

GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

- ♦ **Ancestry Library Edition** – Genealogical collection including immigration, church, court, death, birth and census records. Available on SFPL computers for free. Also at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)
- ♦ **FamilySearch** – Digitized county records, including San Francisco and other California counties. [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)
- ♦ **Heritage Quest** – Includes U.S. federal census records and full text family history books. Available on SFPL computers. Access from outside the library requires SFPL library card. [sfpl.org](https://www.familysearch.org)
- ♦ **San Francisco Chronicle Historical Database** – Searchable full text newspaper, 1865-1922. Access from outside the library requires SFPL library card. [sfpl.org](https://www.familysearch.org)
- ♦ **Library of Congress Chronicling America** – Searchable full text newspapers 1836-1922, including the Morning Call (1890-1895) and the San Francisco Call (1895-1913). [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](https://www.familysearch.org)
- ♦ **California Digital Newspaper Collection** – Searchable full text newspapers 1846-present, including San Francisco Call (1890-1913) and the Daily Alta California (1849-1891). [cdnc.ucr.edu](https://www.familysearch.org)
- ♦ **San Francisco County Genealogy:** [sfgenealogy.com/sf](https://www.familysearch.org)
- ♦ **California Death Index (1905-1997):** 1905-1939 available at SFPL on microfilm, Ancestry, & FamilySearch; 1940-1997 available at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1932433>
and <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/2015582>
- ♦ **California State Library Genealogy Resources:** <https://www.library.ca.gov/collections/genealogy/>

San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society: <https://www.jewishgen.org/>

- ♦ **California Genealogical Society** – State organization that includes a library for research and referrals to researchers for hire. [californiaancestors.org](https://www.familysearch.org)
- ♦ **Board for Certification of Genealogists** – National organization that provides referrals to researchers for hire: [bcgcertification.org](https://www.familysearch.org)
- ♦ **San Francisco City Directories online (1850-1982):** [sfpl.org/citydirectories](https://www.familysearch.org)
- ♦ **SFPL Magazines & Newspapers Center** – Microfilm copies of *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Examiner* and other local newspapers containing marriage, birth and death notices. Particularly useful for pre-1906 research.
- ♦ *Raking the Ashes: Genealogical Strategies for Pre-1906 San Francisco Research.* Oakland, CA: California Genealogical Society, c2011.



San Francisco History Center
San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4567
[sfpl.org/sfhistory](https://www.familysearch.org)
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San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 - 4733

WHERE TO FIND VITAL RECORDS IN SAN FRANCISCO



BIRTH & DEATH CERTIFICATES

MARRIAGE RECORDS

MEDICAL EXAMINER/CORONER'S RECORDS

WILLS, PROBATE & DIVORCE RECORDS

ADOPTION RECORDS

CEMETERY & FUNERAL HOME RECORDS

GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

BIRTH & DEATH CERTIFICATES

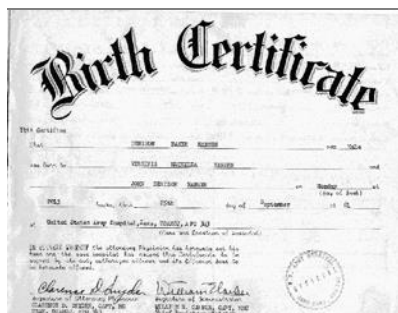
The City and County of San Francisco maintains a continuous record of births and deaths that have occurred within the city since April 1906.

Birth certificates can be ordered by mail or in person. Payment can be made by credit card, money order or cash. Contact the Office of the County Clerk or visit the following link for more information.

Office of the County Clerk City Hall,
Room 160 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4678
<https://www.sf.gov/get-birth-certificate-someone-under-3>
<https://www.sf.gov/get-birth-certificate-someone-over-3>

Death certificates for someone who died in San Francisco more than 3 years ago and after 1906 can be ordered by mail or in-person. Contact the Office of the County Clerk or visit the following link for more information.

Office of the County Clerk City Hall, Room 160
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4678
<https://www.sf.gov/get-san-francisco-death-certificate>



MARRIAGE RECORDS

The California Department of Public Health – Vital Records can only provide certified copies of certificates for **public marriages** that occurred in the years 1905-1999 and 2008-2023. Please contact the Office of Vital Records or view their website for costs and other information:

California Department of Public Health
Office of Vital Records – MS 5103
P.O. Box 997410
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410
(916) 445-2684
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/Vital-Records-ObtainingCertified-Copies-of-MarriageRecords.aspx>

The California Department of Public Health – Vital Records also maintains birth and death records from July 1905:

California Department of Public Health
Office of Vital Records – MS 5103
P.O. Box 997410
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410
(916) 445-2684
[cdph.ca.gov/programs/chsi/pages/vital-records.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/chsi/pages/vital-records.aspx)

MEDICAL EXAMINER RECORDS

Autopsy records 1957-current can be found at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Contact for hours, cost and required information:

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner 1
Newhall Street
San Francisco, CA 94124
(415) 641-3600
[sfgov.org/medexaminer](https://www.sfgov.org/medexaminer)

For Medical Examiner's records dating 1906-1956, please contact the San Francisco History Center at the San Francisco Public Library (415) 557-4567. Advance notice of 24-48 hours needed. Name and date of death required. Also available on the FamilySearch website: [familysearch.org/](https://www.familysearch.org/)

WILLS, PROBATE & DIVORCE RECORDS

Records from April 1906 forward:

Clerk of the Superior Court, Room 103
400 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102-4514
(415) 551-4000
[sfsuperiorcourt.org](https://www.sfsuperiorcourt.org)

ADOPTIONS

Some San Francisco Public Library archival collections contain adoption information, most notably Edgewood Orphanage records. Current California adoption information is also available from the California Department of Public Health: [cdph.ca.gov/programs/chsi/pages/adoptions-or-changes-in-paternity.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/chsi/pages/adoptions-or-changes-in-paternity.aspx)

CEMETERY & FUNERAL HOME RECORDS

Many religious groups have records prior to the 1906 earthquake. If the deceased was Catholic, contact Holy Cross Cemetery at (650) 756-2060 or [holycrosscemeteries.com](https://www.holycrosscemeteries.com). Episcopal records remain with the parish. Closed parishes records are archived with the Episcopal Diocese of California at (415) 673-5015 or [diocal.org](https://www.diocal.org). For early Jewish cemetery records, contact Home of Peace (650) 755-4700 or [jewishcemeteries-sf.org](https://www.jewishcemeteries-sf.org)

San Francisco History Center also has early funeral home records, 1850-1921. Advance notice of 24-48 hours needed, call (415) 557-4567. Name and date of death required. Also available on the FamilySearch website: [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)