



ENGLAND and WALES CIVIL REGISTRATION

ENGLAND “HOW TO” GUIDE, BEGINNING LEVEL: INSTRUCTION
www.freebmd.org.uk FreeBMD Indexes only

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GOAL (Learn how to use Civil Registration to find Births, Marriages, and deaths)

INTRODUCTION

The General Register Office indexes to birth, marriage and death can be looked at in many various ways on www.freebmd.org.uk

At present, the FreeBMD indexes at www.freebmd.org.uk mostly cover births, marriages, and deaths 1 July 1837 to 1983..

Civil registration is the government recording of births, marriages, and deaths from 1 July 1837 to the present. The resulting records or database is called the **civil register** or **civil registry**.

Indexes to Birth 1 July 1837-2008
Marriage 1 July 1837-2007
Death 1 July-2017

The primary purpose of civil registration is to create legal documents that are used to establish and protect the civil rights of individuals. A secondary purpose is to create a data source for the compilation of vital statistics. In most countries, there is a legal requirement to notify the relevant authority of any life event which affects the registry.

The following is a list of ways civil registration documents may help you:

- Provide dates of birth, marriage or death
- Indicate names of people involved
- Verify the place of an event
- Supply name and occupation of father
- Confirm maiden name of mother
- Validate other information to ensure correct identity

Why is Civil Registration Important in Genealogical Research?

- These records, collected and used by the government, provide information regarding ancestors. The basic information provided in birth, marriage and death records, help validate correct identity. Because the records of an individual frequently in birth and marriage records include names of one or both parents, as well as the father's occupation, they can help provide a link to the previous generation.
- They can also be linked to other records for further information of Census, Church, Occupational, Probate, Newspaper, family records and traditions, residence,
- The records can confirm information starting in 1837. Information can also help provide family connections earlier than 1837 with names of parents for marriage and baptismal records.

HOW TO (Indexes)

The indexes are yearly and subdivided quarterly. For example, for a birth in 1842 there are four indexes - March quarter, June quarter, September quarter and December quarter. Be aware that a selection of Sep, for example, actually covers the whole quarter of July, August and September. The name of the month is last month in that three month quarter.

Quarter periods:

1st Quarter- Jan-Feb-Mar 2nd Quarter- Apr-May-Jun 3rd Quarter- Jul-Aug-Sept

4th Quarter- Oct-Nov-Dec

Remember that the indexes reflect the date the event was registered, not necessarily the date the event took place.

Indexes contain:

- Full Name
- District name
- Volume number
- Page number
- After 1866 age
- After 1910 Mother's maiden surname and after 1911 Spouse's surname is listed.

Indexes of birth, marriage, and death 1 July 1837-1950 mostly complete 1951-1983 less complete.

www.freebmd.org.uk This is the website that is very useful for birth, marriage, and death indexes and other helpful information. To obtain a certificate still must purchase through the General Registrar Office or Superintendent Registrar.

Free BMD - How to Indexes

Step by step instructions

- A. Go to www.freebmd.org.uk
- B. Welcome to FreeBMD and click on **Search** for birth, marriage or death index reference
- C. Click on **Help** for help in using FreeBMD or
- D. Click on Type for All types or Births, or Deaths, or Marriages 1 July 1837-Dec 1993
Any of the fields can be filled in or left empty for Surname, First Names(s), Spouse/Mother surname, Spouse first name(s) Death age/DoB (Date of Birth) Date Range July 1837-Dec 1993, Volume/Page Options of Mono, Exact match on first names, Phonetic search surnames, Match only recorded ages and Identifiable spouses. Can only search on all or one specific District or County.
- E. Click on Find for results
- F. The results of Surname, First names(s) Mother/Spouse 1911/ Age 1866 **District** Vol Page
- G. Locate birth, marriage or death index reference and can order certificate from www.gro.gov.uk or the **district** Superintendent Registrar. www.UKBMD.org.uk
- H. For marriages click on page number and a possible spouse can be listed. With reference can order certificate from www.gro.gov.uk or the **district** Superintendent Registrar. www.UKBMD.org.uk
- I. View the original indexed entry.
- J. Other information can be found.

The General Register Office (How To Indexes and Purchase Certificate(s))

1. Already have a birth, marriage or death index reference from www.freebmd.org.uk

Go to www.gro.gov.uk step by step instruction

- A. Order certificates online
- B. Search the GRO historical birth and death indexes and order Certificates/PDFs Online
- C. Login or Register
- D. Start Application Fill in the fields of interest and those with a *
- E. For events registered in England and Wales choose Birth, Marriage or Death
- F. Fill in year of event. The GRO will search 3 years for the certificate if index reference is not provided, then click Submit
- G. Application for an England and Wales Birth or marriage or death certificate or PDF copy
- H. Fill in required fields and add reference, then click submit
 - I. If by mail verify contact details or if by PDF verify e-mail address
- J. Basket Summary/Order details
- K. Checkout, Continue Shopping, Return to the GRO Indexes
- L. Proceed with payment

PRACTICE

- Locate the birth certificate index entry for Charles Bittle Outridge born around 1851 in Southwark, England on www.freebmd.org.uk
- Go to www.freebmd.org.uk and follow these steps
- Click on **Search**
- Click on Type – Births
- Click on – Surname Field box and add Outridge
- Click on – First name(s) fields box add Charles Bittle
- Click on Date Range field boxes and add Mar 1850 To December 1852
- Click on Find
- See results and write them down
- If correct certificate and want to order then -
- Use steps above under the General Register Office to locate birth certificate entry.
- Write down the information or order Certificate PDF
- Choose how to order the certificate (Standard Post, DX or PDF by Priority Post, DX, or by Special Delivery or Priority DHL
- How many certificate
- Submit
- Check information
- Submit
- Check information
- Checkout
- Purchase certificate with credit Card

ACTIVITY

Try a name you are interested in finding. Do you know where in England and Wales to look? A place of birth, marriage or place is very helpful to the search. If not knowing the place, helpful information that can help. For a birth, the mother's maiden surname can be listed. If you know the Mother's maiden name, then a birth entry maybe easier to locate. A death entry can have an age. If you know the age at death and place of death you may have a better chance of finding and determining the correct death certificate. A marriage has both a grooms surname and a bride may be listed under her maiden surname. They will match in a marriage indexed entry. maps.familysearch.org will help you determine a possible registration district to look for a birth, marriage or death. Use the practice steps above to complete the activity. If you find the reference, decide how you want to purchase the certificate. Order a pdf (birth and death certificates only) and you will receive it in an e-mail within a week of ordering. Order by mail and should come within two weeks of ordering for birth, marriage, and death certificates.

Websites that have indexes. Certificates can only be purchased through the GRO and local Superintendent Registrars.

www.freebmd.org.uk

www.ukbmd.org.uk

<https://familysearch.org>

www.findmypast.co.uk

www.ancestry.com

www.gro.gov.uk