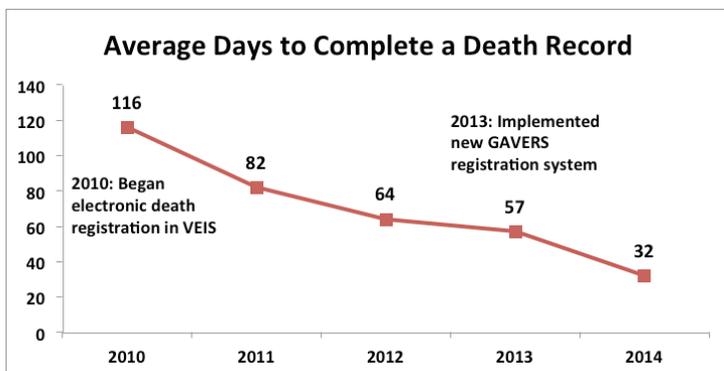
Final Statistics for Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces - Closing the Book on 2014

Upon the close of each year, the State Vital Records Office must report the total number of births, deaths, fetal deaths/miscarriages, marriages, and divorces that occurred during the year to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The State Office's goal in 2015 was to have that data filed by April 1st. Thanks to all of the hard work and dedication from our data providers across Georgia we were able to complete the reports for birth, death, marriage, and divorce for 2014 ahead of the NCHS deadline.

The final 2014 Georgia events reported to NCHS:

- Births: 132,077
- Deaths: 77,527
- Marriages: 34,953
- Divorces: 29,058

A critical factor allowing us to submit data to NCHS on schedule is timely electronic registration of vital records, and our data providers have made tremendous improvements over the past several years. For instance, the average number of days to complete a death record has decreased from 116 in 2010 to only 32 in 2014:



Constituent Services

The State Office of Vital Records hours of operations at 2600 Skyland Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30319, are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday. The Vital Records office CLOSES to the public Monday - Friday at 4:30 p.m.

Contact Information

Registrar/Director:

Donna L. Moore – 404-679-0559

Deputy Director, Constituent Services:

Sheila Pierce – 404-679-4715

Deputy Director, Record & Retention:

Gwendolyn Duffin – 404-679-4751

Deputy Director,

Program Administration:

Cynthia Buskey-Martin – 404-679-4732

Constituent Services and Certification & Issuance:

Valerie Campbell, Manager – 404-679-4739

Walk-In and Mail-In

- Birth Certificates
- Death Certificates
- Marriage Verifications
- Divorce Verifications
- Birth Certificate Changes/Amendments/Legitimations

Mail-In

- ROVER
- VitalChek
- Pen in Hand

Operations Support:

Robby Braumuller, Manager – 404-679-4744

- ZOHO Reporting
- GAVERS State Employee Training
- GTA Ticketing
- Helpdesk
- UAT Testing

Special Services & Record Establishment:

Beverly Gardner, Manager – 404-679-4782

- Amendments
- Death Corrections
- Court Orders
- Legitimations
- Delayed Births
- Adoptions
- Court Ordered Petitions
- Birth Corrections

Regional Training & Support:

Joseph Little, Manager – 404-486-6344

- Regional Consultants
- Training and support of local constituents
- Subject matter experts on Vital Records functions
- Communication of policies to local constituents
- Regular reviews of local registrars

Local County Registrar Probate Judge Training Dates in May

The trainings are open to ALL Probate Judges and staff for the following training dates and times.

May 11th (9am - Noon)
Bartow County-Clarence Brown
Conference Center
5450 State Route 20
Cartersville, GA 30121

May 12th (9am - Noon)
Gwinnett County-Gwinnett Justice
and Administration Center
75 Langley Dr.
2nd Floor -Conference Rm. A
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

May 13th (9am-Noon)
Greene County- Greene County Board
of Commissioners
1034 Silver Dr. Suite 201
Greensboro, GA 30642

May 14th (9am - Noon)
Houston County-Probate Court
201 N. Perry Parkway
Perry, GA 31069

May 20th (9am - Noon)
Dougherty County- Albany-Dougherty Center
222 Pine Ave. Rm. 100
Albany, GA 31701

May 21st (9am - Noon)
Emmanuel County- Sudie A. Fulford
Community Learning Center
(East Georgia College)
131 College Circle
Swainsboro, GA 30401

Vital Records Fee Structure

| | |
|--|------|
| Search Fee (includes one certified copy, if record is found on file) | \$25 |
| Additional certifications of same record ordered at the same time | \$5 |
| Multi-year search (every three years or portion thereof) | \$25 |

SPECIAL FILING FEE

In addition to the \$25 search fee, the following fees must be included based on the transaction:

- Delayed certificate of birth \$10
- Amending birth certificate because of adoption, Paternity Acknowledgment, legitimation or court order (ALL changes) \$10

In accordance with GA 511-1-3-35 (1), no certified copy shall be issued until the fee for the search of such copy is received...

METHODS OF PAYMENT

- Cash - Walk-ins Only
- Certified Check
- Money Order
- Visa
- Master Card

Important Changes to Gilmer County Vital Records

We are pleased to announce effective May 3rd, 2015, the Gilmer County Health Department - Environmental Health Section will take on the responsibility for fulfilling all Gilmer County vital records requests. Located in the lower level of the Gilmer County courthouse, Vital Records will be conveniently located with the necessary space and public access to serve the citizens of Gilmer County. We are looking forward to the change and are excited that Gilmer County will be our first paper-less operation. They will have electronic access to all the records they need, and will be the first in the State of Georgia to move from a physical to a completely electronic operation.

Birth Record Ratings: The Top 11 Facilities

Congratulations to the following medical facilities whose ratings for timeliness and completeness have placed them in the top 10 in the state of Georgia. In March eleven (11) birth facilities earned perfect scores and did not have any late records. March

| Rank | Avg. Days to Register a Birth |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Candler Hospital | 2.6 |
| 2. Colquitt Regional Medical Center | 2.3 |
| 3. Donalsonville Hospital | 3.2 |
| 4. Dorminy Medical Center | 2.2 |
| 5. Irwin County Hospital | 2.9 |
| 6. Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Waycross | 1.1 |
| 7. Memorial Hospital and Manor | 3.0 |
| 8. South Georgia Medical Center | 2.5 |
| 9. Tanner Medical Center Villa Rica | 2.7 |
| 10. Wayne Memorial Hospital | 1.5 |
| 11. West Georgia Health System | 2.8 |

