

CONFIDENTIALITY OF VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS

TEXAS OPEN RECORDS ACT

GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 552.115

A birth record is public information and available to the public on and after the 75th anniversary of the date on which the record is filed with the bureau of vital statistics or local registration official; and

A death record is public information and available to the public on and after the 25th anniversary of the date on which the record is filed with the bureau of vital statistics or local registration official.

UNTIL THE TIME LIMITS SET OUT ABOVE HAVE PASSED, A BIRTH OR DEATH RECORD MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 192 OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE. WHILE BIRTH RECORDS OVER 75 YEARS OLD AND DEATH RECORDS OVER 25 YEARS OLD ARE NOT EXCEPTED FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER THE ACT, A LOCAL REGISTRAR OF THE BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS IS REQUIRED BY TITLE 3 OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE AND RULES PROMULGATED THEREUNDER TO DENY PHYSICAL ACCESS TO THESE RECORDS AND TO PROVIDE COPIES OF THEM FOR A CERTAIN FEE. THESE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS PREVAIL OVER THE MORE GENERAL PROVISIONS IN THE ACT REGARDING INSPECTION AND COPYING OF PUBLIC RECORDS.

CHAPTER 25 TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE-VITAL STATISTICS

SECTION 181.10

BIRTH RECORDS LESS THAN 75 YEARS OLD AND DEATH RECORDS LESS THAN 25 YEARS OLD ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR SEARCHING OR INSPECTION. RECORDS OVER 25-75 YEARS OLD, ACTUAL BOOKS, VOLUMES OF ORIGINAL RECORDS, OR RECORDS THEMSELVES SHALL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN THE INTEREST OF PRESERVATION OF THE RECORDS.