

FILE IN FIVE

The Importance of Filing Live Births & Fetal Deaths in Five Days



1

Michigan Law

A record of birth must be filed at the office of the local registrar not more than 5 days after birth. A fetal death is reported directly to the state registrar within 5 days of delivery. MCL 333.2821(2); MCL 333.2834(1)

2

Establish Identity / Paternity

Birth certificates are a permanent legal record and the first document to establish the identity of an individual. Timely filing of the birth certificate allows babies to get their SSN, have paternity established and birth certificates are necessary for a variety of other purposes, including tax returns, insurance enrollment, and travel.

3

Research Data

The birth and fetal death reports provide valuable health and research data, essential to planning and evaluating prenatal care services and obstetrical programs. When used in conjunction with data on neonatal deaths, a composite picture of perinatal outcomes can be created.

4

Vital Statistics

Annual vital statistics are compiled on the number and rate of births, by characteristics such as mother's residence and pre-natal care. Composite data is used to assist with assigning public resources such as determination of school funding for teacher and facility development and public assistance.

5

Public Health

Data recipients such as Child Protective Services, Medicaid, Immunization, and Newborn Screening are notified daily of new births for early-on newborn care. The ability to quickly identify and provide early intervention for newborns is vital to their success. Additionally, the information can identify trends and indicators of health to assist in policy development.