



## Somerset Registration Service Registration of Birth

**01823 282251**

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/births-ceremonies-and-deaths/>

### **How to Register the Birth of Your Baby in Somerset**

Your baby's birth must be registered within 42 days of the date of birth

By either: attending any Registration Office in the county of Somerset, where the birth will be registered. You will be able to purchase Full Birth Certificates as required at a cost of £11.00 each.

Or: By declaration at the office of another Registrar in a different county. This declaration will be sent to the Registrar of the District in which the baby was born. You can then apply for the Full Birth Certificate as required from the Registering Office.

It is important that the information recorded in the register should be correct. You should carefully check the details in the register before signing. Register entries are difficult to change later, and will incur a cost of up to £90.00 dependent upon the complexity of the correction.

### **Who may register the Birth**

Where the parents of the baby are married to each other at the time of the birth either parent may attend alone.

Where the parents are not married to each other the mother of the baby may attend alone at the Registration Office if she does not wish to include the name of the father. If the father's name is to be included, then both parents should attend together. If this is not possible, then contact your local Registration Office who will explain the other options to you.

**Unmarried parents** should note and give thought to the following:

You may choose to register the baby in either the mother's or the father's name.

You will not be able to change your baby's surname in the birth register unless parents are unmarried at the time of the registration, and baby was given their mother's surname. If parents later marry each other, they must apply to register the birth again, and can then change the surname to that of the father.

Where the baby is given the surname of their father at registration the baby's surname will remain in the birth register as that of the father.

### **Information you will need to provide:**

- Baby:** Date and place of baby's birth, and time of birth if twins, triplets and so on  
Sex of baby  
Forenames and Surname
- Father:** (where these details are to be entered)  
Forenames and surname and any previous names if applicable Date of birth  
Place of birth Occupation  
Usual address  
If married to the mother, month and year of the marriage
- Mother:** Forenames, surname, maiden name and any previous names if applicable  
Date of birth  
Place of birth  
Occupation  
Usual address  
If married to the natural father, month and year of the marriage  
Number of previous children (incl. still births) by your present husband, or any former husband.

### **Parental Responsibility**

On 1 December 2003 the law changed making it easier for unmarried fathers to have equal parental responsibility. All that is required is for both parents to register the birth of the baby together.

Parental responsibility gives important legal rights as well as responsibilities. Without it fathers have no rights to be involved in decisions such as where the child lives, their education, religion or medical treatment. With parental responsibility a father is treated in law as a child's parent, taking equal responsibility with the mother for bringing them up.

Unlike married mothers and fathers, if the natural father is not married to the baby's mother he has no automatic parental responsibility unless his details are correctly recorded in the register.

Before this change in the law fathers could only gain parental responsibility by:

- Marrying the child's mother
- Signing an official agreement
- Obtaining a court order

These options are still available and may require action if a father has other children

For free and confidential advice and support contact Family Lives (formerly **Parentline Plus**) on 0808 800 2222. Or email [askus@familylives.org.uk](mailto:askus@familylives.org.uk)

## **Marriage**

A child must, by law, be re-registered if their natural parents marry each other after the birth, please contact us for further information.