



Birth and Death Records Online Research Tips

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/MunicipalArchivesRecords/SearchCollections.aspx>

The Municipal Archives holds birth and death records for births and deaths that occurred in San Antonio. Birth and death certificates are available for purchase (\$23) from the Vital Records division located at 719 S. Santa Rosa, San Antonio, TX, 78204.

If you are searching for a record for someone who was born or died in another city/county, you should contact the Vital Records department of the city/county where the event occurred to locate the record.

Birth Records, 1896-1936

Birth records are restricted for 75 years from the date of birth.

The birth records available on the Municipal Archives Digital Collections are typed lists of names, arranged alphabetically by last name. The lists show the first and last name, date of birth, parents' names (maiden name of mother), the gender of the child, and the "color" (origin/ethnicity).

The typed documents can be searched within the document for a name. However, be aware that many handwritten corrections are written into the documents which are not searchable. It is best to scroll down until you find the name you are looking for and skim the whole page to get the fullest and most accurate understanding of the information.

Search Tips

- Check the **Birth Records: 1896-1936**; and **Death records: 1873-1926** from the list of available collections to restrict. Type the name of the person in the simple search. *It is recommended to only type in a last name or a first name. The system may not understand if you type in the whole first and last name.*
- Or you may use the simple search box and type the phrase "**birth records**" or the phrase "**Letter X Birth Records**" to bring up the records (X = first letter of last name). There is a section for each letter of the alphabet. Also, Mc is separate from M.

Example: Searching for last name of Walters, you might search for "Letter W Birth Records"

- Do not use the date boxes in the advanced search field! This will not work for these items.

Death Records, 1873-1926

Death records are restricted for 25 years from the date of the death. The vast majority of death records available online are scans of handwritten pages.

The death records are listed chronologically by date of death. The records list the name of the deceased, gender, age, race (ethnicity), marital status, nativity (country of origin), ward number in which the deceased resided, duration of disease, length of residency in San Antonio, cause of death, name of reporting physician, cemetery, and remarks/notes.

Search Tips

Check the box next to the Birth and Death Records collection and search by name in the simple search box. Similar to the birth records, it is best to try only searching for the last name or only the first name. Do not search by date in the advanced search – this will not give you any results.



If you need to search by date, try typing in the following phrase: "death records YEARS" (YEARS = one of the pairs of years listed below)

- 1873-1884
- 1880-1885
- 1899-1903

Example: If the date of death was 3/22/1888, I will use the search term "death records 1885-1890." This will pull up the link to the book that contains deaths for 1888. Each one of these date ranges above represents the book in which the deaths were originally recorded.

For deaths occurring after 1903, use the search term "death records 1873-1926." This will retrieve a typed list of all deaths occurring between 1873 and 1926. Only the name and date of death will be listed in this particular record.

Microfilmed Records

Death records are restricted for 25 years from the date of the death. Microfilmed death certificates from 1926-2000 are available for viewing, though some are still restricted. Please make an appointment by emailing archives@sanantonio.gov.