

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have a baby on the way! Will it be a boy or girl? Where will he go to school? What will she grow up to be? Who will he marry? How will she change the world around her? What will you name him or her? There are so many questions. While we can't help with all of them, perhaps we can help you by providing you some ideas for a name.

A LITTLE NAME TRIVIA

2007 was a busy year. The war in Iraq continued, wildfires raged in California, and millions of toys were recalled. Nancy Pelosi became the first female speaker of the House, Anna Nicole died and the last of the Harry Potter series was published. Al Gore won the Nobel Peace prize for his documentary on global warming and Benazir Bhutto was assassinated. Sequels ruled the theaters with Spider-Man, Shrek, Pirates of the Caribbean, and Harry Potter. I-phones and Blue-ray DVD players were the rage.

During this time, there were more than 50,000 babies born to Oklahoma residents. Parents were very creative. Names were chosen from every letter of the alphabet and reflected family and world history, cultural diversity, historical/popular figures, favorite places, emotions, but most of all—imagination. There were 5,054 different boys names and 7,442 different girls names. There were even 528 that were used for both boys and girls. For boys, names ranged from Aaden, Aadrian, and Aaisic to Zylar, Zyron and Zytze and among girls they ranged from Aadiyah, Aaleen, and Aaleigha to Zynaeja, Zyrah, and Zyriah.

Most Popular Names in 2007

Most popular boys: 1. Ethan 2. Jacob 3. Joshua 4. William 5. Noah 6. James 7. Michael 8. Logan 9. Jackson 10. David

Most popular girls: 1. Emma 2. Madison 3. Emily 4. Addison 5. Hannah 6. Elizabeth 7. Ava 8. Isabella 9. Abigail 10. Chloe

Most popular gender neutral names: 1. Jayden 2. Jordan 3. Peyton 4. Riley 5. Payton 6. Harley 7. Jaiden 8. River 9. Jaden 10. Jessie

Some of the more unique names include 7, ABCDE, Admiral, Amillion, Bachelor, Bentley, Bluestar, Breeze, Capone, Canyon, Corny, DeeJay, Deep, Denim, Dimple, Dodge, Dreamin, Feather, Fire, Icey, Jag, Jet, Ka-EI, Knowledge, Kougar, Latch, Majestic, Prettyrock, Psalm, Pyro, Seven, Swostika, Trigger, Trucker, Triumph, and Zip. Greek heroes were popular including Achilles, Ajax, Apollo, and Hector, as well as state names such as Alaska, Alabama, Tennessee, Utah and Wyoming.

LOOKING BACK

A lot has changed over the last 25 years! In 1983 Vanessa Williams was the first African American Miss America., the last episode of MASH aired, Mrs. Reagan introduced the "Just say NO" anti-drug campaign, Sally Ride became the first woman and Gulon Bluford was the first African American to enter space, Martin Luther King's birthday became a national holiday, the Rubik's cube and Hacky sacks were common sights, as was Cabbage Patch dolls. "Funky", "gnarly" and "Gag me with a spoon" were popular phrases, Risky Business was playing in movie theaters and Billie Jean on the radio. Dallas and Dynasty were popular series.

Most Popular Names of 1983

Most popular boys: 1. Michael 2. Christopher 3. Matthew 4. David 5. Daniel 6. Jason 7. James 8. Robert 9. Joshua 10. Joseph

Most popular girls: 1. Jennifer 2. Jessica 3. Ashley 4. Amanda 5. Sarah 6. Melissa 7. Nicole 8. Elizabeth 9. Stephanie 10. Heather

How To Obtain An Oklahoma Birth Or Death Certificate

It is our goal to serve the Citizens of the State of Oklahoma with courtesy, dignity and with confidence in the most expedient manner possible.

Certified copies of Oklahoma birth records are available at the Oklahoma State Department of Health Vital Records Office. Certified Copies of birth records may be obtained by either:

1. Coming to the Vital Records Office:

Oklahoma City

Oklahoma State Department Of Health
1000 Northeast 10th Room 117,
Oklahoma City, OK,73117
(405) 271-4040

Tulsa

Tulsa Health Department- Central Regional Health Center
315 S. Utica
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104-2203
(918) 594-4840.

OR 2. Writing to: Vital Records Service:

Oklahoma State Department of Health
1000 Northeast 10th
Oklahoma City, OK 73117

Lobby Hours: 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Phone service is available between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Application forms are available at the Vital Records Office or may be printed directly from our Web site: http://www.ok.gov/health/Birth_and_Death_Certificates/index.html

To better provide service to you we request that you fill out the application form as completely and accurately as possible. This information helps us to help you and allows us to process your request in an expedient manner with no unnecessary delays. Wrong or inaccurate information will delay our search and may result in the document not being located. You can be assured that every attempt will be made to make a thorough search of our files for the document you have requested.

