

When Were State Birth Records Started and Required

If you are looking for birth records, including certificates, you need to know the timing of each state's requirements. Each state in the U.S. started requiring birth registrations in different years. Generally, some type of records were created prior to the official state laws, either at the county, city, or town levels. But state records weren't required until a law was passed. Some states passed laws that mandated that records be kept at the local level, even though there was not mandated state registration. Furthermore, even though registrations and certificates were mandated, general compliance was not achieved by all entities for just a few years or even a few decades in some instance.

Below is a chart that lists for each state when registration was required, when it started at local jurisdictions, and when general compliance with the state law was achieved. Please note that local level registration and records were not adhered to by all local jurisdictions. If the year is blank, I could not find the information for that entry.

State	Year Mandated	Year Records Started at Local Jurisdiction	Year of General Compliance
Alabama	1908	1881	1927
Alaska	1913	-	-
Arizona	1909	1855	1926
Arkansas	1914	1881	Mid 1930s
California	1905	1800	-
Colorado	1907	1876	1920
Connecticut	1897	1630s	1915
Delaware	1881	1650	1921
District of Columbia	1874	-	-
Florida	1899	1865	1920
Georgia	1919	1875	1928
Hawaii	1842	-	1929
Idaho	1911	1907	1920s
Illinois	1916	1877	1922
Indiana	1907	1881	1920
Iowa	1907	1880	1924
Kansas	1911	1885	-
Kentucky	1911	1852	1917
Louisiana	1911	1790	-
Maine	1892	1700	-
Maryland	1898	1649	-
Massachusetts	1841	1600	1850
Michigan	1905	1867	1915
Minnesota	1908	1870	1915
Mississippi	1912	1879	1921

The source of these dates are a combination of each state's vital records website in conjunction with the FamilySearch Wiki. A great resource with more details can be found at:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_United_States_Birth_Records

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Missouri	1910	1883	-
Montana	1907	-	1920
Nebraska	1904	1869	1920
Nevada	1911	1887	-
New Hampshire	1866	Early 1600s	1905
New Jersey	1848	1675	-
New Mexico	1920	1907	1930
New York	1880	1847	1913
North Carolina	1913	1890	1920
North Dakota	1893	-	-
Ohio	1908	1867	-
Oklahoma	1908	1891	1930
Oregon	1903	1871	-
Pennsylvania	1906	1852	-
Rhode Island	1853	1636	Early 1900s
South Carolina	1914	1877	-
South Dakota	1905	1843	-
Tennessee	1908	1874	1927
Texas	1903	1873	-
Utah	1905	1890	1917
Vermont	1857	1732	1919
Virginia	1912	1853	-
Washington	1907	1869	-
West Virginia	1917	1863	1925
Wisconsin	1907	1852	-
Wyoming	1909	-	1922

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