

Electronic Birth Registration

Some Changes in Birth Certificate Filing Law

With the passing of House Bill 1397 in this past legislative session, there has been a significant change in the statute for filing birth certificates. Specifically, the following language has been added to 63 OS 1-311:

F. If the live birth results from a process in which the delivering mother was carrying the child of another woman by way of a prearranged legal contract, the original birth certificate shall be filed with the personal information of the woman who delivered the child. A new birth certificate will be placed on file once the State Registrar receives both a court order and a completed form prescribed by the State Registrar which identifies the various parties and documents the personal information of the intended parents necessary to complete the new birth certificate.

This language addresses the

situation more commonly known as a surrogate birth. Surrogacy is an arrangement in which a woman carries and delivers a child for another couple or person (Wikipedia). As taken from the American Bar Association Journal web site, "Reliable figures on surrogacy are hard to come by. No government agency or private group tracks surrogate births, though estimates range from several hundred to a few thousand per year. By one account, about 22,000 babies have been born through surrogacy in this country since the mid-1970s." ("As Surrogacy Becomes More Popular, Legal Problems Proliferate," Posted Mar 1, 2011 by Mark Hansen)

Though it is difficult to say how prevalent surrogacy is in Oklahoma, it is fairly certain that the number of surrogate births in our state is growing. The new language in the law defines how birth facilities are to handle these rare situations.

It is possible that the woman/couple who is not carrying the baby may come to the hospital with the delivering mother and

have their prearranged legal contract in hand. They may believe they have the right to be entered onto the original birth certificate, even insisting that this be done. The new law clearly specifies "the original birth certificate shall be filed with the personal information of the woman who delivered the child." Therefore, it is "business as usual" for the birth facility. The surrogacy process must be completed at the Vital Records Division.

It may be useful to have a copy of this law on hand in case you need to show it to a persistent surrogacy couple. You can access it by going to <http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=98021>.



Minority Babies Almost the Majority

By Haya El Nasser, USA TODAY

White infants are on the verge of being displaced as the majority of newborns now that nearly half of babies in the USA are ethnic and racial minorities.

Only 50.2% of babies under age 1 are white and not Hispanic, according to the 2010 Census - a sharp decline from 57% just 10 years earlier.

"We are almost at a minority-majority infant population," says Brookings Institution demographer William

Frey, who analyzed the latest Census data. "We probably have passed it since the Census was taken" in April 2010.

The number of states where minority babies dominate has doubled to 14 since 2000. The balance has tipped in big states such as New York, Florida, New Jersey, and Georgia.

Minorities have been the majority in Texas and California nurseries for more than two decades. In Texas, the majority

of people under age 47 are minorities, in California, under 52.

Steady growth in the number of young US Hispanics who have more children than whites is shrinking the ranks of non-Hispanic whites.

The shift is dramatic in states such as Florida and Nevada, where whites are in the minority among those younger than 38.

A decade earlier, whites were

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ROVER Training and Enrollment Team

Laurie Howard
ROVER Project Manager

Mikeal Murray
Health Education Coordinator

Jan Bohannon
Field Representative

Sherrie Thrower
Field Representative

Rhonda Kieffer
Electronic Birth Registration
Coordinator

ROVER HELP DESK
E-mail: AskROVER@health.ok.gov
Phone: 405.271.5308
E-mails are preferred

ROVER System Requirements

For the system to run at optimal performance, your computer should have the following features:

- Internet Explorer 6.0 or later
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Laser Printer
- Broadband Internet Connection



ATTACH MAILING LABEL HERE.

1000 NE 10th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73117

ROVER Helpline: 405-271-5380
ROVER Fax Local: 405-271-1235
ROVER Fax Toll Free: 877-885-7470
ROVER E-mail: AskROVER@health.ok.gov

We Collect, Analyze, and Disseminate
Health Statistics to Help Create a State of
Health.

ROVER Training Tutorials

We have begun putting ROVER tutorial modules on our agency web site. To find them, go to web address <http://vrtraining.health.ok.gov>. This will bring up a "Training & Materials" page. Click on "Tutorials" at the bottom of the list on the far left of the page. As of this writing, there are three modules available for access; Accessing the ROVER Web Site, Logging on to ROVER, and Navigating ROVER Pages and Menus. To access the module, click on the module title below each icon. The module will run on its own. However, you can control forward/backward progress of the presentation by using the control buttons at the bottom of the display on either side of the tracking bar. When the module ends, close it by selecting the red box with the white X at the top right hand corner of the screen.

Race and Hispanic Origin are Not the Same

The Race and Hispanic Origin questions (Items 17b and c, 18b and c) should be asked independently. "Hispanic" is not a race, and a decedent of Hispanic origin may be of any race. "Hispanic" is a self-designated classification for people whose origins are from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America, the Caribbean, or those identifying themselves generally as Spanish or Spanish American.

Consider the following example. A soldier who was Caucasian with ancestry from Mexico fought in the Korean War. He married a Korean woman and brought her back to the United States. They had a son who grew up, got married himself, and is now the father of the baby whose birth certificate you are completing. Assuming that the mother and/or father shares this information with you as they should, what is the answer to Item 17b? What is the answer to Item 17c? A Hispanic White Korean? Absolutely!

Also please remember that you can indicate more than one race for a person. For the example above, you would indicate "white" by putting a checkmark in the appropriate box. To indicate "Korean," you would first put a checkmark in the "Asian" box which would, in turn, enable you to put another checkmark in the "Korean" box.

ROVER: Registering Oklahoma Vital Event Records

The purpose of ROVER is to support the needs of the Oklahoma State Department of Health and other users such as Delivering Hospitals. ROVER may be used only for the purpose for which it is provided. Any attempt to file fraudulent Certificates of Birth, Death, or Stillbirth is punishable in accordance with Oklahoma Statutes.

Minority Babies Almost the Majority

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the majority in all age groups in Florida and in Nevada, among all those above age 3.

In rural areas, the number of white children declined by more than 1 million or almost 10% from 2000 to 2010, says Kenneth Johnson, demographer at the University of New Hampshire's Carsey Institute.

The number of young white women of child-bearing age is declining while there is an increase in minority women of child-bearing age, Johnson says.

In Georgia's Whitfield County, home of Dalton, "Carpet Capital of the World," more than 59% of infants were minorities in 2010 compared with 38.4% in 2000.

The area's floor-covering industry has attracted so many Hispanics that the North Georgia Health District, based in Dalton, has brought in translators and prints materials in Spanish, says Jennifer King, public information officer.

The nationwide changes are redefining who is a minority and who is not.

"These little babies ... by the time they get to be in their 20s and 30s, the current racial and ethnic categories ... won't have anything close to the meaning that (they have) today," Frey says. "When they think about white majority, it'll be something in the history books."

OSDH is on the
web at
www.health.ok.gov

Baby breakdown

The seven states where the percentage of infants under age 1 who are non-Hispanic white dropped below 50% since 2000:



Source: Census analysis by William Frey, The Brookings Institution
By Julie Snider, USA TODAY