

What are “Vital Records”?

Vital Records include birth and death records.

All births and deaths that occur in a county must be reported to the Registrar of that county. They are then recorded and forwarded to the State Department of Health.

The State of Indiana began requiring that Vital Records be recorded in October, 1907. However, the Harrison County Health Department has records dating back to February 1, 1882.

Most of the birth and death records at the health department have now been computerized, making records easier to find and shortening your wait.



Copies of **death certificates** can be obtained for individuals who died in Harrison County. Persons requesting copies of death certificates must show direct interest in the matter. Certified copies of death certificates are often needed in the determination of personal property, for estate settlement, and for insurance claims.

Any person who was born in Harrison County, Indiana, can obtain their **birth certificate** from the Harrison County Health Department.



The fee for a certified copy of a birth certificate is \$5.00. To obtain one, the person requesting it must be at least 18 years old, fill out an application, and have picture ID available. If picture ID is not available, a close relative (parent, grandparent, child, spouse, or sibling) may request the certificate.

Acceptable picture identification includes:

- Current valid driver's license
- Military ID
- State ID card
- Valid passport
- Department of Corrections ID
- School ID

If picture ID is unavailable, two of the following may be used:

- Police report (for reported stolen ID)
- Fire report (for reported ID destroyed in fire)
- Employment ID
- Bank card with signature
- Voter registration

Other services of the Vital Records office:

Genealogical Research

The more information provided, the easier the records are to find. Some of the older birth and death records have more information than the newer records, but some older events may never have been recorded at all.



Paternity Affidavits

These forms are used to establish paternity for a child if it was not established at the time of the birth.

Affidavits of Amendment

In some older records, names may have been misspelled when they were recorded. These errors can be corrected with the proper documentation.