

Important Information for DHS Applicants Who Were Born in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico to Cancel Birth Certificates Issued Before July 1, 2010
starting October 30, 2010

We have important news if you were born in Puerto Rico and are applying for services at the Rhode Island Department of Human Services after October 30, 2010. We want to assist you in meeting our requirements that all applicants prove their identity and, in some cases, prove U.S. citizenship.

There's a new law in Puerto Rico that cancels existing birth certificates.

A change in the new law means that all Puerto Rico-issued birth certificates dated before July 1, 2010, will be cancelled as of October 30, 2010.

Many people who apply for services at DHS use their birth certificate as a way to prove identity and citizenship for themselves and their children.

DHS will accept other documents besides a birth certificate to prove identity and U.S. citizenship.

The new birth certificates will only need to be provided by applicants whose eligibility is being determined for the first time on or after November 1, 2010, see which documents can be used to apply for DHS services.

See [Citizenship and Identity Verification Documents](#) for DHS programs.

For more information on the law and instructions on how to apply, see [Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration](#).

Para mas informacion en Espanol, vea www.prfaa.com/certificadosdenacimiento/

[NOTE: This document was downloaded from <http://www.dhs.ri.gov/DefaultPermissions/WhatsNew/tabid/153/Default.aspx> on October 12, 2010. With DHS permission, all dates that were previously September 30, 2010 were updated to October 30, 2010 and a previous date of October 1, 2010 was updated to November 1, 2010 due to extension by Puerto Rican government.]

Puerto Rico's New Birth Certificate Law (Law 191 of 2009 – As Amended)

The Government of Puerto Rico has enacted a new law (Law 191 of 2009 as Amended) aimed at strengthening the issuance and usage of birth certificates to combat fraud and protect the identity and credit of all people born in Puerto Rico.

The new law was based on collaborations with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to address the fraudulent use of Puerto Rico-issued birth certificates to unlawfully obtain U.S. passports, Social Security benefits, and other federal services, and to commit other types of identity theft and fraud.

The new law calls for issuing new, security-enhanced certificates beginning July 1, 2010.

Important update: The Government of Puerto Rico has extended the validity of expiring Puerto Rico birth certificates through Oct. 30, 2010, to provide a transition period as the Island continues issuing the new, more secure certificates that became available July 1, 2010. [Click here to read the latest news release on the extension.](#)

The purpose of the extension is to provide those Puerto Rico-born -- who may need a birth certificate for an upcoming transaction -- a window to apply for and receive the new document during which time their current birth certificate will still be valid.

The Government of Puerto Rico has taken a number of steps to be ready for those applying for the new certificates.

In July, the Government of Puerto Rico partnered with document provider VitalChek to provide an expedited method for ordering the new certificates. The new birth certificates can be ordered **on line** at www.vitalchek.com or **by phone** through VitalChek's 24/7 bilingual call center at [\(866\) 842-6765](tel:8668426765). An express processing fee and shipping costs apply for this service.

In addition, the Government launched an on-line application process through the E-Government website – www.pr.gov – to provide convenience and ease-of-use for those applying for the new certificate.

Those Puerto Rican-born living in the states are also able to request their new birth certificates through a simple process [by mail](#).

It is important to understand that there is no need to rush out and get a new birth certificate on July 1. It is suggested that only people who have a specific need for their birth certificate for official purposes need request a new birth certificate right away.

... see website <http://www.prfaa.com/birthcertificates/> for more links...

Note regarding U.S. Passports: Those individuals who [currently](#) have a U.S. passport will not be affected. For those applying for a passport **for the first time**, go to the U.S. State Department website at www.travel.state.gov for application details.

[NOTE: This document was downloaded from <http://www.prfaa.com/birthcertificates/> on October 12, 2010.]