

Vital Records Changes

BACKGROUND

In an effort to prevent fraud and provide better protection against misuse of certified documents, Act 46 was passed in May 2017. Implementing on July 1, 2019, it significantly changes the way Town Clerks generate and store birth and death certificates.

Certificate Generation Changes

- Birth and Death certificates will be available to ALL town clerks on a statewide database as of July 1, 2019.
- Requestors will be required to complete a form, state their relationship to the person and pay the same \$10 fee.

Certificate Storage Changes

Since the State is now maintaining all records in their secure database, vault copies are no longer required. Some clerks are concerned about the lack of having a paper copy and wish to continue to maintain paper copies as they are generated. In towns with appointed Clerks, the Select Board makes this decision.

My recommendation is that East Montpelier NOT continue to keep vault copies of these documents going forward for the following reasons:

- Vault storage space is limited to the space we have in the vault
- Many documents are readily available for informational viewing and printing on sites like Ancestry and FamilySearch.
- Informational and Certified copies can be requested from any Town Clerk or from the State Archives in Middlesex.

ACTION REQUIRED: A motion to:

Utilize the Vermont Records Information Management System (VRIMS) for the electronic storage, maintenance and preservation of the town's birth and death records as of July 1, 2019.

OR

continue keeping paper copies of all birth and death certificates in the vault