Texas Vital Statistics

Archives and Information Services
Second Saturday Workshop Series
February 9, 2019
This workshop covers information about how to locate and obtain Texas birth, death, marriage, and divorce records.
General Information about Texas Vital Statistics

• There is no one centralized repository for all Texas vital statistics records
  • Depending on the type of record and date of the record, it could be held by a county or state level government office

• There may be restrictions on who can access Texas vital statistics records
  - Birth records within the past 75 years
  - Death records within the past 25 years
    • Visit the Department of State Health Services [website](#) for information
Texas Birth & Death Records Prior to 1903

• Birth and death records prior to 1903 may be found in the Office of the County Clerk where the birth occurred.

• There are no statewide indexes for birth and death records prior to 1903.
Texas Birth & Death Records After 1903

- From 1903-present, birth and death records are filed with and maintained by the Vital Statistics Unit of the Department of State Health Services.

- Statewide indexes cover 1903-2010.
  - No indexes for births and deaths that occurred from 2011 to present.
Texas Birth & Death Indexes

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Types of information found in birth and death indexes:
- Name of individual
- County where event occurred
- Date of event
- File number
Texas Delayed Birth Records

- Delayed birth certificates, sometimes referred to as probate birth certificates, are issued if the birth was not recorded until a year or more after the birth occurred.
  - These can include births that occurred prior to 1903 and after 1903.
- TSLAC holds indexes to delayed births certificates issued between 1946 and 1975.
  - No indexes for delayed births certificates issued after 1975.
  - Contact the Department of State Health Services for delayed birth records after 1975.
Texas Delayed Birth Indexes

- Indexes are not available online
- Information available is similar to the standard birth indexes
  - Name, date of birth, place of birth, file number
    - Place of birth is typically a Texas county, but may be another state or country
- Print indexes are available at the Texas State Library and Archives and available to borrow through interlibrary loan
  - 5 sets of indexes printed between 1946-1975
    - Each set is identified by the sticker on the spine
Texas Marriage & Divorce Records

- Marriage records were only filed in the Office of the County Clerk prior to 1966
- Divorce records were only filed with the Office of District Clerk prior to 1968
- No statewide index available for marriages and divorces prior to these time periods
Texas Marriage & Divorce Records

- Marriage records are still only filed with the Office of County Clerk and divorce records are still only filed with the Office of District Clerk, but also now recorded at the state-level
  - County Clerk (marriages) and District Clerk (divorces) can provide copies of the original records, DSHS can provide a verification letter
- Statewide indexes are available for marriages (1966-2015) and divorces (1968-2015)
Texas Marriage & Divorce Indexes

Examples of Texas marriage and divorce indexes published on microfiche and digitally. You can locate the names of the spouses, county where the marriage or divorce occurred, date of marriage or divorce, and sometimes a file number. Divorce indexes also include date of marriage. The digital indexes for divorces may also provide information about the number of children under 18 from the marriage.
Other Resources for Texas Vital Statistics

The following slides include links and information for selected resources for Texas vital statistics as of February 2019. Resources include links and information for obtaining original copies of vital statistics records, indexes, and digitized versions of records and indexes online.

Please note that the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) strongly encourages researchers to evaluate source and accuracy of the information provided by 3rd parties such as Ancestry and FamilySearch. TSLAC staff are unable to determine if the information found using these resources represents the individual you are seeking.

For questions regarding the original records, please contact the appropriate government office. If you are unsure of the government office you need to contact, please contact us at 512-463-5455 or email ref@tsl.texas.gov.
Other Resources for Texas Vital Statistics

**Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC)**
- Texas Birth Indexes, 1903-2010 (*print and microfiche*)
- Texas Death Indexes, 1903-2010 (*print and microfiche*)
- Texas Delayed Birth Indexes, issued between 1946-1975 (*print and microfiche*)
- Texas Marriage Indexes, 1966-2015 (*print, microfiche, and digital*)
- Texas Divorce Indexes, 1968-2015 (*print, microfiche, and digital*)
- Select vital statistics on microfilm for the following Texas counties: Atascosa, Bandera, Bastrop, Bexar, Blanco, Caldwell, Comal, Frio, Galveston, Gillespie, Grayson, Guadalupe, Harris, Hays, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kinney, Llano, McMullen, Medina, Uvalde, and Wilson
  - Records from other counties may be available through other libraries. Please see our [website](#) for more information on the types of records and years available for each county.
- Access to Ancestry.com Library Edition

**Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Vital Statistics Unit**

To request copies and information, please visit their [website](#) for the following:
- Texas birth and death records, 1903-present
- Verification letters for Texas marriages, 1966-present
- Verification letters for Texas divorces, 1968-present
- Texas Marriage (1966-2015) and Divorce Indexes (1968-2015) are available to download on the DSHS [website](#)
**Other Resources for Texas Vital Statistics**

Ancestry.com (requires paid subscription)

The following collections include information about Texas vital statistics or digitized copies of vital statistics records. Please note that index collections only have basic information found on the records and may not include the actual record itself. To check the source of the information, please review the information under the “About” section for the specific collection.

- Texas, Select County Marriage Records, 1837-2015
- Texas, County Marriage Records, 1817-1965
- Texas, Select County Marriage Index, 1837-1965
- Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982
- Johnson County, Texas, Marriage Index, 1854-1872
- Texas, Birth Certificates, 1903-1932
- Collin County, Texas, Marriage Index, 1800-2010
- Web: Colorado County, Texas, Marriage Index, 1837-1886
- Web: El Paso County, Texas, Death Index, 1956-2010
- Texas, Marriage Index, 1824-2014
- Texas, Divorce Index, 1968-2014
- Texas, Birth Index, 1903-1997
- Texas, Death Index, 1903-2000
Other Resources for Texas Vital Statistics

FamilySearch.org (requires users to register for free account)
The following collections include information about Texas vital statistics or digitized copies of vital statistics records. Please note that index collections only have basic information found on the records and may not include the actual record itself. To check the source of the information, please review the information under the “Learn More” section on the collection’s main page.

- Texas Birth Index, 1903-1997
- Texas Births and Christenings, 1840-1981
- Texas Death Index, 1903-2000
- Texas Death Index, 1964-1998
- Texas Deaths and Burials, 1903-1973
- Texas Deaths, 1890-1976
- Texas Deaths, 1977-1986
- Texas Divorce Index, 1968-2010
- Texas, Cooke County, Birth Records 1873-1876
- Texas, County Marriage Index, 1837-1977
- Texas Marriages, 1837-1973
- Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1965
- Texas, Gonzales County, Birth Records, 1878-1945
- Texas, Gonzales County, Death records, 1863-1970
- Texas, Mills County Clerk Records, 1841-1985
- Texas, Swisher County Records, 1879-2012
Other Resources for Texas Vital Statistics

County and District Clerks’ Association of Texas
• Directory of County and District Clerks in Texas, includes contact information

Texas GenWeb Counties
• The Texas GenWeb project may also have information related to vital statistics for select counties
Questions? Contact Us!

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