

# Guide to Birth Indexes

Birth registrations for births that occurred more than 120 years ago since date of birth or for individuals who passed away more than 50 years ago from their date of death are available at the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

[Go to birth indexes](#)

## Locating and requesting a Birth Registration

Registration records are not available in the Sandra Thomson's Reading Room or online. You will need to search for a **registration number** in order to request a record through our online payment system.

1. Using a [birth index](#), select the first letter of the surname.
2. Scroll through the index to find the year the person was born to locate their name and registration number.
3. Request and pay for your Vital Statistics record by completing a [Vital Statistics Request](#)

If you are looking for a record that is less than 120 years or if the person has been deceased for less than 50 years, contact a registry agent.

## Vital statistic birth indexes and use

Vital statistic indexes are yearly summaries of vital events that contain basic information such as name, location, year, and registration number. The indexes are used to locate registrations.

Birth indexes are organized alphabetically by surname and then by year. Include the name, place of birth, registration number and year of event in your request for a record.

Index example:

BIR			
1. NAME	2. PLACE OF BIRTH	3. NO.	4. YEAR
ANASSE, Peter	Calgary	001001	1877

1. Name
2. Place of Birth
3. Registration Number
4. Year

In the above example, **Peter Anasse** was born in **Calgary** in **1877** and his birth registration is **001001**.

## Birth indexes not available on website

Birth records are available 120 years from the date of the event. Indexes are not made available until all events from a year can be accessed. To request a record from this year, please contact the Reading Room archivist.

## Finding a birth record for a person who were born less than 120 years ago but died more than 50 years ago

Please contact the Archivist for more information. Proof of death needs to be provided.

## Unable to locate a birth record

If the record is not found in the indexes, it may not have been registered with the Government of Alberta.

If baptism was performed by a faith organization, they might have a record of the event. The Provincial Archives has registers for some faith organization, [Faith Organizations | Provincial Archives of Alberta](#). Roman Catholic sacramental records are not found at the Provincial Archives. For Indigenous communities, however, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) kept an index of [baptisms, marriages and burials](#) that occurred in their churches (see the [OMI fonds](#) for more information).