



South Carolina law requires that a birth must be registered within five days of the date of birth.

To establish a birth certificate for a birth that occurred in South Carolina outside of a medical facility, certain documentation is required.

For children born outside of a hospital, there are three options:

- A parent may take the newborn to a hospital within 5 days of birth. The hospital will examine the baby and birth mother and file the certificate electronically with DHEC.
- A DHEC or LLR-licensed midwife who attended the home birth may file the certificate electronically with DHEC.
- Contact SCDHEC prior to the baby's birth at registration@dhec.sc.gov or call 803-898-3620 to get the Home Birth Registration Packet. The birth mother may file the certificate administratively with DHEC within one (1) year of birth but must provide supporting documentation outlined in the packet including proof of pregnancy, proof of live birth, and proof that the live birth occurred in South Carolina.

After getting the birth administratively registered, the parent should apply to get a copy of the child's birth certificate and should request a copy of their child's Social Security card.

You need a birth certificate from SCDHEC and the Social Security Number (SSN) to:

- Claim your child on tax return
- Receive government benefits
- Enroll your child in school
- Apply for a passport
- Open a bank account for your child
- Obtain health insurance coverage

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.

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