

OBTAINING COPIES OF FLORIDA VITAL RECORDS:

Official form: Forms, instructions and fees for requesting official records can be obtained at the Web site of the State Office of Vital Statistics: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/

Copies of the forms are available at the Reference desk in the John F. Germany Library's History and Genealogy area. Library patrons may make photocopies of these for their personal use.

By letter: To obtain a copy of a record listed in an index, write to:

Office of Vital Statistics
Attn: Customer Services
PO Box 210
Jacksonville, FL 32231-0042

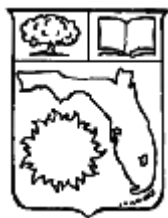
By phone: Requests can also be made by phone M-F, 8-5pm at (904) 359 - 6900 x9000. A credit card will be needed to pay the fee.

VITAL RECORDS FOR OTHER STATES:

For information about when other states began collecting vital records, their privacy laws and how to request records, consult a reference tool such as *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Much of this information is also available through the Web site of the U.S. Center for Disease Control at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>

INTERNATIONAL VITAL RECORDS:

The *International Vital Records Handbook* has general information and applications for requesting copies of vital records from many different countries. The forms in this book, which is kept at the reference desk of the John F. Germany, History and Genealogy area, may be photocopied for your personal use.



The Florida Vital Statistics Combined Index is made available to library customers through a generous donation by the members of the Florida Genealogical Society.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners

flavital (4/09)

Finding Vital Records...

Florida Vital Records Combined Index



John F. Germany Public Library

For More Information, Call:
(813) 273-3652

Or Visit Us on the Web!
hcplc.org



Vital Records

Official birth, marriage, divorce and death certificates are called the vital records of a state. Each state decided when it would begin collecting these types of records and how it makes the records available to researchers.

Official records are protected by the privacy laws of each state. In most cases, the actual records are not open for public viewing. Instead, an index that lists names and dates may be issued. Researchers use an index to identify a specific record which can be requested from the state.

FLORIDA VITAL RECORDS

Florida began keeping vital records on a statewide basis on the dates listed below.

- **Birth** - Jan. 1917 to present; *birth records are confidential in Florida*. To obtain a copy, you must be the person named on the birth certificate and be over 18, or the parent of a child under 18.
- **Marriage and divorce** - June 1927 to present
- **Death** - 1877-1917 (incomp.), Jan. 1917 to present; *the "cause of death" is considered confidential for 50 years following the date of death and will not be included on the certificate*.

Prior to the dates above, it was each county's decision whether and when to keep vital records. To determine what types of records were kept by a specific county, consult a reference tool such as *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*.

ONLINE INDEXES FOR FLORIDA:

Ancestry Online - The Ancestry database, available through the Library's Databases & Websites page, contains searchable indexes for state vital records. It also has a few county records covering the time period before state-wide records were kept. No actual records for Florida are online, but the indexes can be used to make a request from the state or county. Indexes include:

- Marriage - 1822-1875, 1927-2001
- Divorce - 1927-2001
- Death - 1877-1998

County Web sites - Many counties maintain online databases for their official records which may also include probate and other records relevant for researchers. Marriage records are not considered confidential in Florida so some counties have begun scanning them and posting the images on the Web. Find county records at <http://MyFloridaCounty.com> and click on "Order official records."

MICROFICHE INDEXES FOR FLORIDA:

Microfiche indexes are available that list certificates on file from the State of Florida Office of Vital Statistics in Jacksonville, including:

- Florida deaths, 1877-2001
- Florida marriages, 1927-2001
- Florida divorces, 1927-2001

This index is located at the John F. Germany Public Library in downtown Tampa.

Index race and sex codes: Beginning in 1956, the following codes are used to denote the race and sex of the individual:

- White male 1
- White female 2
- Black male 3
- Black female 4
- Indian male 5
- Indian female 6
- Asian male 7
- Asian female 8

The race and sex codes are used in the index from 1956 through 1969.

Index county codes: Beginning in 1956, counties are listed by code numbers rather than name. The codes are as follows:

Alachua	11	Lake	45
Baker	12	Lee	46
Bay	13	Leon	47
Bradford	14	Levy	48
Brevard	15	Liberty	49
Broward	16	Madison	50
Calhoun	17	Manatee	51
Charlotte	18	Marion	52
Citrus	19	Martin	53
Clay	20	Monroe	54
Collier	21	Nassau	55
Columbia	22	Okaloosa	56
Dade	23	Okeechobee	57
DeSoto	24	Orange	58
Dixie	25	Osceola	59
Duval	26	Palm Beach	60
Escambia	27	Pasco	61
Flagler	28	Pinellas	62
Franklin	29	Polk	63
Gadsden	30	Putnam	64
Gilchrist	31	St. Johns	65
Glades	32	St. Lucie	66
Gulf	33	Santa Rosa	67
Hamilton	34	Sarasota	68
Hardee	35	Seminole	69
Hendry	36	Sumter	70
Hernando	37	Suwanee	71
Highlands	38	Taylor	72
Hillsborough	39	Union	73
Holmes	40	Volusia	74
Indian River	41	Wakulla	75
Jackson	42	Walton	76
Jefferson	43	Washington	77
Lafayette	44		