



# Washington State Library

## Washington State Vital Records

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- **Prior to 1891, the recording of vital records in Washington was not mandatory. However, some counties and cities did record them.**
- **From 1891-1907, birth and death records were kept at the county level. In 1891, the state legislature made it the duty of all coroners, physicians, and midwives to report all births and deaths under their supervision.**
- **The mandatory recording of births and deaths on a state level began on July 1, 1907.**
- **From 1891 – 1967, marriage and divorce records were kept at the county level.**
- **The mandatory recording of marriage and divorces on a state level began on January 1, 1968.**

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## Birth Records

### **Before 1891**

- If any records exist, and have survived, they will be found with the 1891-1907 records.

### **1891 – 1907**

#### **Washington County Birth Registers**

Entries can include name of child, birth date, birthplace, race, parents' names & places of birth

- Originals kept by county health departments, county auditors, or given to Washington State Archives.
- Microfilmed copies at Washington State Library
- Ancestry.com (\$) has copies of the birth registers on their site.

### **July 1, 1907 – present**

- Birth certificates are held by the Washington Department of Health

#### **Washington Birth Index**

Indexed by father's name, not by child's name. Entry will include father's name, mother's name, including her maiden name, child's name (sometimes), their gender, race, birth date, county of birth, & birth certificate number.

- Washington State Library - 1907 – 1929 (microfilm)
- Ancestry.com (\$) - 1907-1919
- Vitalsearch-worldwide.com (\$) – 1920-1954

Washington Digital Archives has a variety of Washington birth records on their site. They are constantly putting new records on their site, so keep checking back.

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## Death Records

### **Before 1891**

- If any records exist, and have survived, they will be found with the 1891-1907 records.

### **1891 – 1907**

#### **Washington County Death Registers**

Entries can include name, date, location and cause of death, place of birth, parent's names & places of birth

- Originals kept by county auditors, or given to Washington State Archives.
- Microfilmed copies at Washington State Library
- Ancestry.com (\$) has copies of death registers for some counties on their site

### **July 1, 1907 – present**

- Death certificates are held by the Washington Department of Health

#### **Washington Death Index**

Most entries will include name, date of death, gender, location of death (usually county, but sometimes it can be the city), age at death, and death certificate number. Some entries will also include location of residence.

- Washington State Library – 1907–2004 (on microfiche and microfilm)
- Ancestry.com (\$) – 1940–1954, 1965–1996
- Vitalsearch-Worldwide.com (\$) – 1907–1939, 1960–1975

## **Death Records**

### **Washington Death Certificate Collection July 1, 1907-1960**

**Collection includes partial transcriptions of Washington Death Certificates from July 1, 1907-1960.**

**Most entries provide the decedent's name, age, name of their spouse & parents (including mother's & wives maiden names), date and place of death.**

**Images of actual certificates are not available at this time.**

- **Family Search Labs web site – allows searching by parents & spouses names**
- **Washington Digital Archives – can only search by name of decedent**

## Marriage Records

**There are several resources that will have marriage records for both before and after 1968.**

- **Local Genealogical Societies will often compile and publish marriage (and other vital) records for their area. Sometimes this information will be on their web sites.**
- **Washington Digital Archives has marriage certificates, returns & applications for the following counties. Some images of the originals are available, and they are always putting up new records, so these dates will change:**
  - **Adams County, 1884-2003**
  - **Asotin County, 1900-2003**
  - **Benton County, 1905-1949**
  - **Chelan County, 1900-2007**
  - **Clark County, 1899-1977**
  - **Columbia County, 1882-2002**
  - **Ferry County, 1900-1999**
  - **Franklin County, 1890-2003**
  - **Garfield County, 1882-1990**
  - **Grant County, 1909-2002**
  - **Grays Harbor County, 1968-2005**
  - **Island County, 1855-1986**
  - **Jefferson County, 1975-2007**
  - **Kitsap County, 1860-1990**
  - **Kittitas County, 1882-1998**
  - **Klickitat County, 1867-1997**
  - **Lincoln County, 1899-2003**
  - **Mason County, 1977-2006**
  - **Pacific County, 1996-2008**
  - **Pend Oreille County, 1911-1947**
  - **Pierce County, 1985-2007**
  - **Skagit County, 1884-2000**
  - **Skamania County, 1876-1896**
  - **Snohomish County, 1905-2007**
  - **Spokane County, 1880-1974**
  - **Stevens County, 1880-1947**
  - **Thurston County, 1970-2005**
  - **Walla Walla County, 1865-1986**
  - **Whatcom County, 1899-1995**
  - **Whitman County, 1872-2002**
  - **Yakima County, 1877-2000**

