

# BIRTH CERTIFICATES

The US Department of State has special requirements for birth certificates from **TEXAS, CALIFORNIA, and PUERTO RICO**. Please read the following information carefully to avoid a delay in processing your passport application.

## TEXAS

Texas issued birth certificates must have a hospital name listed. Generally, long-form birth certificates will have a hospital name listed and are acceptable. However, short-forms do not list a name of a hospital. **Short-form Texas birth certificates are accepted ONLY if there is a letter "I" printed next to the date filed.** The US Department of State will not accept short-form birth certificates without the "I".

If you need to order a new Texas birth certificate, please visit the Texas Department of State Health Services Vital Statistics website at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/vs/>.



A long-form birth certificate from the City of Austin. The form is titled "CERTIFICATION OF BIRTH" and "CITY OF AUSTIN". It contains detailed fields for the birth record, including name, date of birth, sex, race, and parents' names. The date filed is 10-11-1998. The form is marked "VOID" in large blue letters at the bottom.

Long-Form



A short-form birth certificate from the State of Texas, Ellis County. The form is titled "CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORDS" and "STATE OF TEXAS ELLIS COUNTY". It contains fields for name, date of birth, sex, race, and parents' names. The date filed is 10-11-1998, with a red circle around the "I" next to the date. A red arrow points to the "I" with the text "Acceptable Short form Texas birth certificates must have a letter 'I' next to 'date filed'". The form is marked "VOID" in large blue letters at the bottom.

Short-Form

# CALIFORNIA

California issued birth certificates must have a hospital name listed. Generally, long-form birth certificates will have a hospital name listed and are acceptable. **California Certified Abstract of Births are NOT accepted by the US Department of State.**



Long-form: Acceptable



Abstract of Birth: NOT ACCEPTABLE

# PUERTO RICO



Puerto Rico birth certificates must be issued after July 1, 2010 to be acceptable proof of citizenship as mandated by the Puerto Rico Birth Certificate Law of 2009.