



ACCESSING VITAL AND OFFICIAL RECORDS IN LATIN AMERICA

A Guide for Immigration Practitioners

ARGENTINA

About this document

Introduction

Established in 2018, the Vance Center's Keep Families Together (KFT) initiative connects pro bono lawyers abroad with legal service providers and immigration attorneys in the U.S. representing migrant individuals and families. Through this program, volunteer counsel assists in obtaining vital records, police and medical records, and other official documentation from migrants' countries of origin or transit to support the legal and administrative processes that lead to family reunification and long-term immigration relief.

Today, the KFT initiative collaborates with more than 150 law firms, pro bono clearinghouses, non-profit organizations, bar associations, and university legal clinics across five continents. Together, we have supported the legal representation of more than 500 individuals and families, contributing to numerous reunifications and durable forms of immigration relief.

As the immigration policy landscape in the U.S. continues to shift, legal service providers must adapt to address their clients' needs, and tools that can support overburdened and under-resourced service providers are more important than ever.

In 2025 alone, KFT received more than 186 requests for assistance. Looking ahead, we anticipate sustained demand for these services. As cases have increased, our team has noted that immigration attorneys frequently encounter some of the same questions and procedural barriers: **how to notarize documents abroad; how to obtain, correct, or amend birth certificates; how to secure death certificates; how to access police, criminal, court, medical, or military records; and how to navigate passport requirements from outside the issuing country.**

While it may technically be possible to obtain many of these documents online, the relevant information about how to do so is often fragmented, difficult to navigate, or not immediately accessible to practitioners, who have limited time to devote to these proceedings. This information gap has critical consequences – we know that delays or uncertainty in obtaining such documentation can materially affect the pace and outcome of immigration proceedings.

In response to this gap, the Vance Center has developed this practical reference tool covering 14 Latin American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Venezuela.

The Guide seeks to address the most frequent questions our KFT team receives about vital and official records in these 14 jurisdictions. When applicable, it also includes information about available digital or remote procedures that can enable practitioners to more efficiently assist migrant clients.

The Guide covers:

- **Obtaining notarized documents**
- **Birth certificate procedures, corrections, and amendments**

- **Locating and obtaining criminal, police, or arrest records**
- **Accessing vital and medical records, protective orders, court records, and military records**
- **Passport requirements**
- **Availability of pro bono or low-cost legal services in each country**

Access to these documents is often essential to ensure immigration processes can move forward. By providing more clarity around cross-border procedures, services, associated costs, and digital options, we hope this Guide will support immigration service providers to offer more timely, informed, and effective legal representation to their clients.

Note

This Guide is based on information compiled in 2025. This information is for general reference only and is not legal advice. Requirements, fees, and procedures may change over time and may vary within regions of each country. Whenever available, we have included references to official sources so that attorneys may verify and obtain the most up-to-date information directly. Accordingly, this Guide should be used as a general reference tool, with the understanding that local regulations and administrative practices may evolve at any time.

This chapter covers Argentina.

The full Guide with information on all 14 countries is available [here](#) and through the Vance Center's [KFT Resource Directory](#).

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the law firms and volunteer attorneys across these 14 jurisdictions who supported the research that went into creating this Guide. Without their expertise and commitment, KFT would not be able to carry out its cross-border work, which is often complex and requires multiple levels of assistance. Their contributions were essential in gathering accurate information, identifying current procedures in each jurisdiction, and ensuring that this Guide reflects the practical realities and questions that practitioners encounter in their work.

