

**Kathy Michael, County Clerk  
Vital Records Division**

## TAKE THE VITAL RECORDS QUIZ!

**Circuit Clerk or County Clerk?**

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| 1. Certified copies of Divorce Decrees | <b>Answer:</b> Circuit Clerk                     |
| 2. Marriage Licenses                   | <b>Answer:</b> County Clerk                      |
| 3. Get married in front of a judge     | <b>Answer:</b> Circuit Clerk                     |
| 4. Copy of a will                      | <b>Answer:</b> Circuit Clerk                     |
| 5. Deed to property                    | <b>Answer:</b> County Clerk (Recording Division) |
| 6. Death certificate                   | <b>Answer:</b> County Clerk                      |
| 7. Adoption record                     | <b>Answer:</b> Circuit Clerk                     |
| 8. DD-214                              | <b>Answer:</b> County Clerk (Recording Division) |
| 9. Assumed Name                        | <b>Answer:</b> County Clerk                      |
| 10. Legal name change                  | <b>Answer:</b> Circuit Clerk                     |

How soon can you get your child's birth certificate?

- A. As soon as the ink is dry on the hospital certificate footprints
- B. As soon as the mother is released from the hospital
- C. 2 weeks after the child is born

**Answer: B – FYI, the hospital certificate is not a legal document. You may obtain a certified birth certificate from the County Clerk (always), the State (always), or the Health Department (for the first 10 years).**

Do you need a blood test to get married in Illinois?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Only if you're related

**Answer: B - No, not since 1989.**

Who can obtain a person's birth certificate?

- A. The adult child, mother or father listed on the birth record
- B. Anyone
- C. Parents, spouses, siblings and grandparents

**Answer: A – Vital records are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Individuals over 18 and emancipated minors can obtain their own birth certificate with proper identification. Parents listed on the birth record may always obtain the record (with proper ID).**

How do you change your name after you get married?

- A. Take the original license to Social Security before you return it to the County Clerk
- B. Sign an affidavit and have it notarized
- C. Get a certified copy of the marriage license from the County Clerk & submit it to Social Security, the DMV, etc.

**Answer: C – The officiant fills out the original marriage license after the ceremony. Return the original to the County Clerk’s office for filing. Then obtain a certified copy from the County Clerk.**

How do you get married in Illinois?

- A. Get a marriage license from the County Clerk.
- B. Have a ceremony with an officiant.
- C. Not be in a civil union or marriage with another person.
- D. Have the ceremony in the county where you got the marriage license.
- E. All of the above

**Answer: E – All of the above. You must obtain a marriage license at least the day before the ceremony, and have the ceremony in the same county where you got the license within 60 days.**

I was born in Peoria. Where can I get a certified copy of my birth record?

- A. From the hospital where you were born.
- B. From the Peoria County Clerk or the State of Illinois.
- C. From any county clerk.

**Answer: B – Contact the County Clerk in the county where you were born. You can also get any Illinois county birth record from the Illinois Department of Public Health Vital Records Division. We suggest contacting the county or State directly; using an outside agency will add to your cost.**

I want to start my own business, but it won’t be a corporation, LLC or LLP. What do I need first?

- A. A bank account in my business name
- B. An ad announcing my business name
- C. An Assumed Name for my business with the County Clerk

**Answer: C, of course! Fill out the Assumed Name form in the county of your residence. As part of the process, you will have to place a legal ad in a local paper. You must complete the process within a certain timeframe. You may also need to register your business in your particular city. For more information, contact the County Clerk’s Office.**

Someone told me my property taxes were sold. Does that mean I don’t have to pay them?

- A. No. A tax buyer can buy unpaid taxes, but you have to pay the County and the tax buyer earns interest.
- B. Yes, but you could lose your property if you don’t pay the taxes, interest and added fees by a certain time.
- C. Both of the above.

**Answer: C. If you don’t pay your property or mobile home taxes on time, a tax buyer could buy them and earn interest that you would have to pay later. You have an opportunity to redeem your taxes by paying them plus interest and fees. Contact the County Clerk’s Office for more information on your particular situation.**