



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 157 [2015 Assembly Bill 633]	Copies of Certain Vital Records
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2015 Wisconsin Act 157 (“the Act”) relates to copies of certain vital records.

STATEWIDE AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN VITAL RECORDS

Prior law required a person requesting certain vital records to make the request to the registrar who is responsible for filing or registering the vital record.

The Act requires the state registrar and any local registrar to issue certified copies of certain vital records regarding birth, marriage, divorce, domestic partnership, termination of domestic partnership, or death, if the vital record is available for statewide issuance in the state registrar’s electronic system for vital record issuance and an individual requests a certified copy of the record.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO CERTAIN VITAL RECORDS

Also, under **prior law**, retained by the Act, and subject to exceptions, public indexes of certificates of birth, death, divorce or annulment, or marriage documents generally must be accessed for inspection at the office of the state registrar or a local registrar and cannot be copied or reproduced. However, indexes of certificates of death, divorce, or annulment may be copied or reproduced for the public 24 months after the year in which the event occurred.

The Act adds marriage, domestic partnership, and termination of domestic partnership certificates to the list of records that generally must be accessed for inspection at the offices of the state registrar or a local registrar and that cannot be copied or reproduced. The Act also adds marriage, domestic partnership, and termination of domestic partnership records to the list of records that may be copied or reproduced for the public 24 months after the year in which the event occurred.

Effective date: March 2, 2016

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.