Contributing law firms and in-house counsel

Argentina — Bruchou & Funes de Rioja
Argentina — Parque Eólico Arauco SAPEM
Bolivia — PPO Indacochea
Brazil — Siqueira Castro Advogados
Chile — Prieto Abogados
Dominican Republic — Headrick Rizik Álvarez & Fernández
Ecuador — Pérez Bustamante & Ponce
El Salvador — Arias
Guatemala — Arias
Honduras — Consortium Legal
Mexico — Garrigues in Mexico
Peru — Hernández & Cía.
Venezuela — Despacho de Abogados miembros de Dentons, S.C. (Dentons Venezuela)

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Fundación Pro Bono Chile
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ARGENTINA

Obtaining Notarized Documents

1. What is the process to notarize a document in your country?

The process of notarizing a document in Argentina is carried out by a notary public, who is a legally authorized professional responsible for certifying the authenticity of documents. The process consists of drafting the document, meaning the document must be properly written and ready to be signed. Then, the individuals who will sign the document must appear in person before the notary with their identification document. The notary will verify that the signatories are acting voluntarily and understand the content of the document they are signing. Once the notary has confirmed the identity of the signatories and that all parties understand the content of the document, the signing takes place. After the signing, the notary will add their signature, seal, and registration number to the document, certifying that the act was carried out under their supervision and that the signatures are valid. This grants public faith to the document, meaning it has full legal validity. After the notary completes their verification, they will hand you the notarized document, which is now legally valid for use in Argentina and, if needed, internationally (with the addition of an apostille, if applicable).

2. Are there any specific requirements?

The requirements to notarize a document in Argentina vary depending on the type of document. In addition to the requirements mentioned in the previous point, the following are also necessary:

- Verification of legal capacity: The notary verifies that the signatories have the legal capacity to sign the document. This involves ensuring there are no legal impediments, such as being a minor without authorization or being under a condition that affects the ability to make decisions.
- Apostille (if the document is for international use): If the notarized document is to be used abroad, an apostille must be obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Notary College to ensure international recognition, provided that the destination country is part of The Hague Convention.

3. Is a lawyer required to assist with notarization, or can individuals complete the process independently?

A lawyer's involvement is not required in the notarization process. An individual can complete it on their own with a public notary.

4. Are there official fees or taxes associated with notarization services? If so, please list them. (If the fees are listed on a website, please include the link)

The notarization service has a cost that is generally determined by the Notary Public Association ("Colegio de Escribanos") of each jurisdiction or province, meaning that the cost may vary depending on the region.

To obtain accurate information, you can visit the website of the Notary Public Association of the corresponding province. Examples:

- Colegio de Escribanos de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires: (www.colegio-escribanos.org.ar)(<https://www.colegio-escribanos.org.ar>)
- Colegio de Escribanos de la Provincia de Buenos Aires: (www.colescba.org.ar)(<https://www.colescba.org.ar>)

5. How long does it typically take to complete the notarization process?

Generally, the notarization process is completed promptly within 24 hours, enabling the signer to receive the document immediately. However, the timeline may vary depending on the complexity of the document and whether additional steps, such as translation, legalization, or verification, are necessary. For example, if the document requires translation or legalization, additional time may be needed to finalize the process.

6. Are foreign (i.e. documents notarized by a notary in a different country) notarizations legally recognized in your country? If so, is there a specific process that must be followed?

Foreign documents notarized by a notary in a different country can be legally recognized in Argentina. Documents issued by countries that are signatories to the Hague Convention only need the "Hague Apostille" for recognition and do not need any additional processing or stamps. If the country is not a signatory to the Hague Convention, the documents must be legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the foreign country, the Argentine Consulate abroad, or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Argentina.

Procedures regarding Birth Certificates

1. How does one obtain an official copy of their birth certificate in Argentina?

A birth certificate can be obtained from the Civil Registry (“Registro Civil”) where the birth was originally registered.

The process can be completed either online or in person:

- Online: Each province offers a digital platform where the certificate can be requested.
- In person: The applicant can visit the Civil Registry office to request the certificate directly.

To obtain the certificate, the applicant must present a valid identity document (such as a national ID card or passport) and provide basic details, including their name, date of birth, and place of birth.

A minimal fee applies for this service, which varies depending on the province or jurisdiction and whether the request is made online or in person.

