



County Technical Assistance Service

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Vital Records

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS electronic library known as e-Li. This online library is maintained daily by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other e-Li material.

Sincerely,

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Vital Records

Reference Number: CTAS-1172

To protect the integrity of vital records and to insure their proper use and the proper administration of those records, the General Assembly made it unlawful for a custodian of these records to permit inspection of, or to disclose information contained in vital records, or to copy or issue a copy of all or part of any such records except in strict accordance with procedures found in the law or in accordance with a court order.^[1] But the law goes on to state that an application for a marriage license and the authenticating documentation for the events of birth, death, marriage, divorce or annulment of a marriage, in the possession of a county clerk, court clerk, state registrar, or other authorized custodian are public records and that verified information from such documents may be provided upon request. However, the information contained in the "Information for Medical and Health Use Only" section of a birth certificate and the "Confidential Information" section of marriage, divorce, or annulment certificates remains confidential.^[2]

^[1] T.C.A. § 68-3-205.

^[2] T.C.A. § 68-3-205(d).

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