

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE

**Birth certificates last forever. Please be certain the information on the certificate is accurate and complete *before* you sign them.**

- A birth certificate is a legal document.
- An amendment form is required to make corrections to the birth certificate.
- The birth certificate will become a two-page document if an amendment is requested after the original has been processed.
- Many changes on the birth certificate require the applicant to go to court for a court order, including reversing the order of last names (surnames).
- Parents may have problems receiving benefits, traveling on an airline, obtaining a passport or social security number for their child if the birth certificate is not true and correct.
- It can take several months to apply an amendment. The processing time for amendments can be located on our website at:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/Pages/ProcessingTimes.aspx>

### **Common mistakes that require amendments or court orders:**

- Misspelled first, last and middle names of child and/or parents
- Incorrect state, country and/or birth date of parent(s)
- Reversed order of last (family) names
- Adding extra names to parent(s) or child later
- Incorrect gender (sex) of child
- Incorrect birth date

Errors on birth certificates  
cannot be corrected on the original certificate.

The **original** birth certificate **does not** change, but an amendment is attached to create a **two-page** document.

- ✓ Parents please review the information on the birth certificate carefully before you sign it.
- ✓ Your signature confirms that you have reviewed the information and that the facts are correct.

***Amendment forms may be obtained at local health departments or county recorder's offices.***