



The Georgia Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth (CBRS)

The No Heartbeat Act—SB 381 (CBRS Effective July 1, 2008)

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The Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth: The Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth (CBRS) is a memorial document that families who have experienced a stillborn child can request. It recognizes the birth of their baby separate from their baby's death. It provides a lasting document for recognition of a baby born still. This document is for comfort, closure and healing for the family. The CBRS cannot be used as a statistical record of live birth. Though the CBRS is now established by a law, the actual implementation of issuing the CBRS must be completed by the State Office of Vital Records. It may take some time to fully implement this process.

Information (when available) included on the CBRS:

- (1) Name (as provided by parent when requesting a CBRS or on the Fetal Death Record). If no name is provided, the Vital Records will fill in Baby Girl or Baby Boy and the last name of the parents.;
- (2) Date, time and place (hospital, county) of delivery; Gender;
- (3) Mother's name and residence; Father's name;
- (4) The attendant at delivery;
- (5) Gestational age and weight at delivery;
- (6) Type of delivery (single, twin, triplet, etc.)
- (7) "This certificate is not proof of live birth."

More Information: www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/GACBRS.htm

The "No Heartbeat Act" Law Defines Stillbirth: "Stillbirth" means an unintended, intrauterine fetal death after a gestational age of not less than 20 completed weeks, or of a fetus with a weight of 350 grams or more.

Requesting a CBRS: Under the new law, the OVR will implement the issuance of the CBRS to parents who request one, and the cost will be \$10.00. The delivery hospital or delivery attendant (if birth occurs outside of hospital) shall advise the parent of a stillborn baby of their option to request a CBRS. Such requests must be initiated by phone to the OVR. (As of 7.1.08, the process is not available via the internet.) The OVR will then explain the procedure to follow. You may request the CBRS at any time after your loss. It is required by law that the OVR issue the CBRS within 60 days after the request is made. As with a live birth certificate and a Fetal Death Certificate, no parent automatically receives the CBRS. **GA State Vital Records:**

www.health.state.ga.us/programs/vitalrecords/ OR 404-679-4702

Requesting the Fetal Death Certificate: The parent may request this from the State Office of Vital Records at any time for a cost of \$10.00. **Fetal Death Certificates-GA State Vital Records: 404-679-4702.**

The Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth is not a Fetal Death Certificate: These are two separate documents. According to Georgia law, every spontaneous fetal death irrespective of the duration of pregnancy must be reported within 72 hours after delivery. This Fetal Death Report is filed with the local registrar of the county in which the delivery occurred, and becomes the Fetal Death Record. Information for both the CBRS and the Fetal Death Certificate is generated from the Fetal Death Record. (O.C.G.A. 31-10-18 see also 31-10-1)

The CBRS Is Retroactive, Provided that there is a Fetal Death Record: To receive a CBRS, there has to be a Fetal Death Record that verifies the death of the baby. Historically, not all losses have been reported therefore they were not recorded. Reporting is more accurate today. The State Office of Vital Records maintains records dating back to 1919, provided that a Fetal Death Report was filed by the delivery hospital or by the delivery attendant at the time of death. (O.C. GA. 31-10-18)

CBRS brought to Law in Georgia by Erin Dickerson and Marcia McGinnis with the support of personal friends and family and SHARE Atlanta members and their friends and family. Our sponsors Senator Dan Weber, Representatives Fran Millar and Wendell Willard championed our bills passage. Over 200 legislators voted "yes." Gov. Perdue signed it into law on May 12, 2008. A ceremonial signing with Gov. Perdue and our legislative sponsors happened on May 29, 2008. The CBRS IS a reality for Georgians!!