**5.8 Birth Certificates in the UK**

All births in England, Wales and Northern Ireland must be registered within 42 days of the child being born.

You should do this at the [local register office](https://www.gov.uk/register-offices) for the area where the baby was born or at the hospital before the mother leaves. The hospital will tell you if you can register the birth there.

If you can’t register the birth in the area where the baby was born, you can go to another register office and they will send your details to the correct office.

When registering the birth, you should know:

* place and date of the birth
* name, surname and sex of the baby
* parents’ names, surnames and address
* places and dates of parents’ birth
* date of parents’ marriage or civil partnership
* parents’ jobs /occupations
* mother’s maiden surname

You might not need to give all of this information, depending on who is registering the birth.

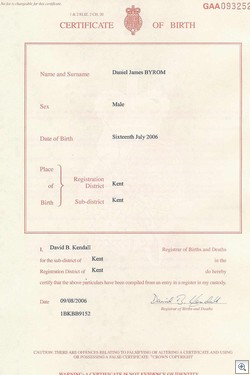
* You should take at least one form of identification when you go to the register office. E.g. your passport, your birth certificate or your driving licence.
* You should also take your child’s personal child health record or ‘red book’ as some registrars may ask to see it.
* If you’re going to the register office on your own, you may need proof of paternity from the other parent before you give their details.

# *What is the difference between a short and long certificate?*

A short birth certificate only gives the child’s full name, sex, date and place of birth.

It does not give the name and details of the mother, or father.

Short



Long