Some examples of digital portals:

- City of Buenos Aires: [Buenos Aires Portal de Trámites]
<https://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/tramites>
- Province of Buenos Aires: [Registro Provincial de las Personas]
<https://www.gba.gob.ar/registrodelaspersonas>

a. Is it possible to do this online? Through a consulate? If so, please indicate the process.

This process can be done online by directly requesting the certificate from the Civil Registry (“*Registro Civil*”). This procedure cannot be managed through the Consulate.

Argentine citizens residing abroad can obtain birth certificates issued in Argentina through the following methods:

- I. Through a relative in Argentina who visits the Civil Registry of the corresponding province.
- II. By authorizing or hiring a representative or agent to handle the process.
- III. Online, through the digital platforms of the Civil Registries of different provinces.

Example:

- Requesting Certificates Registered in the City of Buenos Aires:
<https://buenosaires.gob.ar/tramites/solicitud-partidas>
- Requesting Certificates Registered in the Province of Buenos Aires:
https://www.gba.gob.ar/registrodelaspersonas/Solicitud_de_partidas_online
- Channels of attention and contact for Provincial Civil Registries: For more information, you can contact: -(54 11) 4339-0800 Extensions 71181/71172 - provincia25@mininterior.gov.ar

2. Are digital or physical copies issued, and which format is considered official?

The document will be provided either in physical or digital form, depending on the method of request. Generally, the digital birth certificate is the same as the one provided on paper and comes with an attached certificate of authenticity.

3. What identification is required to request a birth certificate?

For the individual requesting the birth certificate, it is necessary to provide either National Identity Card or Passport.

For a third party making the request on behalf of someone else, the requester must present their own National Identity Card or Passport and may be required to provide proof of relationship or legal authority, such as a power of attorney.

4. How long does it take to receive a birth certificate after applying?

The delivery time generally depends on whether the request was made in person or online. If it was made in person, the certificate can be delivered on the same day or within the next business days. If the request was made online, the timeline depends on the province or jurisdiction and whether you have the full details of the birth certificate. If the birth certificate details are unknown, the time and cost may vary.

For example, in City of Buenos Aires, regular delivery takes 15 business days, while expedited delivery takes 3 business days. If you make an urgent request or don't know the birth certificate details (e.g., jurisdiction, volume, act, year), there will be an additional fee.

In Buenos Aires Province, the request will enter the system on the next business day after it is submitted. The regular delivery time is 10 business days for requests with complete information, and 20 business days for requests that require a search for the birth certificate details. After these periods, the delivery time will depend on the processing time of the payment.

If you pay by credit card, the request is processed the same day; if you pay by bill or electronic payment code, the processing time is 72 hours.

5. How can someone locate a birth certificate if the details of birth (e.g., date or place) are incomplete or unknown?

If the birth details are incomplete or unknown, it is still possible to locate a birth certificate. The essential information required to initiate the search includes: an approximate date of birth, first name, and last name. When using digital platforms, the requester may need to select the option "Search Records Without Data." This option typically incurs an additional fee.

6. Are there databases or official records accessible to the public for such searches? If so, are these accessible online by a lay person?

This question was left unanswered.

7. Please list any costs associated with obtaining or locating a birth certificate. (If the fees are listed on a website, please include the link)

In the City of Buenos Aires, the costs are detailed in the following link:

<https://buenosaires.gob.ar/tramites/solicitud-partidas>

Correction of Birth Certificates

1. Which office or agency handles birth certificate corrections?

The Civil Registry is responsible for correcting birth certificates.

2. What is the procedure for correcting errors on a birth certificate (for example if a name or parent is listed incorrectly)? Is this required to be done in-person, or can it be done online? If in-person, is it possible to do it through an embassy or consulate?

