

St. Mary's County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

www.smchd.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAME-DAY SERVICE MAKES GETTING BIRTH CERTIFICATES EASY

(LEONARDTOWN, MD) June 16, 2008 – Registering your child to play recreational sports. Applying for a passport , photo ID, or drivers license. Applying for benefits through the Department of Social Services. These are just a few reasons you may want a certified copy of a birth certificate. Fortunately, getting a copy of your birth certificate in St. Mary's County is easy due to fast track, same-day service available at the health department in Leonardtown.

Walk-in clients, born after 1940, may request a copy of their certificate between 8 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. The fee is \$20 per certificate. You are an eligible applicant for walk-in, same-day service if:

- you are the individual asking for his/her own birth certificate.
- you are the parent or guardian of the person. A foster care appointment is not acceptable and proof of guardianship must be submitted.
- you are a representative of the person, parent, or guardian, and certified by a notary public saying that you have permission to obtain the birth certificate.

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A valid, unexpired, government-issued photo identification is mandatory; however, applicants who are unable to supply valid photo I.D. may present two pieces of alternative documentation. (Social Security card; voter registration; baptismal certificate; school records; insurance policy; certified marriage certificate; mother or father's birth certificate.)

Applicants who do not desire same-day convenience have the option of submitting a mail-in application to the Division of Vital Records in Baltimore, MD. The fee is \$12 per certificate. The application process averages 2-3 weeks. Mail-in applications are available at the health department or online at [www. smchd.org](http://www.smchd.org). Click on Birth and Death Certificates.

The health department's Department of Vital Records also provides applications and assistance to individuals that would like to correct a birth certificate or change a baby's name on a certificate before the baby's first birthday. In addition, the health department issues Statement of Age Cards, indicating that an individual has a birth certificate on file at the Maryland Department of Vital Records. The fee is \$1.00 per card.

Parents considering home birth must contact the St. Mary's County Health Department Medical/Vital Records Program. Health department staff will make a home visit and file appropriate information for a birth certificate through the Division of Vital Records in Baltimore.

For more information about these and other services offered by the health department's Department of Vital Records call 301-475-4427.

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