

Connecticut Vital Records

-Records of birth, marriage, and death created by local governments -

Who records them?

In Connecticut, records are kept on the town level, with duplicate copies to the state. Death and marriage records are public, as are birth records more than 100 years old. (Less than 100 years old can be requested by members of approved genealogical societies.)

When were they kept?

Statewide recording began on 1 July 1897.

How do I access them?

- 1) How do I access records created on or after 1 July 1897?
 - a. Do you know *where* the record was created, and does it exist as a modern town?
 - i. Make sure it's not been microfilmed.
 1. Go to www.familysearch.org.
 2. Create an account if you do not already have one; log in if you do.
 3. Click on "search" and "catalog."
 4. Enter the location in the box next to the place name and click "search".
 5. Click on the place name and "vital records."
 6. Click on the name of the records created by the town clerk.
 7. Click on the camera image to browse the records volume.
 8. If the film covers your dates but has not been digitized, you can access the microfilm at the Connecticut State Library (<https://ctstatelibrary.org/>).
 - ii. Contact or visit the town where the event occurred.
 1. If you are a member of an approved genealogical society (<http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/researcher/gensocieties>), you'll be able to review and copy by hand information on the records. Plan to present your society membership card and a photo identification.
 2. Otherwise, birth records newer than 100 years will not be accessible unless you are a permitted individual (child/grandchild). Death and marriage records, with Social Security numbers blacked out, will be available to all researchers. Records must be purchased for \$20.

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- b. Do you know *where* the record was created, but it doesn't exist as a modern town?
 - i. Review <https://ctstatelibrary.org/cttowns/counties> for references to that town.
 - 1. Saybrook, for example, was renamed Deep River in 1947.
- c. Do you *not* know *where* the record was created? You have multiple options for accessing an index. (While it is possible to order records from the state vital records office, there's often a significant delay.)
 - i. If the record in question is a birth record and you are either a member of an approved genealogical society or a permitted individual, contact the State Vital Records Office at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Vital-Records/State-Vital-Records-Office--Home>.
 - ii. If the individual died between 1897 and 2001, use the death records index on the Connecticut State Library website to find the town:
<http://www.ctatelibrarydata.org/death-records/>.
 - iii. If the individual died between 1949-2012, use the death records index on *Ancestry* to find the town:
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4124>. Membership required.
 - iv. If the individual was married between 1897-2001, use the marriage records index on the Connecticut State Library website to find the town:
<http://www.ctatelibrarydata.org/marriage-records/>.
 - v. If the individual was married between 1959-2012, use the marriage records index on *Ancestry* to find the town:
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7158>. Membership required.

2) How do I access records created before 1 July 1897?

- a. If you don't know where the event occurred, check the Barbour Collection, an index from early vital records until about 1850.
 - i. It's available on *Ancestry* at:
<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1034>.
 - ii. It's available on *American Ancestors* at:
<https://www.americanancestors.org/databases/connecticut-vital-records-the-barbour-collection-1630-1870/image?rld=0>.
- b. The original records may be available online.
 - i. Go to www.familysearch.org.
 - ii. Create an account if you do not already have one; log in, if you do.
 - iii. Click on "search" and "catalog."

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- iv. Enter the location in the box next to the place name and click "search".
- v. Click on the place name and "vital records."
- vi. Click on the name of the records created by the town clerk.
- vii. Click on the camera image to browse the records volume.
- c. If they are not yet online, they are available on microfilm at the Connecticut State Library (<https://ctstatelibrary.org/>). You can also request a look up from the Family History Library at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/family-history-library/family-history-library-records-look-up-service>.