

Replacement Birth, Marriage or Change of Name Certificates Arrangements for bushfire affected areas

A priority service has been set up for access to Birth, Marriage and Change of Name Certificates for communities affected by the Victoria bushfires.

As part of Government's assistance to persons that have suffered loss as a result of the bushfires, the Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages nationally and in New Zealand will provide replacement certificates free of charge.

FAQs

How do I get a replacement certificate?

You can apply for a free replacement certificate issued by any Australian State or Territory or by New Zealand by completing a 'Bushfires February 2009 Application for a replacement Birth, Marriage and Change of Name Certificate' form.

The form can be found at www.bdm.vic.gov.au or call 1300 369 367 for a copy.

The form can be lodged:

- By mail: GPO Box 4332 Melbourne 3001, or
- By fax: 9613 5877 or
- In person: Ground floor, 595 Collins Street, Melbourne.

You may call **1300 369 367** for more assistance or visit www.bdm.vic.gov.au. The form will also be available at Emergency Recovery Centres, VicRoads Customer Service Centres and police stations.

Note: Free replacement certificates are restricted to documents for yourself and your immediate family.

How do I get a death certificate for a relative who died as a result of the fires?

A death certificate will be issued to the family free of charge following registration of the death. All funeral directors have been advised that the cost of the death certificate must not be passed on to the family.

Can I visit the Registry's Customer Service Centre to get a replacement certificate?

Yes. You can get a free replacement certificate by visiting our Customer Service Centre. If you have any identification documents such as a Driver licence, a Medicare card or a letter from Centrelink please bring them with you.

If I don't get a certificate now will I be able to get one in the future free of charge?

Yes. The Registry encourages you to store your certificates and other identification documents in a secure location. This may not be possible currently and if you prefer you can elect not to receive it immediately and obtain it in the future for free.

I don't have any identity documents, what can I do?

You can still apply for a free certificate. Call the Registry on 1300 367 369 or to www.bdm.vic.gov.au to download the application form.

Note: If you have lost your driver licence card as a result of the bushfires, VicRoads will replace it for you free of charge. You can call VicRoads on 131171.

Can a relative or friend apply for my certificate?

Yes. Give the person written permission to apply on your behalf. Please include your contact details with your permission.

If I was born or married in New Zealand can I get a replacement certificate?

Yes. Please complete the 'Bushfires February 2009 Application for a replacement Birth, Marriage or Change of Name Certificate' form. The Victorian Registry will arrange for a replacement certificate with registries from interstate and New Zealand.