

# Need your Birth Certificate and can't get it?

Couch Surfing, House Hopping, Moving Around, Running Away, Emancipated  
If you're a minor and you don't have a permanent place to stay -  
and your parent, guardian or grandparent won't help you -

## A new law can help you.

To get a copy of your Birth Certificate, you have to go to a Vital Records Office with the Homeless Liaison from your school or a staff person from a shelter. Here's what to do:

### 1. Ask the Homeless Liaison in your school district for help.

If you don't know who that is, go to [www.sde.ct.gov](http://www.sde.ct.gov) and type "homeless liaison" in the search box. Or ask at your school, or call Louis Tallarita at the State Department of Education at 860-807-2058.

### 2. Or call a shelter and ask for help.

Janus Center for Youth in Crisis  
203-374-9473  
1100 Boston Ave, Building 5A, Bridgeport

Kids In Crisis  
203-327-5437  
One Salem Street, Cos Cob

Women and Families Center  
203-213-8667 (call or text)  
169 Colony Street, Meriden

Youth Continuum  
203-777-8445  
24 River Street, New Haven

### 3. Go to Vital Records with the person who is helping you.

Call before you go to find out which office to go to:

- Vital Records Office in your town (\$20)
- Vital Records Office in the town your mother lived in when you were born (\$20)
- State Vital Records Office at 410 Capitol Ave, Hartford, Mon-Fri from 8:15 to 3:30 (\$30)

**You, and the person going to Vital Records with you, both have to bring identification.** It is best to bring a valid state ID. If you do not have a valid state ID, bring two substitutes. See the complete list of substitute ID on the back of this flyer.

#### Do you have questions about your legal rights?

Go to [speakupteens.org](http://speakupteens.org) or call the Center for Children's Advocacy

Attorney Stacey Violante Cote at 860-570-5327 or Attorney Edwin Colon at 203-223-8975

**To get a copy of your birth certificate, you and the Homeless Liaison or shelter staff person who goes with you must bring identification to the Vital Records Office.**

You must both bring a photo ID. This will prove that you are eligible to get a copy of your birth certificate.

**Acceptable forms of identification are:**

1. A valid state photo ID that includes your date of birth, signature, and an expiration date.  
If you do not have a valid state photo ID, copies of **two** of the following documents can be substituted:
2. Social Security card
3. Social Security card and either an employment identification card, a paycheck stub or a W-2 form.  
Providing these documents fully satisfies the identification requirements.
4. Automobile registration
5. Copy of utility bill showing name and current address
6. Checking account deposit slip or bank statement stating name and current address
7. Voter registration card
8. Valid government issued trade or professional license
9. Valid government issued firearm permit
10. Probation documents issued by a court or other government agency
11. Letter from a government agency verifying your identity, dated within 6 months of the date of your request
12. Release document from a correctional institution with your photograph and a release date that is within 12 months prior to your request
13. Birth certificate
14. Military discharge papers
15. Current school or college photo ID
16. Government issued photo ID that expired within 12 months of your request

The person who goes to Vital Records with you (Homeless Liaison or Shelter staff) must submit proof verifying his/her relationship to you.

If you have had your name legally changed by a court decree and your birth certificate does not reflect your new name, you must submit a copy of the court order verifying the legal name change.

If the State or Town Vital Records office doubts the authenticity of a document presented, you may be asked to provide any additional document listed above.