



- Administration
- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio Investigative Unit
- Ohio State Highway Patrol

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Update: Puerto Rico Birth Certificate Validation Extension September 24, 2010

To obtain an Ohio driver license or state identification card, customers must be able to prove the following five items to a Deputy Registrar:

- Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Number (if ever assigned), Proof of Ohio residency, and Proof of legal presence or citizenship. Examples of documents that prove each of these five items can be found at: http://bmv.ohio.gov/acceptable_id_documents.stm.
- A Birth Certificate is the most commonly used document to verify Name and Date of Birth as well as Legal Presence. In most cases, Ohio accepts either an original or certified copy of a birth certificate with a seal, issued by an appropriate government agency that also contains gender.
- Additional documentation may be required if the documentation provided is questionable or does not adequately verify one of the required items. On a case-by-case basis, the BMV is willing to review other documents that are not on the acceptable documents list to prove one or more of the five required items. These cases are reviewed on an individual basis with the Special Assistance Team and License Control Office in Columbus.

As a result of a law passed by Puerto Rico in December 2009, documenting the fraudulent use of Puerto Rican birth certificates, and cases of this type of criminal behavior occurring in Ohio in attempts to obtain Ohio driver licenses and state identification cards, Ohio requires additional documentation to prove identity when using a Puerto Rico-issued birth certificate certified before Jan. 1, 2010. Puerto Rico birth certificates certified between Jan. 1, 2010 and June 30, 2010 are still valid for use in applying for a driver license or state identification card.

In line with Puerto Rico's law, it was previously stated that on September 30, 2010, all birth certificates issued prior to July 1, 2010 date by the Puerto Rico Health Department, through its Vital Statistics Record Office, would be invalidated by the government of Puerto Rico.

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

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However, Puerto Rico Governor Luis Fortuño signed into law an extension of validity for current Puerto Rican birth certificates for **another 30 days**. In light of this extension, the Ohio BMV will continue to accept certified copies of Puerto Rico birth certificates issued on or after January 1, 2010. There will be no changes made to the current BMV policy and procedures at this time. **Beginning on October 31, 2010 the BMV will only accept certified copies of Puerto Rico birth certificates issued on or after July 1, 2010.**

The Ohio Department of Public Safety and Bureau of Motor Vehicles strongly recommend that Ohio residents who have a specific need for their birth certificate related to the usage of this document for official purposes (such as passport, driver license or state identification card application) request a new birth certificate immediately, if they have not done so already.

To do this, customers may visit the Government of Puerto Rico's Web site at www.pr.gov for more information and use its online application process to apply for a newly certified Puerto Rican birth certificate.

As October 30 approaches, the BMV will keep you informed of any changes in law that may affect these dates.

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For more information, please contact the BMV at (614) 752-7600.