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# MEDIA RELEASE

## Birth certificate fee increase

Starting July 1, 2014, the cost of each certified copy of a birth certificate will increase from \$10 to \$20, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Health's notification to Lycoming County Prothonotary Suzanne Revak-Fedele.

The additional \$10 will be used by the Department of Public Welfare to help fund and provide for children's advocacy centers as well as abuse prevention training.

The last day to obtain certificates at \$10 (excluding processing and delivery fee) is June 30, 2014. Mailed in applications must be post-marked by June 30, 2014 to qualify at the \$10 fee. Applications received with a post mark after June 30 and without the proper fee will be returned unprocessed.

First copies for new births will still be offered free of charge and fees may be waived for individuals who served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces or their dependents.

The Division of Vital Records maintains birth events that occurred in Pennsylvania from 1906 to present.

There are three ways to obtain a certified copy of a birth certificate: Order online at [www.vitalcheck.com](http://www.vitalcheck.com), by mail or you may apply through your county representatives' local offices.

Those applying for a first-time passport in the prothonotary's office need a certified copy of their birth certificates, requiring a long-form birth certificate that includes the applicant's name and both parents' names. Those who apply for a passport and do not have the correct birth certificate will not have their applications processed, considerably delaying the processing time.

The prothonotary's office processes passport applications 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, and takes passport photos on-site, no appointment necessary.

For additional information on obtaining a passport, required fees, processing times and specific individual requirements, contact the prothonotary's office at: 570-327-2251 or visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) .

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