

BIRTH CERTIFICATE INFORMATION FOR NEW PARENTS: WHAT TO EXPECT

After you have your baby at the hospital, a birth recorder will interview you to collect information to prepare the birth certificate for your newborn. Some information will go on the public portion of the birth certificate, some will go on the confidential portion of the birth certificate (only printed on a certified copy at the parent's request), and some will be collected for medical studies and research purposes only. Most of the information collected is required by law. To help the birth certificate interview go faster, try to select the name of your child in advance.

Here are the most popular baby names in Santa Clara County, California, and the US:



Rank	Girl's First Names			Boy's First Names		
	SANTA CLARA COUNTY, 2003	CALIFORNIA, 1999	U.S., 2004	SANTA CLARA COUNTY, 2003	CALIFORNIA, 1999	U.S., 2004
1	EMILY	EMILY	EMILY	ANDREW	DANIEL	JACOB
2	SAMANTHA	SAMANTHA	EMMA	DANIEL	JOSE	MICHAEL
3	ISABELLA	JENNIFER	MADISON	ANTHONY	ANTHONY	JOSHUA
4	ASHLEY	ASHLEY	OLIVIA	RYAN	MICHAEL	MATTHEW
5	JESSICA	JESSICA	HANNAH	JONATHAN	ANDREW	ETHAN
6	JENNIFER	ALYSSA	ABILGAIL	ALEXANDER	JACOB	ANDREW
7	SOPHIA	SARAH	ISABELLA	JOSHUA	DAVID	DANIEL
8	ALYSSA	ALEXIS	ASHLEY	KEVIN	MATTHEW	WILLIAM
9	EMMA	ELIZABETH	SAMANTHA	JOSE	CHRISTOPHER	JOSEPH
10	JASMINE	VANESSA	ELIZABETH	DAVID	JOSHUA	CHRISTOPHER

The birth recorder will then prepare the birth certificate and bring it back to you for review. It is very important that you inspect the document thoroughly. Once you sign the birth certificate, it becomes a legal document and any changes require an amendment or a court order (depending on the type of change); *these correction processes can be time-consuming and/or costly!* For more information about amending a birth certificate, contact our office.

If you need your child's birth certificate to be registered and available for purchase sooner than the normal 3-4 weeks processing time, tell the birth recorder right away.

The birth recorder will give you two applications that you can use to purchase a birth certificate; one is an *in-person application* and the other is a *mail-in application*. If you choose to mail-in the application, you must get a **notary public** to witness your signature before sending it in with the appropriate fees. To avoid the notary fee, you may choose to come to the Santa Clara County Public Health Department, Vital Records and Registration office and have your signature witnessed by one of the staff. Each birth certificate is \$17. You'll want to purchase at least one copy of your child's birth certificate, but some people choose to purchase two or more and store extra copies in a safe location in case of emergency.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO APPLY FOR A PASSPORT, APPLY FOR INSURANCE, ENROLL IN SCHOOL, JOIN A YOUTH ATHLETIC LEAGUE, AND MORE...

For more information about obtaining a birth certificate, visit our website at <http://www.sccphd.org/vitalrecords>. Or call (408) 885-2010 Monday - Friday 9a.m. - 4p.m. Our office is located at 976 Lenzen Avenue, Suite 1300, East Entrance, San Jose, CA 95126.

Vital Records & Registration
Public Health Department
Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System