For further information, you can refer to the following links:

- City of Buenos Aires: <https://buenosaires.gob.ar/tramites/rectificaciones-de-partidas-por-errores-u-omisiones>
- Buenos Aires Province: <https://portal.gba.gob.ar/seccion/organismo/182/tramite/13206/>

3. What supporting documents are needed to prove the error and request a correction?

For further information, you can refer to the following links:

- City of Buenos Aires: <https://buenosaires.gob.ar/tramites/rectificaciones-de-partidas-por-errores-u-omisiones>
- Buenos Aires Province: <https://portal.gba.gob.ar/seccion/organismo/182/tramite/13206/>

4. Are there legal or court processes involved in corrections?

Yes, corrections to birth certificates often involve legal or court processes. As established by Laws 18.248 and 26.413, corrections must be made by judicial resolution through a summary process when there are justifiable reasons.

5. How long does the correction process typically take?

There are no official reports or publicly accessible sources confirming this information. Notwithstanding, as it is local, there is no one type of process regarding this.

Amendment of Birth Certificates

1. What is the process for amending a birth certificate following an adoption or gender marker change? Can this process be done online? Can it be done through an embassy or consulate?

The process for amending a birth certificate following an adoption involves a court decision. Then, the adoptive parents or their representatives submit a request to the Civil Registry where the birth was originally recorded, asking for the certificate to be amended. These procedures are detailed in Chapter 9 of Law 26.413.

The process for amending a birth certificate due to gender change is regulated by Law 26.743. The individual must submit a request to the Civil Registry where their birth certificate is registered. This law also distinguishes the requirements based on whether the request is made by adults or minors. <https://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/195000-199999/197860/norma.htm>

For further information, you can refer to the following links:

- City of Buenos Aires: <https://buenosaires.gob.ar/tramites/solicitud-de-rectificacion-de-genero-y-prenombre-en-partida-de-nacimiento>
- Buenos Aires Province: <https://www.defensorba.org.ar/contenido/como-hacer-la-rectificacion-por-reconocimiento-de-identidad-de-genero>

2. Is a court order required to initiate the amendment?

Regarding the adoption process, please refer to the previous point.

For a gender marker change, a court order is not required. However, according to the law, a person who decides to make a rectification of identity will not be able to change it again through the administrative process; it must be done with judicial authorization.

3. What fees or legal requirements must be fulfilled?

The procedures for correcting a birth certificate due to gender change at the Civil Registry are free of charge.

In the City of Buenos Aires, according to the 2025 Tariff Law, Civil Registry stamp payments for adoption cases are also free of charge.

4. Will the amended birth certificate replace the original, or will both remain accessible?

In both cases, a new birth certificate is issued.

Regarding the amendment of birth certificates in cases of gender changes, according to Article 9 of Law 26,743, only those with authorization from the individual concerned or with a written and justified court order will have access to the original birth certificate. The rectification of gender and the change of first name will not be made public in any case, unless authorized by the individual concerned.

Regarding the correction of birth certificates in adoption cases, according to the Civil and Commercial Code, the original birth certificate is restricted and can only be granted to the adoptee when they have sufficient age and maturity. They have the right to know information about their origin and may access, when requested, the judicial and administrative records related to their adoption, as well as any other information in judicial or administrative registers.

5. What is the cost and expected deadline for correcting or amending a birth certificate?

In the City of Buenos Aires, the costs are detailed in the following link:

<https://buenosaires.gob.ar/tramites/solicitud-partidas>

Locating and Obtaining Criminal Records

1. What is the process for obtaining a copy of one's criminal record?

The Criminal Record Certificate (“Certificado de Antecedentes Penales”) is an official electronic document issued by the National Registry of Recidivism (“Registro Nacional de Reincidencia”). It certifies whether an individual has a criminal record or pending criminal proceedings. Regardless of whether a record is found, the certificate will provide a copy of any relevant information sourced from judicial records.

The process for obtaining a Criminal Record Certificate can be done online or in person, depending on the applicant's nationality and documentation:

- Argentine citizens aged 18 or older with an Argentine National Identity Card (“DNI”, short for Documento Nacional de Identidad): The certificate can be requested either online or in person at designated offices nationwide.
- Argentine citizens aged 16 or 17 with a DNI: The request must be made in person, accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Foreign nationals aged 18 or older without an Argentine DNI: The certificate can only be requested in person.

