

NOTICE
CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH RESULTING IN STILLBIRTH

On March 26, 2012, the Governor of Iowa signed into law H.F. 2368, an act providing for the issuance of a "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth." The new certificate is to be based on the Certificate of Fetal Death, which is filed directly with the state registrar and not on file at the County Recorder's office. The Act is effective upon enactment; however, the Bureau of Vital Records has not had sufficient administrative time to adopt rules per the section.

The section specifies the following:

1. The person required to file the Certificate of Fetal Death shall advise any parent named on the fetal death certificate that the parent may request a "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth" after the fetal death certificate has been filed.
2. A Certificate of Fetal Death must have been filed with the state registrar of vital statistics (regardless of the date of the delivery).
3. Only a parent named on the Certificate of Fetal Death may apply for the new certificate.
4. The "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth" shall contain a statement that the certificate is not proof of live birth.

As always, parents may request a certified copy of the Certificate of Fetal Death from the state vital records office after it has been properly registered. The application process and fees are the same as requesting a certificate of birth, death, or marriage. Applications require authentication of identity, proof of entitlement, and a \$15 fee. These certificates are issued on certified security paper, contain demographic and cause of death information, and are valid for legal purposes.

Parents may request the "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth" following the same processes as for any other vital record; however, the "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth" will not be issued on certified security paper since it is not valid for legal purposes. Applications must be made in writing or in person at that State vital records office on the Capitol Complex in Des Moines (i.e., the credit card line is not set up yet to accept this particular certificate).

The formal application form for Death has been revised to include checkboxes for the Certificate of Fetal Death as well as the Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth. It is available on the Department website <http://www.idph.state.ia.us>. Click on "Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates" under Popular Links and then the appropriate "How to Request a Certified Record. . ." under the Vital Records heading to be taken to the page where the application forms are listed and can be printed to paper.

Instead of the formal application form, parents may write out their request for the new certificate, stating the name of the stillborn if named, date of delivery, place of delivery, and the name of the mother and father, if one is listed.

Applicants must specify which type of certificate is being requested. The parent must date and sign the request in front of a Notary Public and include a photocopy of their valid, government-issued photo identification (e.g., driver's license). The fee is \$15 for each certificate, in check or money order, made payable to the Iowa Department of Public Health.