

## Fact Sheet:

## Record of Birth Outside of Commonwealth

*Establishing a Massachusetts Birth Record for a Child Born Abroad  
and Adopted by Massachusetts Residents [M.G.L. c. 46, §1B, c. 210 §6A]*

Registry of Vital Records and Statistics  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health



<p><b>Basis</b></p>	<p>Adoptive parents of a foreign-born child may request that a Record of Birth Outside of Commonwealth (OOC) be prepared by their Massachusetts City or Town of residence. The creation of this record is not mandatory. For most legal and identity purposes, such as for obtaining a passport, parents will still need to present a court-certified adoption decree and/or foreign birth certificate.</p> <p>The Record of Birth Outside of Commonwealth does not replace or amend a child's original birth certificate. Parents should also seek to have the child's <i>original</i> birth certificate amended, in the child's country of birth, to reflect information that has changed after adoption. The OOC record creates an English-language document that resembles a Massachusetts birth certificate, but is clearly marked "Record of Birth Outside of the Commonwealth." This record is kept on file in the parents' residence community and at the state Registry of Vital Records and Statistics.</p> <p>The OOC record combines the child's original fact of birth information (including the child's country of birth and date of birth), with the newly decreed name of the child and the adoptive parents. Certified copies of the Outside of Commonwealth record may be useful and accepted by some agencies, schools and programs for limited purposes.</p>
<p><b>Requirements</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Proof of Massachusetts residency.</i> The adoptive parents must be residents of Massachusetts at the time of adoption. Evidence of residency is typically obtained from the City/Town street listing, voter registration or census for the year of adoption.</li> <li>2. <i>-Certificate of Adoption (Form R-891).</i> If the adoption occurred in Massachusetts, parents must obtain form R-891 ("Certificate of Adoption") from the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court in which the adoption was finalized. The City/Town will keep the form R-891 on file; <b>or</b> <i>-Out of country adoption decree and notarized translation.</i> If the adoption occurred abroad, parents must present a certified copy of the adoption decree and obtain a notarized translation (if not in English). An attested copy of the adoption decree will be made by the City/Town to be kept on file, but the original will be returned to the parents. The original notarized translation (if applicable) will be kept on file.</li> <li>3. <i>Certified copy of the original birth certificate and notarized translation.</i> If a copy of the original birth certificate is not obtainable, U.S. immigration/naturalization or citizenship documents or passport may be used. An attested copy of the original birth certificate (or alternate) documents will be made by the City/Town, and the originals will be returned to the parents. The original notarized translation (if applicable) will be kept on file.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Where to File</b></p>	<p>The Record of Birth Outside of Commonwealth is prepared by the City or Town Clerk's Office, or Boston Registrar, of the municipality in which the parents lived at the time of adoption. Fees vary. Contact information for cities and towns can be found at this web link: <a href="http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cistel/telidx.htm">http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cistel/telidx.htm</a></p>
<p><b>For more information</b></p>	<p>Please contact your city or town of residence, or the state Registry of Vital Records and Statistics at (617) 740-2600, or by email: <a href="mailto:vital.regulation@state.ma.us">vital.regulation@state.ma.us</a></p> <p>For information about obtaining adoption certificates and decrees, contact the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court where the adoption took place. <a href="http://www.mass.gov/courts/">http://www.mass.gov/courts/</a>.</p>