

Chapter 323

(House Bill 939)

AN ACT concerning

Certificates of Birth – Filing – Time Period

FOR the purpose of altering, under certain circumstances, the period of time within which a certificate of birth is to be completed and filed with the Maryland Department of Health following a birth; and generally relating to certificates of birth.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Health – General
 Section 4–208(b)(1) and (2), (c)(1), and (d)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Health – General
Section 4–208(g)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

4–208.

(b) (1) ~~Within~~ **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION, WITHIN [5] 12** calendar days after a birth occurs in an institution, or en route to the institution, or outside an institution with an attending clinician, the administrative head of the institution or a designee of the administrative head, or the attending clinician or a designee of the attending clinician, shall:

- (i) Prepare, on the form that the Secretary provides, a certificate of birth;
- (ii) Secure each signature that is required on the certificate;
- (iii) File the certificate; and
- (iv) If applicable, attach a copy of the order of the court establishing parentage.

(2) ~~The~~ **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION,** ~~THE~~ attending physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, or attending clinician shall provide the date of birth and medical information that are required on the certificate within ~~5~~ ~~12~~ calendar days after the birth.

(c) (1) ~~Within~~ **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION, WITHIN 5 12** calendar days after a birth occurs outside an institution without an attending clinician, the birth shall be verified by the Secretary and a certificate of birth shall be prepared, on the form that the Secretary provides, and filed by one of the following, in the indicated order of priority:

(i) The attending individual.

(ii) In the absence of an attending individual, either parent of the child.

(iii) In the absence or inability of either parent, the individual in charge of the premises where the birth occurred.

(d) (1) When a birth occurs on a common carrier within the United States and the child is first removed from the carrier in this State, the birth shall be registered in this State, and the place where the child is first removed shall be considered the place of birth.

(2) When a birth occurs on a common carrier while in international waters, air space, or in a foreign country and the child is first removed from the carrier in this State, the birth shall be registered in this State but the certificate shall show the actual place of birth insofar as can be determined.

(3) ~~The~~ **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION,** ~~THE~~ certificate shall be filed within ~~5~~ ~~12~~ calendar days after the child is removed from the carrier.

(G) A CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH MAY BE FILED WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE BIRTH OCCURRED IF A PARENT OF THE CHILD NOTIFIES THE ~~DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS IN A MANNER REQUIRED~~ PERSON REQUIRED TO FILE THE CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH ON A FORM PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER BIRTH, BUT NOT LATER THAN 5 DAYS AFTER THE BIRTH OCCURS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, April 28, 2026.