

# Nova Scotia's New Birth Certificate

## Why change the certificate?

It is common for legal documents, like money, to be upgraded periodically as technology and security features advance. The standard certificate in use is more than 20 years old. The Vital Statistics Council for Canada recognized the need to update the document design to offer the latest protection against counterfeiting and tampering.

## Is there a problem with my old birth certificate?

No, there is nothing wrong with your current birth certificate. It will continue to be a legal Nova Scotia birth certificate.

## Is my old birth certificate still valid?

Yes. It will continue to be a legal Nova Scotia birth certificate.

## What are the new features?

- The new birth certificate uses state-of-the-art security features to better protect your identity, making the certificate difficult to replicate or alter.
- It cannot be reproduced by hi-tech copiers and scanners.
- The certificate contains more than 20 security features – some that are easily seen, some that are only evident with the aid of tools, such as UV lights, and some that are only evident in a lab setting.
- It is no longer a paper-based document, but one made of a hi-tech polymer material, which is longer lasting and more durable than paper.
- This new standard is the most secure birth certificate in the world.

## Can I get one if I was born in another province?

No. You must apply for your birth certificate from the province in which you were born.

## Can I exchange my old certificate for a new one for free?

No. Old certificates will not be replaced free-of-charge. The same replacement fees apply to the new birth certificate.

## How much more will I have to pay for the new certificate?

The cost to order a replacement birth certificate has remained the same:

- \$29.70 for short-form (child information only)
- \$35.90 for long-form (child and parent information)

## Should I replace my old certificate with the new one that has enhanced security features?

There is no legal reason for you to replace your birth certificate. It is a legal Nova Scotia document and will continue to be recognized as such. However, you do have the option of exchanging your old birth certificate by paying the applicable replacement fee.

## Where can I get more information on the new birth certificate?

If you would like more information about the new birth certificate please call ...

1-877-848-2578 or visit our website at:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/vstat>