Applicants can choose from the following processing times, each with a corresponding fee:

- ARS 8,500 – 1-hour processing time
- ARS 4,800 – 6-hour processing time
- ARS 2,400 – 24-hour processing time
- ARS 1,000 – 5-day processing time

Certain individuals qualify for a fee waiver, including:

- Those presenting a certificate of poverty, available from Access to Justice Centers (Centro de Acceso a Justicia) or other designated agencies (link: [Listado de CAJ en todo el país | Argentina.gob.ar](#)).
- Islas Malvinas War Veterans.
- Individuals with refugee status certification.
- Requests made through the National Public Defender's Office (Defensoría General de la Nación).

The certificate is legally valid for five (5) business days from the date of issuance. However, it is advisable to confirm the required validity period with the entity where the document will be submitted.

How to Obtain a Criminal Record Certificate as a National

You can complete the process online if you are a national aged 18 or older, or you can apply in person.

Online Application

Apply through Registro Nacional de Reincidencia website: [Certificado de Antecedentes Penales | Argentina.gob.ar](https://www.argentina.gob.ar/certificado-de-antecedentes-penales).

To initiate the process, one of the following platforms must be used:

- I. Mi Argentina, the official government platform that centralizes various digital services and procedures. This option requires creating a user account, verifying identity, and providing an email address where the certificate will be sent.
- II. A Banelco card in the applicant's name.
- III. ARCA's tax key (Clave Fiscal).
- IV. ANSES Social Security Key.

The process can be started through the following link: [Certificado de Antecedentes Penales | Argentina.gob.ar](https://www.argentina.gob.ar/certificado-de-antecedentes-penales). The procedure varies depending on the selected alternative.

See below the procedure if you choose to complete the process with Mi Argentina (Option (i)).

Requirements for Obtaining the Criminal Record Certificate (CAP):

- You must have a registered Mi Argentina account with validated identity. The following link provides the information to register in Mi Argentina: [Mi Argentina | Argentina.gob.ar](https://www.argentina.gob.ar/mi-argentina)
 - A valid email address in your name is required, as the certificate will be sent to this email.
- I. Log In and Provide Personal Information
 - Click the "Get Started Now" button on the application platform.
 - Log in using your Mi Argentina username and password.
 - Fill in any missing personal details (e.g., phone number, address, locality). Avoid using accents.
 - Select the type of procedure based on the desired processing time: 5 days, 24 hours, 6 hours, or express.
 - Complete all required fields and proceed.
 - Provide information about your parents (avoiding accents in their names) and continue.
 - II. Choose Your Payment Method. You can choose one of the following options:
 - Payment via Banelco / Pago Mis Cuentas
 - o Payment can be made with a card in your name or by another person using their card.
 - o Provide the type and number of the cardholder's ID, the issuing bank, and confirm.

- o Make the payment through PagoMisCuentas.com or the "Services Payment" section of your home banking account.
- o Payments made on business days between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. are processed immediately.
- Payment via Red Link Debit Card / Link Pagar Platform
 - o Payment can be made with a card in your name or by another person using their card.
 - o If you select "Link Pagar Platform," the cardholder must be registered on the platform.
 - o Choose the payment option "Online with Red Link / PAGAR."
 - o Take note of the Electronic Payment Code (Código de Pago Electrónico).
 - o Pay using the Electronic Payment Code through the Link Pagar platform, the "Services Payment" section of your home banking, a Link Network ATM, or the Link "Celular" mobile app.
 - o Payments made on business days between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. are processed immediately.
- Payment via BNA+ App (Banco Nación) or Cuenta DNI ("Banco Provincia")
 - o Select the payment option "Online with Red Link / PAGAR."
 - o Take note of the Electronic Payment Code.
 - o Use the app to pay using the Electronic Payment Code.
 - o Payments made on business days between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. are processed immediately.
- Payment via VEP (Electronic Payment Voucher - ARCA, formerly AFIP)
 - o Payment can be made with your tax identification code (clave fiscal) or by another person.
 - o Provide your CUIT number and select a payment method (e.g., home banking, Banelco / Pago Mis Cuentas, Red Link / Pagar, BNA+, Cuenta DNI, Mercado Pago, or E-Pagos).
 - o Pay the VEP through your chosen payment method.
 - o Payment processing may take up to 48 business hours.
- In-Person Payment at Provincia NET (Only for 5-Day and 24-Hour Options)
 - o Download the payment voucher, print it, and pay it at a Provincia NET branch.
 - o Payment processing may take up to 48 business hours.