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## Marriage Records

### Before 1968

- Whatever records exist, and have survived, will be at the county auditors, or will have been given to Washington State Archives.
- Ancestry.com (\$) has a Washington State Marriage Index for the following counties:
  - Adams County, 1880-1892
  - Asotin County, 1891-1902
  - Clallam County, 1876-1887
  - Columbia County, 1876-1878
  - Cowlitz County, 1866-1900
  - Douglas County, 1877-1900
  - Ferry County, 1899-1900
  - Franklin County, 1892-1900
  - Garfield County, 1892-1895
  - Grays Harbor County, 1876-1883
  - Island County, 1876-1887
  - King County, 1866-1883
  - Klickitat County, 1876-1881
  - Lewis County, 1876-1893
  - Lincoln County, 1884-1886
  - Mason County, 1876-1890
  - Okanogan County, 1888-1894
  - Pacific County, 1876-1885
  - San Juan County, 1876-1888
  - Skagit County, 1884-1888
  - Skamania County, 1876-1896
  - Snohomish County, 1864-1900
  - Spokane County, 1880-1882
  - Stevens County, 1876-1884
  - Wahkiakum County, 1876-1890
  - Whatcom County, 1870-1879
  - Whitman County, 1876-1887
  - Yakima County, 1876-1882

### 1968 – present

- Marriage certificates are held by the Washington Department of Health

### Washington Marriage Index

There is a bride's index & a groom's index.

Entries may include: name, spouse's name, marriage date and place, and certificate number.

- Washington State Library – 1968-2004 (microfiche)

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## Divorce Records

### **Before 1968**

- **Whatever records exist, and have survived, will be at the county clerk's office, or will have been given to Washington State Archives.**

### **1968 – present**

- **Divorce certificates are held by the Washington Department of Health**

### **Washington Divorce Index**

**There is an index for husbands and one for wives.**

**Entries may include: name, spouse's name, date of the divorce decree, county where the decree was issued, the certificate number, and an indication of which party was the plaintiff.**

- **Washington State Library – 1968-2004 (microfiche)**

#### **\*King County**

- **They have a county archives.**
- **Vital records, vital records indexes & many other records.**
- **Open by appointment only.**

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**Ancestry (personal subscription) – [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)**

**AncestryLibrary (library edition) – [www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com)**

**Family Search Labs - <http://search.labs.familysearch.org>**

**King County Archives – <http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/archives/>**

**Social Security Death Index - <http://ssdi.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>**

**Vitalsearch-Worldwide - [www.vitalsearch-worldwide.com/](http://www.vitalsearch-worldwide.com/)**

## WASHINGTON

**County Auditors - [www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/CHS\\_Aud.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/CHS_Aud.pdf)**

**County Clerks - [www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/CHS\\_Clk.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/CHS_Clk.pdf)**

**County Health Departments - [www.doh.wa.gov/LHJMap/LHJMAP.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/LHJMap/LHJMAP.htm)**

**County Registers 1891 – 1907 [www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/birthdeath.aspx](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/birthdeath.aspx)**

**Department of Health - [www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/cert.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/cert.htm)**

**Digital Archives - [www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/default.aspx](http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/default.aspx)**

**Domestic Partnerships - [www.secstate.wa.gov/corps/domesticpartnerships/](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/corps/domesticpartnerships/)**

**Genealogical Societies - [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasgs/wsgssocs.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasgs/wsgssocs.htm)**

**State Archives - [www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/)**

**State Library - [www.secstate.wa.gov/library/](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/)**

**State Library–Obituary request-[www.secstate.wa.gov/library/ask\\_form.aspx](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/ask_form.aspx)**