

New Brunswick's New Birth Certificate

Why change the certificate?

It is common for legal documents, like money, to be upgraded periodically as technology and security features advance. The standard certificate in use is more than 20 years old. The Vital Statistics Council for Canada recognized the need to update the document design to offer the latest protection against counterfeiting and tampering.

Is there a problem with my old birth certificate?

No, there is nothing wrong with your current birth certificate. It will continue to be a legal New Brunswick birth certificate.

Is my old birth certificate still valid?

Yes. It will continue to be a legal New Brunswick birth certificate.

What are the new features?

- The new birth certificate uses state-of-the-art security features to better protect your identity, making the certificate difficult to replicate or alter.
- It cannot be reproduced by hi-tech copiers and scanners.
- The certificate contains more than 20 security features – some that are easily seen, some that are only evident with the aid of tools, such as UV lights, and some that are only evident in a lab setting.
- It is no longer a paper-based document, but one made of a hi-tech polymer material, which is longer lasting and more durable than paper.
- This new standard is the most secure birth certificate in the world.

Can I get one if I was born in another province?

No. You must apply for your birth certificate from the province in which you were born.

Can I exchange my old certificate for a new one for free?

No. Old certificates will not be replaced free-of-charge. The same replacement fees apply to the new birth certificate.

How much more will I have to pay for the new certificate?

The cost to order a replacement birth certificate has remained the same:

- \$20.00 for short-form (child information only)
- \$25.00 for long-form (child and parent information), however fees for both the long and short form certificate will increase by \$5 effective November 1, 2008.

Should I replace my old certificate with the new one that has enhanced security features?

There is no legal reason for you to replace your birth certificate. It is a legal New Brunswick document and will continue to be recognized as such. However, you do have the option of exchanging your old birth certificate by paying the applicable replacement fee.

Where can I get the new birth certificate?

Certificates may be applied for at all 40 Service New Brunswick locations across the province, online at www.SNB.ca or by mail to Service New Brunswick, Vital Statistics, P.O. Box 1998, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5G4.

How long will it take me to get a new birth certificate?

Processing times vary based on volume of requests received. Visit the "Birth Certificate - Current Processing Times" webpage at www.snb.ca for the most up to date processing times. Vital Statistics is currently processing all requests within 2 days of receipt. A certificate can be returned by regular mail or by courier.

Is there a way to get one more quickly?

Yes. Effective November 1, Service New Brunswick is offering a new expedited service where customers could obtain a birth certificate the same day of the request. The fee for the new expedited service is \$50.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like more information about the new birth certificate please call (506) 453-2385 or visit our website at: www.snb.ca.