

Ohio Department of Health
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.odh.ohio.gov

Ted Strickland, Governor
Alvin D. Jackson, M.D., Director



N E W S

Office of Public Affairs
Robert Jennings, Director

For immediate release: December 17, 2010

Media contact: Ohio Department of Health, Office of Public Affairs 614-644-8562

New statewide birth record database offers wider availability

Ohioans can now obtain certified birth certificates at local health departments across the state.

Columbus, Ohio-The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) today announced an improvement in customer service for individuals wishing to purchase a certified copy of an Ohio birth record.

Over the next few months, local registrar offices throughout the state will have access to issue an Ohio birth record regardless of the county where the birth occurred. Prior to this improvement, a person would need to purchase a copy from the county where the birth occurred or from the state office of vital statistics.

"These changes will help to streamline birth record requests across the state and more quickly connect Ohioans with essential records," said ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson M.D. "They will be especially helpful for individuals who need a birth record in a hurry, since a person will now be able to travel to the closest office and purchase the record they need."

The implementation of ODH's birth and death registration system was noted as innovative by the Public Health Accreditation Board earlier this year. The project began in 2006, with scanning and keying index information of over 20 million vital records into the state database. With this effort complete, all local health departments will now be able to access and issue a certified birth abstract for Ohio birth records dating back to 1908.

Participation by local departments is optional and not all offices may choose to participate. Individuals are encouraged to contact their local health department to see if they offer this service. It is also important to call ahead to determine the hours of operation and the fees associated with a request for a certified birth abstract.

To find information on a local health department visit www.odh.ohio.gov and click on "Local Health Departments."