III. Processing Time and Certificate Download

- Once payment is confirmed, the delivery timeline for your chosen processing option begins.

Upon completion of the processing period, you will receive an email with a link to download your Criminal Record Certificate.

In-Person Application

You can also apply in person at an RNR office. Bring:

- Your DNI ("Documento Nacional de Identidad")
- Proof of payment
- Fingerprints will be taken at the office.

How to Obtain a Criminal Record Certificate as a Foreign National

The process is consistent across all jurisdictions in Argentina as the Criminal Record Certificate is a national document, governed by federal regulations and issued by federal authorities.

[\[Bruchou1\]](#)

Required Documents

- Nationals of Mercosur Member or Associate Countries: Original and photocopy of a national ID, passport, or certificate of nationality.
- Nationals of Non-Mercosur Countries: Original and photocopy of a passport or certificate of nationality.
- For All Applicants: A valid email address, where the certificate will be sent.

Step-by-Step Procedure

- I. Schedule an Appointment
 - Visit the National Registry of Recidivism portal.
 - Select the country where you will process the request. If applying from Argentina, choose your province.
 - Click "Next" to proceed.
- II. Select Your Appointment
 - Choose the office, date, time, and method of application.
 - If applying from abroad, the system will provide contact details for the appropriate Argentine embassy or consulate.
- III. Pay the Required Fee
 - Complete and confirm the application form. You will receive a payment voucher via email.
 - Some offices require payment before the appointment. Payment options include:
 - o In person at a Provincia NET branch with a printed voucher.
 - o Online via an Electronic Payment Voucher (Volante de Pago Electrónico - VEP).
 - Self-service payment terminals are not accepted.

IV. Attend the Appointment

- On the scheduled date, go to the selected office with the following:
 - o Original and photocopy of your identification document.
 - o Completed and signed application form.
 - o Printed proof of payment.
- Your fingerprints will be taken as part of the process.

V. Download Your Certificate

- After the designated processing time, you will receive an email with a link to download your Criminal Record Certificate.

For further details, visit the official website: [Certificado de Antecedentes Penales | Argentina.gob.ar](https://www.argentina.gob.ar/certificado-de-antecedentes-penales)

a. Can this process be done online? If so, what is the process?

As previously mentioned, the process can be completed online, provided that a national identity document (DNI) is available, and the applicant is 18 years or older. See answer to question 1 of this section.

b. Is this process the same for all jurisdictions in your country or do different jurisdictions have different procedures?

The process is consistent across all jurisdictions in Argentina, as the Criminal Record Certificate is a national document, governed by federal regulations and issued by federal authorities. This ensures that the same procedure applies uniformly throughout the country, regardless of the specific jurisdiction. Please see answer to question 1 of this section.

c. What specific identification is necessary for completing the procedure?

As mentioned above, for the in-person procedure, the required documentation is the following:

- For Nationals of Mercosur Member or Associate Countries: Original and photocopy of your national ID, passport, or certificate of nationality.
- For Nationals of Non-Mercosur Countries: Original and photocopy of your passport or certificate of nationality.
- Additional Requirement for All Applicants: A valid email address in your name, where the certificate will be sent.

For the online procedure, you only need to have national identification (DNI – “Documento Nacional de Identidad”).

