



## Civil Registration Information

From 1 July 1837, all births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales had to be reported to a local registrar. Registrars still keep the record of registration so if you know the date and place of the event, you can apply to the local Register Office for a copy certificate. If you do not know which registration district the event was registered in there is a national index of events that can be consulted. This is known as the General Register Office, or GRO, Index, which is divided into births, marriages and deaths, is arranged alphabetically for each quarter of the year. This index, gives the name of the individual, the quarter of the year in which the event took place and the registration district it is recorded in. The index for the 20<sup>th</sup> century gives additional information such as mother's maiden name in the birth index, spouses surname in the marriage index and age at death. Each entry also has a reference number, but the local registrar does not need this reference in order to be able to find the certificate you require.

An ongoing project is underway to transcribe the Civil Registration Index for births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales. The results can be viewed and searched at [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)

Indexes are also available online via [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com) (which is available to view for free in our searchrooms as well at all Northumberland Libraries) and at the City Library in Newcastle. A microfiche index is available at Morpeth Library.

**Certified copies of certificates for an event registered in Northumberland since 1837 can now be purchased online from**

**<http://registrar.northumberland.gov.uk/certificates>**

**or by telephoning 0845 600 6400**

For events registered in Newcastle upon Tyne, certificates can be ordered online from <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/your-council/register-office/historical-searches> or by telephoning  
0191 211 5091

Certificates are also available for the whole of England and Wales via the General Register Office via their website [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)

Northumberland Archives is committed to providing a quality service to all its users and therefore this information is also available in Large Print and via the Internet. The Internet address is

[www.northumberlandarchives.com](http://www.northumberlandarchives.com)

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Reviewed October 2018

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