



PROTECTING YOUR VITAL RECORD

Now more than ever, it is important to protect your and your child's vital records. The rapid growth in technology and its increased use make it easy to become a victim of identity theft. Your vital record in the wrong hands makes this even easier. The birth certificate is a breeder document which means that it can be used to obtain and create other important documents using your identity such as a social security card or a driver's license. Don't let this happen to you. Here are a few tips you can use when storing, sharing, and requesting your and your child's vital records:

- A safe deposit box is ideal for storing your vital records and other important documents. Most banks and credit unions offer safe deposit boxes.
- A fire and water proof home safe can be used to store copies of your important documents. Ensure that it has a secure locking mechanism to keep your documents safe from others you do not want to access your personal information.
- Each state, the District of Columbia, New York City, and the five territories have an office of vital records that can provide information on the vital events that occurred within its jurisdiction. The requirements and fees for obtaining copies of vital records vary by state. You may also use this link to find out where to write for a vital record <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm> .

Always use care and keep these tips in mind when storing, sharing, and requesting your and your child's vital records.