2. Can the criminal records of another person be accessed, such as for legal or asylum-related purposes?

No, criminal records are not public and cannot be accessed by third parties unless authorized by the individual or specific legal circumstances, such as for legal proceedings or asylum applications. In that case, authorization is required.

3. Can criminal records be accessed by someone else, for example a friend or relative? Is a lawyer necessary?

Criminal records are considered personal and confidential information. As a general rule, they can only be accessed by the individual to whom they belong.

A lawyer is not required to obtain a criminal record certificate, as the process can be completed personally or online using the designated platforms. However, legal assistance may be useful in cases where additional formalities are needed, such as providing specific authorizations or handling legal implications related to the records.

a. What documentation or authorization is required to request a record on behalf of someone else?

To request a criminal record on behalf of someone else, a legal instrument such as a power of attorney or a formal written authorization is generally required. However, specific requirements may vary and should be confirmed with the relevant authority, in the following link: [Certificado de Antecedentes Penales | Argentina.gob.ar](https://www.argentina.gob.ar/justicia/reincidencia/antecedentespenales).

4. How much does it cost to obtain a criminal record, and what is the processing time?

The fees are the following:

- ARS 8,500: Processing time of 1 hour.
- ARS 4,800: Processing time of 6 hours.
- ARS 2,400: Processing time of 24 hours.
- ARS 1,000: Processing time of 5 days.

Costs may change over time, so remember to check the following link:

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/justicia/reincidencia/antecedentespenales>

5. Are there expedited processes available for urgent cases?

The expedited processes are available at a cost of ARS 8,500 and it takes about 1 hour.

Certificate of No Criminal Records

1. Which agency issues the Certificate of No Criminal Record?

In Argentina, the Certificate of No Criminal Records is the same as the Criminal Record Certificate and involves the same process described above. The National Registry of Recidivism under the Ministry of Justice of the Nation is the agency issuing the certificate.

2. What steps are involved in requesting this certificate, and can it be completed online?

Please see answer to Locating and Obtaining Criminal Records, question 1.

3. What documentation is required to verify identity when applying for the certificate?

Please see answer to Locating and Obtaining Criminal Records, question 1.

4. How much does it cost to obtain the certificate, and are fee waivers or reduced costs available?

Please see answer to Locating and Obtaining Criminal Records, question 4.

5. How long does it take to process the request, and can it be expedited for urgent cases?

Please see answer to Locating and Obtaining Criminal Records, question 5.

6. Can the certificate be obtained for someone else, such as a family member, and what authorization is required?

Please see answers to Locating and Obtaining Criminal Records, question 4.

Arrest and Police Records

- 1. Which law enforcement agency should be contacted to request a certified copy of an arrest report? **If this is a federal system, please answer the questions for obtaining federal records.***

Argentina is a federal country, meaning that power is divided between the national government and the provinces, each with autonomy to enact laws and administer justice within their territories. However, certain matters fall under federal jurisdiction, including specific law enforcement and judicial responsibilities.

Each province has its own police force and judicial system, handling most criminal cases within its territory. At the same time, federal agencies operate nationwide, dealing with crimes that involve federal laws or cross provincial or international borders. These agencies include the Argentine Federal Police (Policía Federal Argentina), National Gendarmerie (Gendarmería Nacional), Naval Prefecture (Prefectura Naval Argentina), and Airport Security Police (Policía de Seguridad Aeroportuaria), each with distinct areas of responsibility.

The judiciary follows a similar structure. Provincial courts handle most criminal cases, while federal courts oversee offenses regulated by national laws, such as drug trafficking, organized crime, immigration violations, and corruption.

As a result, obtaining an arrest report depends on both the jurisdiction where the incident occurred and the nature of the offense. If the arrest was made by a provincial police force, the request must be directed to the relevant provincial law enforcement agency. For cases under federal jurisdiction, the request should be made to the appropriate federal agency responsible for the arrest.

