



**GUIDE TO
ADOPTION, BIRTH, DEATH,
MARRIAGE & DIVORCE INFORMATION
Idaho State Archives**

While not the official repository for Idaho's vital statistics records, the Idaho State Archives often provides researchers with similar information from a variety of other sources. The following guidelines are designed to help researchers gain access to such records at the Idaho State Archives and identify other possible sources of information.

Adoption Records

- The Idaho State Archives does not provide access to adoption records, as these records are closed to public inspection (Idaho Code 39-258, section h.)
- All inquiries for adoption information should be directed to the county of origin or to the Idaho Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics.

Birth Records

- Birth certificates are legally confidential in Idaho for 100 years.
- Most Idaho counties began officially recording births in 1907, with a few exceptions prior to 1907.
- The State of Idaho assumed this duty in mid-1911.
- The Idaho State Archives Research Center offers a County Microfilm Collection which may include county-level birth registers.
- The Idaho State Archives provides access to birth information in other formats such as church registers and newspaper announcements.
- Contact the Idaho Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics for state-level birth certificates filed from July, 1911, to the present.¹

Death Records:

- Death/stillborn certificates are legally confidential in Idaho for 50 years.
- Idaho counties began officially recording deaths in 1907.
- The State of Idaho assumed this duty in mid-1911. A searchable index for 1911-1956 state-level death certificates is available at the Idaho State Archives and on the World Wide Web: <http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/famhist/Death/searchForm.cfm>
- The Idaho State Archives offers microfilm copies of death certificates from July, 1911, through December, 1937, and microfilm county-level death registers prior to mid 1911.
- The Idaho State Archives provides access to death information in other formats such as church registers, estate files, cemetery and mortuary records, and newspaper obituaries.
- Contact the Idaho Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics for state-level certified death certificates filed from July, 1911, to the present.¹

Marriage:

- Marriage certificates are legally confidential in Idaho for 50 years.
- Counties began officially recording marriages in 1895. Several counties recorded marriage information prior to 1895. The county Recorder at each Idaho county courthouse may have a copy of marriage records filed in that county.
- The State of Idaho assumed this duty in 1947.
- The Idaho State Archives Research Center offers a County Microfilm Collection which may include county-level marriage records.
- The Idaho State Archives provides access to marriage information in other formats such as church registers and newspaper announcements.
- Contact the Idaho Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics for state-level marriage certificates filed from May, 1947, to the present.¹

Divorce:

- Counties began recording divorce actions from the earliest settlement of the Idaho Territory.
- The State of Idaho assumed this duty in 1947.
- The Idaho State Archives provides access to divorce information in formats such as civil court case records and newspaper announcements. For court records, obtain the case number and box number from the county where the case was filed. The Idaho State Archives can assist you with locating the records once you acquire this information.
- Contact the Idaho Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics for state-level divorce certificates filed from May, 1947, to the present.¹

¹ The Idaho Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics requires persons requesting a certified copy of a certificate to provide a photocopy of acceptable identification and proof of relation (great-grandparents, step-relatives, in-laws, etc., are not immediate family as defined by Idaho statutes). The Idaho Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics contact information follows:

<http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/?TabId=82>