

The Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths contains information dating back to 1837. Registration of births was instituted by Act of Parliament in 1837 and became compulsory in 1886. However it was only strictly enforced from about 1920.

Change of name has been possible by Statutory Declaration (since 1835) or by Deed Poll but would not alter the entry in the Birth Register.

Many regional Reference Libraries now keep microfiche copies of the Register entries which can be viewed by appointment. Once details of the entry in the Register are known it is often cheaper and quicker to obtain a certificate from the local office where the birth was registered.

The cost of a full or short birth certificate obtained by post from The General Register Office is £11.50: postal applications should go the Southport address, or by writing to your local Register Office as above. All applications for certificates must include full name, date and place of birth and names of parents, if known.

If a birth was not registered the General Register form P.A. 514 is the only authoritative proof that a Birth Certificate could not be obtained.

**England and Wales**

General Register Office  
Trafalgar Road  
Southport  
Merseyside PR8 2HH  
<http://www.direct.gov.uk/>

Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates can be ordered on-line, by telephone, or through the post. If by the latter means, then it is important to note that the General Register Office will only accept applications on their official Application Forms. These can be obtained from Tel. No: + 44 (0)846 603 7788 or via email from: [Certificate.services@ips.gov.uk](mailto:Certificate.services@ips.gov.uk) (you will need to insert your GQ in the subject line of your email to ensure a personal response to your query.)

The form and correct payment (details of which can be found on the above website should then be sent to the above address.

**THE ABANDONED CHILDREN REGISTER**

GRO Adoptions,  
Trafalgar Road,  
Southport PR8 2HH

Tel: 0151 471 4830

**Scotland**

**GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE FOR SCOTLAND**

New Register House  
3 West Register Street  
Edinburgh EH1 3YT  
Scotland

Tel: 0131 334 0380

Website: [www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/)

**Northern Ireland**

**The General Register Office**

Oxford House, 49-55 Chichester Street,  
Belfast BT1 4HL  
Northern Ireland

Tel: 02890 252000

Certificate cost £10 per certificate, cheque made payable to 'The Registrar General' MUST USE APPLICATION FORM can be found on [www.groni.gov.uk](http://www.groni.gov.uk) requests dispatched in 8 days.

**Irish Republic**

**General Register Office**

Government offices  
Covent Road  
Roscommon

Tel: 353(0) 90 6632900

Website: [www.groireland.ie/about-us.htm](http://www.groireland.ie/about-us.htm)

**Jersey**

**SUPERINTENDENT REGISTRAR**

10 Royal Square  
St Helier, Jersey,  
JE2 4WA  
Channel Islands

Tel: 01534 441335

Email: [homeaffairs@gov.je](mailto:homeaffairs@gov.je)

[www.gov.je/homeaffairs/registrar](http://www.gov.je/homeaffairs/registrar)

**India**

The **General Register Office** has records of births to British Services families in India prior to 1950. You could also try the following addresses:

**ORIENTAL AND INDIA OFFICE COLLECTION**

The British Library  
96 Euston Road,  
London NW1 2DB

Tel: 020 7412 7873

Hold all births, deaths and marriages for British and European Christians from 1698- 1947.

**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE)**

Ruskin Avenue,  
Kew,  
Richmond  
Surrey TW9 4DU  
Website: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/)

Tel: 020 8876 3444  
email: [enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk)

Hold service records for service men in India up to 1921 providing personal details.

**REGISTRAR**

V.S. Division, West Bank,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, BIRK, Bram  
New Delhi, 110022,  
India