

Birth Registration, Social Insurance Number and Canada Child Benefits application now easier for Nova Scotia parents with the Nova Scotia Bundled Birth Service

Questions and Answers

1. What is the New Bundled Birth Service?

The new Bundled Birth Service integrates applications for the Social Insurance Number and Canada Child Benefits into the Nova Scotia Birth Registration process. This new service makes life more convenient for parents by simplifying the process and eliminating the need to fill-out and file three separate forms in order to apply for key government services.

2. How does the Bundled Birth Service application work?

With this initiative, parents of newborns simply sign the Release of Information section on the new *Registration of Live Birth* form, providing their consent for Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations to send the child's birth registration information to Service Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency.

Each federal organization will process its own application.

Birth Registration

3. What is the Nova Scotia Birth Registration application process?

Every child born in Nova Scotia must be registered within 30 days of his or her date of birth. Birth registration forms are distributed in hospitals to all mothers who have just given birth.

4. Why do I need to register the birth of my child?

Your child needs to be registered in order to get a birth certificate. The birth certificate will be needed for many official documents such as a passport, health card, driver's licence and many others.

5. **Is birth registration the same as the birth certificate?**

No, birth registration is the process through which information regarding the birth of a child is recorded with the province.

A birth certificate is a document that provides evidence that a birth occurred. You may request for your child's birth certificate through our convenient on-line application service or you may visit our office at 1690 Hollis Street Halifax, Nova Scotia. Fees may be paid via credit card on line.

6. **I didn't complete the birth registration at the hospital. Can I complete the birth registration and request for birth certificate at the same time?**

A birth must be registered before a birth certificate can be issued. If a parent sent in the birth registration via mail and also sent in a completed application form and payment for a birth certificate, we would proceed to process the birth registration and then, once that's completed, we would process the application for the birth certificate.

7. **Why can't I also include the application for birth certificates in the new birth registration forms?**

At this time, it is not possible for us to integrate the application for birth certificate with the application for birth registration because hospitals are unable to accept payments on behalf of the Vital Statistics Office for birth certificate requests.

Social Insurance Number and Canada Child Benefits

8. **Why include the Social Insurance Number (SIN) and Canada Child Benefits application options on the Birth Registration form?**

The federal and provincial governments are committed to offer services to citizens how, when, and where they want them. This new bundled birth service offers a more streamlined and efficient way for Nova Scotians to access government services.

9. **Why should I apply right away for my child's Social Insurance Number?**

Applying for a Social Insurance Number for your baby allows you to open a Registered Education Savings Plan and apply for other benefits from the Government of Canada, such as the Canada Education Savings Grant and the Canada Learning Bond.

10. **Why should I apply for Canada Child Benefits?**

It is important to apply for Canada Child Benefits to determine if you qualify for the government's monthly payments to families and other benefits such as the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB), Nova Scotia Child Benefit (NSCB), to help with the cost of raising children under the age of 18.

11. **After submitting the form, when can I get my child's Social Insurance Number?**

Once the birth is fully registered with the Nova Scotia Vital Statistics Registry, your Social Insurance Number application will be processed immediately by Service Canada and the Social Insurance Number card mailed to you within 15 business days.

12. **When can I expect to hear back from the Canada Revenue Agency?**

Once your application has been received by the Canada Revenue Agency, it will be evaluated for eligibility for Child Tax Benefits and other provincial/federal child benefit programs. You may expect to receive your first notice/payment within 80 calendar days, which is Canada Revenue Agency's current service standard.

13. **When I apply through this form, does it mean that my child is automatically entitled to an allowance or tax credit from the government?**

This is only an application process. The Canada Revenue Agency will assess applications and determine eligibility for benefits.

14. **Where can I get these new Birth Registration forms?**

Birth registration forms are distributed in hospitals to all mothers who have just given birth.

You may also request an application form to be sent to you by calling the Vital Statistics Office at (902) 424-4381 or toll-free at 1-877-848-2578, or fax number (902)424-0678 or (902) 424-4143.

You may also visit our office at the Joseph Howe Building, 1690 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

15. **How do I submit the forms?**

Forms are collected by division registrars at hospitals. You may also choose to mail or bring the completed forms in person to the Vital Statistics Office.

16. How much do I pay for the registration forms?

There are no fees associated with this application.

17. Will my privacy and my child's privacy be respected?

Yes. Protecting the privacy of personal information is a key priority. Both the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada adhere to provincial and federal privacy acts. Electronic Information is encrypted and sent over a secure computer network, ensuring that your personal information is protected.