



Birth Certificate Exchange Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What birth certificates are affected?

A: Any Iowa newborn birth certificate issued between May 1993 to October 2009, where the birth certificate is a small wallet-size card.

Q: Why is this exchange being offered?

A: The newborn birth certificate wallet cards issued during this time did not contain enough vital record information to be used for identification purposes, making them less useful for the purpose they were intended for. In general, the Department of State has not accepted these wallet size cards because of standards set to prove identity. Generally, driver's license stations will not accept these wallet certificates if the certificate is lacking information.

Q: Why did the state issue an incorrect/improper certificate?

A: At the time, this small-form certificate was accepted as proof of birth and identity. Over time, official agencies require more information for proof of identity.

Q: Does the wallet card have wrong information?

A: No; it just does not have ALL the information. At the time of issuance, these records were as accepted as identification and proof of birth.

Q: How do I exchange the affected birth certificates?

A: Download the Application for Certified Copy of Iowa Vital Record from <http://www.idph.iowa.gov/health-statistics/request-record>

- *Open Application for Copy of Birth Certificate link and print document;*
- *Complete the application, including notarized signature;*
- *Return application, copy of driver's license and original newborn birth certificate wallet card in person or by mail to IDPH Bureau of Health Statistics, 321 E. 12th Street, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.*

Q: Is there a fee for exchanging the birth certificate?

A: No, if you are exchanging this document there will be no charge for the replaced certificate and no charge for standard mailing.

Q: What if I want to keep my wallet card certificate, but still get a full-sized certificate?

A: This would be the same process as ordering any other certificate; please follow the steps for applying for a certificate and the posted fees will be required.



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Q: Who can make the exchange?

A: An entitled person must exchange the record. An entitled person would be the person of record if they are 18 years of age, the person's parents as listed on the certificate, direct blood family members, or legal spouse.

Q: How many people are affected by this exchange?

A: The total number of individuals born from May 1993 to October 2009 was 634,665. It is unknown how many wallet size certificates will exist and may be replaced.

Iowa Dept. of Public Health
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