

To Request a Search for an Iowa Marriage Record for the Purpose of Obtaining a Certified Copy

In Iowa, official registration of marriages began July 1, 1880. Original records that were registered are on file with the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Health Statistics. Statewide record searches are available from the state registrar. Local vital records registrars are located in county recorders' offices, where records of births and deaths that have occurred in that county are maintained. Marriage records are maintained in the county where the license to marry was obtained. ***County registrars are not authorized by law to have records for marriages between the years 1921 to 1941.*** Per Iowa law, information about a specific record is not available over the telephone or by prepared lists. Iowa law provides for public viewing in the county where the record is maintained, or certified copies issued to entitled persons.

Applications to search for a vital record event for the purpose of obtaining a certified copy must be in writing, completely identify the record, and establish entitlement to the record being requested. Entitled persons include the person named on the record or that person's spouse, children, legal parents, grandparents, grandchildren, siblings, or legal representative or guardian. Legal guardians and representatives must also provide additional proof of guardianship or representation. Applicants must be 18 or older. Requests must include the applicant's current government-issued photo identification (i.e., driver's license), except if by mail, a clear photocopy of the I.D., and the applicant's signature signed in front of a notary public or in the presence of an Iowa Registrar of Vital Records.

PAYMENT: A non-refundable \$15 fee is required to search for a record and includes one certified copy if the record is located. Each additional copy of the same record is \$15. Fees are payable in U.S. funds by check or money order to the issuing registrar's office. Checks must be drawn from the applicants' account; money orders must be in the name of the applicant. Fees must be paid at the time of the application (Iowa Constitution, Article VII, Section 1).

STATE CERTIFIED COPIES.

Certified copies of marriage certificates may be obtained from the state Bureau of Health Statistics by telephone, in-person, or through a postal service. Fees are payable in U.S. funds by check or money order to the Iowa Department of Public Health. In-person requests may also be paid in cash. Genealogy requests take at least 60 days.

Telephone: Customers can call a **toll-free number 866-809-0290** from 6:00 am CST through 7:00 pm CST, Monday through Friday, except for holidays. A fee of \$15.00 is required for the record search and includes one copy if a record is on file in our office. Each additional copy of the record is also \$15.00. A VitalChek operator will take your information, screen your credit card, authenticate your identity and complete your order. The fee to screen your credit card and authenticate the caller is an additional \$13.00. If you request a group order which consists of more than one Vital Event (i.e. Birth, Death or Marriage) within one order there is an additional \$3.00 fee. Turnaround time is usually 10 to 14 days, depending on seasonal demands and mail service. ***Genealogy requests are not available through the credit card line.***

In-person: Applications may be made in-person at the state Bureau of Health Statistics 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for state-observed holidays, at the address below, just inside the north lobby entrance and to the right. The Lucas building is just east of the state Capitol and south of Grand Avenue. Applicants must provide current government-issued photo identification and sign their request in the presence of registrar staff. Copies may either be picked up after two working days or mailed to an entitled person. Genealogy requests take at least 60 days.

Postal service: Written requests and fees are mailed to the address below. Requests must state the relationship to the person named on the record and the purpose for the copy. Filled requests take 30-45 days, depending on seasonal demands and mail service. Genealogy requests take at least 60 days. **The request must be signed in front of a notary public and include a clear photocopy of the applicant's current government-issued photo identification.**

Iowa Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Statistics
Lucas State Office Building, 1st Floor
321 E. 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR AN APPLICATION FORM.
FORM MAY BE USED FOR EITHER A COUNTY-CERTIFIED OR A STATE-CERTIFIED COPY OF AN IOWA VITAL RECORD

