

Bureau of Vital Records

Bulletin

This bulletin is issued by the Arizona Department of Health Services Bureau of Vital Records as part of a continuing effort to improve the quality, completeness, and accuracy of data submitted to the State's Vital Records Systems.

Definition Clarification

Birth

A.R.S. § 36-301 Definitions

3. **“Birth” or “live birth”** means the complete expulsion or extraction of a product of human conception from its mother, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, that shows evidence of life, with or without a cut umbilical cord or an attached placenta, such as breathing, heartbeat, umbilical cord pulsation or definite voluntary muscle movement after expulsion or extraction of the product of human conception.

When is the Certificate of Live Birth Worksheet used?

Answer: According to the definition of a live birth referenced above, if the child was born alive, The Certificate of Live Birth Worksheet should be used.

For any questions regarding birth registration review applicable policy or email: EBRS@azdhs.gov

Death

“The irreversible cessation of all vital functions especially as indicated by permanent stoppage of the heart, respiration, and brain activity: the end of life.” (*Euthanasia.procon.org*, 2018)

**Not defined in Arizona Revised Statutes or Arizona Administrative Code.*

When is the Death Registration Worksheet used?

Answer: The Death Registration Worksheet is used by the Informant, Funeral Home, County, or any other partner to ensure the correct demographic information is collected on the Decedent.

The Death Registration Worksheet is used for all deaths that occur in the State of Arizona.

Fetal Death

A.R.S. § 36-301 Definitions

14. "Fetal death" means the cessation of life before the complete expulsion or extraction of a product of human conception from its mother that is evidenced by the absence of breathing, heartbeat, umbilical cord pulsation or definite voluntary muscle movement after expulsion or Extraction.

When is the Report of Fetal Death Worksheet used?

Answer: *The Fetal Death Worksheet is used if more than **20 weeks completed gestation OR if remains weigh more than 350 grams.***

A Fetal Death Worksheet will not be completed in the following scenarios: 1) a single fetus that does not meet the fetal death requirements in Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) § 36-329 and, 2) A multiple delivery where the fetus expires in utero and does not meet the fetal death requirements in A.R.S. §36-329. A hospital, abortion clinic, physician or midwife shall determine the gestational period of the fetus to determine if a fetal death certificate shall be created.

For any questions regarding death/fetal death registration review applicable policy or email:
BVRsupport@azdhs.gov