

## Frequently asked questions?

Detailed information on the **Civil Records** can be found [here](#) including years covered and future update information.

Detailed information on the **Church Records** can be found [here](#)

### What Civil Records are Online?

- **Indexes to the Register entry:**

The indexes to Births over 100 years old, the indexes to Marriages over 75 years old and the indexes to Deaths over 50 years old. The Indexes to the Civil Records of Irish Births, Deaths and Marriages date from 1864 with non-Roman Catholic Marriages recorded from 1845.

- **Full Register entry:**

Register images are available for births 1864 to 1923, for marriages from 1845 to 1948 and death records from 1871\* to 1973.

\* The General Register Office are currently working on updating further records of Deaths dating back to 1864. These will be included in a future update to the records available on the website.

### **I know that a Birth/Death/Marriage was registered but I cannot find it in that year. Why is this so?**

Sometimes the Birth/Death/Marriage was recorded in the following year, especially when the date of event was towards the end of the year, so the subsequent year should also be checked.

### **I have found the index entry for the record I am searching for, but there is no image displayed. Why is this so?**

1. Currently the image is not available for deaths registered before 1871.
2. Other than these years there are small numbers of cases where the register page image is not available because the record was registered or amended in a later year, or because there are quality issues with the original image. Photocopies or official certificates can be obtained via the following link <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/civil-records/help/i-want-to-get-a-copy-of-a-certificate-what-do-i-do>

### **I want to get an Official certificate or a copy of a certificate, what do I do**

Full information in relation to this can be found [here](#).

**If I think the register entry or index information has a transcription error will it be changed if I report the issue?**

The register entry or index information will be corrected only if there is an inaccuracy in the transcription from the original entry. If there is an error in the original entry then a correction of error can be considered at the request of persons having an interest, (as provided for in Section 63 of the Civil Registration Act, 2004), on the provision of relevant proof. An example of this is where the surname is spelt Bourke by the family but the surname is Burke on the original registration.

**I have reported an error. When will this be corrected on the site?**

Cases reported before December 2023 have been examined and corrected on the site where there was an error. The General Register Office continues to work on any feedback submitted since that date and will provide further updates of the data in due course.

**When will the civil records available on-line be refreshed?**

The data will be refreshed once every calendar year and the refresh will include an additional year's records relating to each event and any changes made to the records since the previous refresh.

**Can you explain the locations used in the Civil Records.**

Ireland's civil registration system was introduced in April 1845 but was initially restricted to non-Catholic church weddings and civil weddings held in register offices. Only in January 1864 did it become obligatory to register all births, marriages and deaths with the local authorities. Registrations were collated according to Superintendent Register Districts, now known as local registration districts, by county\*.

\*Sometimes Districts included parts of a neighbouring county

A map of these districts can be viewed [here](#)

A listing to accompany the map can be viewed [here](#)

**What do the notes on the side of the civil register entries mean?**

Margin notes contain information relating to that entry and should always be read in conjunction with the entry. The notes normally refer to (i) an amendment (certified copy) and this amendment will be attached as another image, or (ii) a correction on the register page (no additional image), or (iii) a re-registration which indicates where the new registration entry can be located.

**Do we provide a research service?**

We are unable to offer a family history research service. If you wish to commission someone to carry out research on your behalf, the National Library of Ireland maintain a list of researchers - private individuals and organisations - who have indicated a willingness to carry out family history and other research on a professional, fee-paying basis. The listing can be found [here](#).

**I am interested in applying for Citizenship/a Passport based on my Irish Ancestry**

The Department of Foreign Affairs is responsible for dealing with matters relating to Citizenship by descent and Passport applications. They have a very helpful website with plenty of guidance available, see [here](#) for more information.