



General Register Office Indexes

The City Library host the full set of GRO indexes on Level 6.

We are one of only 7 sites to host the full set of indexes:

Birmingham Central Library
Bridgend Local and Family History Centre
City of Westminster Archives Centre
The British Library
Manchester City Library
Plymouth Central Library

We currently hold:

England & Wales Births (1837 to 1983)

This is a quarterly index with an alphabetical list of birth registrations in order of surname and forename together with the mother's maiden name (from Sept qtr 1911) and an index reference showing details of the registration district, volume number and page number.

England & Wales Births (1984 to Sept 2018)

This is an annual index with an alphabetical list of birth registrations in order of surname and forename together with the mother's maiden surname and an index reference showing details of the registration district name and number, register number, entry number in that particular register and the month of registration.

England and Wales Deaths (1837 to 1983)

This is a quarterly index with an alphabetical list of death registrations in order of surname and forename together with the age at death (from Mar qtr 1866) and an index reference showing details of the registration district, volume number and page number.

England and Wales Deaths (1984 to Sept 2018)

This is an annual Index with an alphabetical list of death registrations in order of surname and forename together with the date of birth of the deceased and an index reference showing details of the registration district name and number, register number, entry number in that register and the month of registration.





England and Wales Marriages (1837 to 1983)

This is a quarterly index with an alphabetical list of marriage registrations in order of surname and forename together with the surname of the other party to the marriage (from Mar qtr 1912) and an index reference showing details of the registration district, volume number and page number.

England and Wales Marriages (1984 to 2016)

This is an annual index comprising of an alphabetical list of marriage registrations in order of surname and forename together with the surname of the other party to the marriage and an index reference showing details of the registration district name and number, month of registration, page number, entry number and source code which provides the link to the open marriage register.

The indexes for the following events vary in format but in each case provide a minimum of a surname and forename together with a year and place of the event and an index reference number

Overseas Birth Records (1761 to 2016)

The records for these events are of Regimental records, Ionian Island records, Marine records, Army records, Air Records, Consular records and High Commission records.

Overseas Deaths Records (1761 to 2016)

The records for these events are of Regimental Records, Ionian Island Records, Marine Records, Army Records, Natal and South African Forces, Service Dept Records, War Deaths by service and rank, Air Records, Consular Records and High Commission Records.

Overseas Marriage Records (1761 to 2016)

The records for these events are of Army Records, Article 6 and Article 18 Marriages, Ionian Island Records, Service Dept Records, Consular Records and High Commission Records.

Adopted Children's Index 1927 to 1969

This index is partly in blocks of years (1927 to 1946) (1947 to 1951) and thereafter annual and with an alphabetical list of adopted persons in order of surname and forename and an index reference showing details of the year of birth (from 1947), the date of entry, entry number and volume number.

Adopted Children's Index 1970 to 2017

This index is a combined index covering all adoption registrations between 1970 and 2009 in order of the year of birth followed by an alphabetical list in order of surname of the adopted person together with the forename of the adopted person of aged 18 years or over and an index reference showing details of volume number and entry number.





England and Wales Civil Partnerships December 2005 to December 2017

This is a combined index covering all Civil Partnership registrations between December 2005 and December 2008. The index is an alphabetical list in order of surname and forenames together with the details of the partners surname and forenames and an index reference showing details of the year of formation, registration authority and registration entry number.

Overseas Civil Partnerships December 2005 to December 2016

This is a combined index covering all Civil Partnership registrations between December 2005 and December 2008. The index is an alphabetical list in order of surname and forenames together with the details of the partners surname and forenames and an index reference showing details of the year of registration, post name (city or country) and type (forces, high commission or consular) and page number.

Applying for certificates

The quickest way to order a certificate is to go to www.gro.gov.uk and then follow the links to ordering a certificate. You can order a certificate and pay for it online.

You can telephone

0300 123 1837

Monday – Friday: 8am – 8pm

Saturday: 9am – 4pm

Post

You can contact them by post by writing to:

Certificate Services Section

General Register Office

PO Box 2

Southport

PR8 2JD

If you want to order a certificate by post you can download an application form and guidance note via www.gro.gov.uk or write to GRO at the address shown above confirming the number and type of application forms required.

Local Register Office

A local register office will have the original register of births, marriages or deaths and if you know that the event you are interested in occurred in the district that they cover, you can approach the local register office for a certificate.





What certificates can be applied for?

- **Births**
- **Marriages**
- **Deaths**
- **Civil Partnerships**
- **Overseas Life events (Births, Marriages & Deaths)**
- **Adoption ***

*The indexes contain the adopted names of individuals, but there is no link whatsoever to the original birth records. Customers would need to know specific details to be able to find a GRO Index in the Adopted Children's register i.e. adopted name and year of birth.

What is an adoption certificate?

An adoption certificate is a replacement birth certificate in the adopted person's new name. It can be used for all legal purposes in place of the original birth certificate. The adoption certificate will also contain legal information relating to the adoption.

A full adoption certificate shows date of birth, place and country of birth, adoptive forename and surname, gender, name and surname, address and occupation of adoptive parent(s), date of adoption order, date on which the adoption granted, and name of the court.

A short adoption certificate only shows date, place and country of birth, adoptive forename and surname, and gender. It carries no reference to adoption.

You can order adoption certificates online, if the event took place after 1927, you need full details of the event or supply the certificate index reference.





What information do you need?

You can order birth, marriage or death certificates from 1837 onwards providing you have the General Register Office index reference or sufficient information to identify the entry.

The GRO index reference provides unique reference information that helps find the birth, marriage or death in England and Wales that you are interested in. It includes:

- The year when the birth, marriage or death was registered
- Quarter (e.g. Oct-Dec is the December quarter, Jan – March is the March quarter)
- The earliest index is for September quarter 1837. After 1984 the indexes are organised by year only
- The district in which the event was registered
- The volume and page number

The entries within the indexes are arranged in alphabetical order by surname, with first names listed alongside (as recorded on the certificate). The index data varies depending on the type of event (birth, marriage or death) and the year when the event was registered.

For adoption records you need:

- Full name of person after adoption*
- Adopted person's date of birth*
- Full name(s) of adoptive parent(s)*
- Year of adoption (if known)
- Court which granted the adoption order (if known)

*You must supply this is applying for certificates of those under 18; otherwise a certificate cannot be issued.

Turn a new page



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