



What You Need to Know About Getting A Birth Certificate After a Homebirth:

Within five days of the birth, the midwife/doula registers the birth with the county's health department.

- After the birth is registered, the parent must apply for a birth certificate through the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
- The application can be done:
 - ▶ Online
 - ▶ In person
 - ▶ By mail (only accepted in Richland County)
 - ▶ Drop off (only accepted in Richland County)
- After getting the birth certificate, you should apply for your child's Social Security number at www.ssa.gov

Why does your child need a birth certificate and Social Security number?

Without a birth certificate and SSN:

- You cannot claim your child on tax return
- You cannot enroll your child in school
- You cannot get your child a passport
- Your child cannot receive government benefits
- You may not be able to open a bank account for your child

If you don't get your child's birth certificate, you will experience delays in enrolling your child in school and getting medical benefits and medical care.

Brought to you by the Children's Law
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