Birth records are not open for public inspection. A birth certificate may be applied for by the person him/herself, the immediate next of kin or an authorized agent, who must provide a statement indicating that they are working in the best interest of the registrant, by written application, proper identification, proper information and applicable fees.

Information required to process a request for a birth certificate:

- The full name at birth.
- The date and place (city or county) of birth.
- Father's full name (first, middle, last).
- Mother's full name (including her maiden name).
- Relationship to the person whose certificate is being requested and the purpose for needing the copy.
- Your daytime telephone number with area code.
- Your handwritten signature and complete return mailing address.
- A valid, legal photo I.D. is required from the applicant or the individual representing the applicant for the issuance of a birth, death or stillbirth certificate. Do not send original ID with your application; please send a photocopy.
- In addition to your written request, you must include the necessary fees.

OBTAINING A BIRTH CERTIFICATE FOR FRAUDULENT PURPOSES IS PUNISHABLE BY LAW

Heirloom Birth Certificates

Heirloom birth certificates are now available from the Vital Records Office. Oklahoma Statutes Title 63, Section 1-316a provide for the issuance of an heirloom birth certificate. The Heirloom Birth Certificate is 11" x 14" with a dark blue trim, bearing a silver and gold seal, depicting a view of the State Capitol Dome. The certificate will reflect the child's name, date of birth, place of birth and names of the parents. The cost for an Heirloom Birth Certificate is \$35.00. This fee will pay for the issuance of one Heirloom Birth Certificate as well as a standard issued Certified Birth Certificate. In accordance with this Statute, proceeds from the sale of the heirloom birth certificate shall be used by the Child Abuse Training and Coordination Program, providing training and technical assistance to judges, prosecutors and members of the multidisciplinary child abuse teams who intervene in circumstances of child abuse.

Fees

The fee for the search of a birth record is \$10.00. This fee will pay for the issuance of one certified copy of the birth certificate to a qualified applicant if the certificate is located. Additional copies will be issued at a cost of \$10.00 per copy. The searching fee is not refundable or transferable. Please make your check or money order payable to the Vital Records Service. If mailing your request, please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for return of the requested certificates. Corrections or additions to birth records require additional fees and submission of required documentation. Instructions and assessment of fees will be made on an individual basis after review of the requested record.

Expedited Service

Requests using the U.S. Postal Service's or other overnight services, next day delivery, will allow processing within 24 to 48 hours. These services however, must include an envelope with U.S. postage attached or a check payable to the appropriate courier for the total amount of pickup and delivery of the item. These fees can be determined by contacting the courier in advance. Account numbers will not be accepted since the Vital Records Office has been advised by the major couriers, that as the sender we will be held responsible for payment if the individual declines payment for any reason. There will be no exceptions. If this process is not complete the document will be returned by regular U.S. Mail. Birth or death certificates cannot be faxed. VitalChek also provides online service.

Paternity

Establishing paternity is the legal process used to determine the legal father of a child. If the mother is married, the husband will be shown on the birth certificate as the father unless 1) paternity has been determined otherwise by a court or 2) a husband's denial of paternity form has been filed along with an affidavit acknowledging paternity. If the mother is not married, the father will only be shown on the birth certificate if: 1) a determination of paternity has been made by DHS or a court, or 2) the mother and father have signed an affidavit acknowledging paternity and filed it with the State Registrar of Vital Statistics. Hospitals are required to verbally inform unmarried parents and provide materials describing their rights and responsibilities and provide an Affidavit Acknowledging Paternity. The Affidavit Acknowledging Paternity can also be obtained from the Oklahoma State Department of Health Vital Records Office, local county health departments, Department of Human Services offices, local child support enforcement offices, and is also available online <http://www.okdhs.org/ChildSupport/forms/209questionnaire.htm>. The affidavit contains 1) a statement by the mother consenting to the assertion of paternity and stating the name of the father, 2) a statement by the father that he is the natural father of the child, 3) the social security numbers of both parents and 4) any other information that may be required by the Secretary of Human Services.

If either the mother or presumed father has any doubts about who the biological father is, they should consider doing genetic testing before signing the Affidavit Acknowledging Paternity. Either the mother or presumed father can go to their local child support office and open a child support case to establish paternity for \$25. The State will pay the initial costs for the genetic testing. If the test is positive, the biological father may be ordered to reimburse the State \$138, the current cost of the testing. This cost is far below that of genetic testing done by private laboratories. Paternity should be established as soon as possible. Even if the father agrees to help support the child now, he may change his mind later, may become disabled, or even die. So—even if he agrees to support the child now, there are other benefits that are available *only* if paternity has been established. Under Oklahoma law, the mother is presumed to have sole custody of a child born outside of marriage. The child's mother and father can agree upon visitation, and the child's father has a right to go to court to seek visitation.

For more information about establishing paternity, please visit the Oklahoma Department of Health Web site <http://www.okdhs.org/ChildSupport/FAQ/paternity.htm#01>.

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A SHAUN
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