

# GENEALOGICAL SERVICES

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

## Genealogy

Copies of original vital event records are an important resource for the family historian. Records of birth, marriage, and death occurring in the province of British Columbia since 1872, if registered with the Agency, are available to qualified applicants.

For genealogical research purposes the Agency issues unique registration copies, which make available all the information recorded on the original event record.

For births registered after 1943 birth weight and time of birth may be available. This information will be provided separately along with the registration copy when available. This information is often of general interest and particularly useful to persons interested in numberology and astrology.

To learn more about genealogy services visit our web site at [www.vs.gov.bc.ca/genealogy/](http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/genealogy/)

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

## Adoption Services

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

To ease the access to adoption information, the *Adoption Act* allows an adopted person 19 years of age or older to obtain a copy of their birth registration and adoption order, if the events occurred in British Columbia. The act also allows the birth parents access to the adopted person's birth registration and adoption order, once the adopted person reaches his/her 19th birthday.

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

## Special Event Certificates

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

## Commemorative Certificates

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

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

## Important Note

Special event and commemorative certificates are not identification documents and can not be utilized to obtain benefits or services (Example: passport).

## **Genealogical Resources for British Columbians**

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

The guide can be downloaded and printed from our website at: [www.vs.gov.bc.ca/forms/genealogy2000.pdf](http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/forms/genealogy2000.pdf)

## **Vital Statistics Agency Web Site**

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

### **General Inquires**

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

### **Ordering by Credit Card**

250 952-2557 (Victoria & outside BC)  
fax: 250 952-2182  
Toll free: 1 888 876-1633 (within BC)

### **Mailing Address**

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

### **Office Locations**

**Victoria**  
818 Fort Street  
250 952-2681

**Vancouver**  
250-605 Robson Street

**Prince George**  
433 Queensway Street  
250 565-7105

**Kelowna**  
101-1475 Ellis Street  
250 712-7562

# APPLICATION FOR GENEALOGY CERTIFICATE

MAILING ADDRESS INFORMATION		SHADED AREAS FOR OFFICE USE ONLY					
<b>NOTE: Please PRINT your name, address and identifying information clearly. This portion will be used when mailing your service or correspondence</b>		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <span>—</span> <span>▲</span> <span>▲</span> </div>					
SURNAME	GIVEN NAMES						
MAILING ADDRESS							
CITY, PROVINCE/STATE, COUNTRY	POSTAL CODE						
HOME PHONE NUMBER (INCLUDING AREA CODE)	WORK PHONE NUMBER (INCLUDING AREA CODE)	E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)					

PLEASE INDICATE TYPE AND NUMBER OF SERVICE(S) CERTIFICATE(S) REQUIRED ➔

BIRTH	SURNAME (IF FOR MARRIED WOMAN MAIDEN/BIRTH SURNAME) (GIVEN NAMES)		SEX	<b>Standard Genealogy Services</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy - Registration copy <input type="checkbox"/> Special Edition - Happy Birthday  <b>Commemorative Certificates</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers <input type="checkbox"/> Birds <input type="checkbox"/> Animals <input type="checkbox"/> Classic Style <input type="checkbox"/> New Born	
	DATE OF BIRTH MONTH    DAY    YEAR	PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE)			
	SURNAME OF FATHER (GIVEN NAMES)		BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY, PROV/STATE, COUNTRY)		
	MAIDEN/BIRTH SURNAME OF MOTHER (GIVEN NAMES)		BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY, PROV/STATE, COUNTRY)		

MARRIAGE	SURNAME OF PARTY PRIOR TO MARRIAGE (if applicable) (GIVEN NAMES)		BIRTHPLACE OF PARTY (CITY, PROV/STATE, COUNTRY)		<b>Standard Genealogy Service</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy - Registration copy <input type="checkbox"/> Special Anniversary
	SURNAME OF PARTY PRIOR TO MARRIAGE (if applicable) (GIVEN NAMES)		BIRTHPLACE OF PARTY (CITY, PROV/STATE, COUNTRY)		
	DATE OF MARRIAGE MONTH    DAY    YEAR	PLACE OF MARRIAGE (CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE)		BRITISH COLUMBIA	

DEATH	SURNAME OF DECEASED (GIVEN NAMES)		DATE OF DEATH MONTH    DAY    YEAR	SEX	AGE	<input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy - Registration copy
	PLACE OF DEATH (CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE)		BRITISH COLUMBIA			

<b>PAYMENT METHOD</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> In Person <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> In Person <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card (complete Credit Card section on the right) Interac/Cash payment may be made in person at one of our four offices. Cheques or money order made payable to the Ministry of Finance. <b>Postdated cheques are not accepted.</b> AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ (\$50.00 per certificate)	<b>CREDIT CARD</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Visa ..... <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard ..... <input type="checkbox"/> American Express ..... Credit Card number: # _____ Card holder name as shown on Credit Card _____ Expiry date _____ Card holder Signature _____
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**YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO EVENT**     Self     Mother     Father     Spouse     Other : \_\_\_\_\_

**REASON CERTIFICATE REQUIRED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR SIGNATURE (written) :** \_\_\_\_\_

# COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

## 1) WHO QUALIFIES TO APPLY

- ◇ **Commemorative or Special Event Birth Certificates** may be released to
  - a) you, if the record pertains to your own birth
  - b) parents of a child
  - c) guardian; copy of guardianship papers must be attached
  - d) a person on the written consent of "a" or "b" above
  
- ◇ **Special Anniversary - Marriage Certificates** may be applied for by
  - a) you, if the record pertains to your own marriage
  - b) parents of either of the parties to the marriage
  - c) a person on the written consent of "a" or "b" above
  - d) the daughter or son of the parties to the marriage
  
- ◇ **Birth Genealogy** (Certified Registration Copy for Genealogical Research) may be released to
  - a) you, if the record pertains to your own birth
  - b) parents of a child
  - c) custodial guardian; copy of guardianship papers must be attached
  - d) anyone, as long as the person has been dead for 20 years, and proof of death is provided
  - e) anyone, if the record has been in existence for 120 years
  - f) the closest living relative of the person named, on production of proof of death and relationship \*\*\*
  - g) a person on the written consent of the eligible person
  
- ◇ **Marriage Genealogy** (Certified Registration Copy for Genealogical Research) may be released to
  - a) you, if the record pertains to your own marriage
  - b) the closest living relative of the person named, on production of proof of death and relationship\*\*\*
  - c) anyone, as long as the parties to the marriage have both been dead for 20 years, and proof of death is provided
  - d) anyone, if the record has been in existence for 75 years
  - e) a person on the written consent of an eligible person
  
- ◇ **Death Genealogy** (Certified Registration Copy for Genealogical Research) may be released to
  - a) nearest living relative of the deceased, on production of proof of relationship \*\*\*
  - b) anyone if the event occurred more than 20 years ago
  - c) a person on the written consent of an eligible person

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

Mother    Father    Son    Daughter    Sister    Brother    Spouse    Grandparent    Grandchild

## 2) FEES

- ◇ For each service \$50.00. Fee is for a search of records and a positive search will result in service. Where a service cannot be provided because no record exists, a \$50.00 search fee will be assessed.
  - ◇ Payment to be made in **Canadian funds** by credit card, cheque or money order payable to the Minister of Finance.
- \*Fees effective January 2, 1996. All fees subject to change. If ordering after April 1, 2008, contact our office for current fees.

## TO AVOID DELAY

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

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