Below are the steps to follow before the Federal authorities:

- I. If the arrest occurred under federal jurisdiction
 - Contact the Federal Police of Argentina (Policía Federal Argentina - PFA), which is responsible for investigating and managing federal offenses.
 - o Address: Azopardo 620, Buenos Aires City.
 - o Phone: +54 11 4361-7802 / 4362-5966.
 - Requests can be submitted through the PFA's official website or in person at their offices.

If the report is part of a judicial case, it may also be needed to request it from the relevant Judicial Authority. Prosecutor's offices or courts involved in the case may have the arrest report on file.

II. Required Documentation

The required documentation depends on the jurisdiction in Argentina. However, the following documents are commonly requested:

- DNI or Passport of the requester.

- **Authorization:** If the request is made on behalf of another person, a power of attorney or a written authorization signed by the individual concerned is typically required.
- **Case Information:** Specific details of the arrest, such as date, location, and involved parties, to identify the report.
- **Judicial Authorization (if applicable):** Some jurisdictions may require a court order or prosecutor's authorization to release the report.
- **Purpose of the Request:** A statement explaining why the certified report is needed, especially if it is for legal or administrative purposes.

Since requirements may vary by province or agency, it is recommended to contact the specific law enforcement agency or judicial office directly for accurate and complete information regarding eligibility and necessary documentation.

III. Additional Considerations

If the report is linked to a person's criminal record (See answers to Locating and Obtaining Criminal Records), additional steps may be required through the National Registry of Recidivism ("Registro Nacional de Reincidencia"), under the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.

It is recommended to contact the specific agency directly for detailed information about the requirements and processing times.

2. What documentation is required to prove eligibility for obtaining a certified arrest report?

Please see answer to question 1 of this section, under "Required Documentation."

3. Can certified copies be requested online, or must the request be made in person?

The ability to request certified copies of arrest reports in Argentina depends on the agency and jurisdiction.

4. Are there fees associated with obtaining certified copies, and is financial assistance available for those unable to pay?

Certified copies of arrest reports in Argentina are generally provided free of charge, though this can vary depending on the agency and jurisdiction. In some cases, fees may apply depending on the nature of the request and the entity handling it

5. How long does it typically take to receive a certified arrest report or police clearance?

The processing time for obtaining a certified arrest report or police clearance in Argentina varies on a case-by-case basis, as there is no unified process. It is advisable to check with the relevant agency for specific timelines.

6. Is a lawyer required to facilitate the process, or can individuals handle it independently?

In Argentina, a lawyer is not required to request an arrest record, as individuals can complete the process on their own.

7. Are arrest records publicly accessible, or are there restrictions on who can request them?

In Argentina, arrest records are not publicly accessible. Access to these records is restricted to the individual involved, their legal representative, or authorized entities such as judicial authorities and certain government agencies.

Requests for arrest records must be made through the relevant law enforcement agency or judicial body, depending on whether the case falls under provincial or federal jurisdiction. In general, third parties cannot obtain these records without the individual's consent or a court order.

8. What identification or supporting documents are needed to obtain arrest records?

Please see answer to question 1 of this section.

9. Are there limitations on accessing older arrest records, or are they maintained indefinitely?

There are no legal restrictions on how long authorities can retain arrest records in Argentina. However, practical challenges may arise when attempting to locate older or non-digitized records, as they may not be systematically archived or easily retrievable.

10. Can arrest records be obtained for someone else, such as a family member, and what authorization is required?

In Argentina, arrest records cannot be freely obtained for someone else due to privacy and data protection laws. Access is generally restricted to the individual concerned, their legal representative, or authorized entities such as judicial authorities and government agencies.

If a family member or third party needs to obtain an arrest record, they must provide proper authorization, which may include:

- A power of attorney (poder) or written authorization signed by the individual.
- A court order if the request is made without the individual's consent.
- Proof of a legitimate interest, such as guardianship in the case of minors or legal dependency.

Requests must be submitted to the relevant provincial or federal law enforcement agency, depending on the jurisdiction of the arrest.

Obtaining and Locating Documents

Vital Records

- 1. Are there centralized offices or online systems for retrieval of vital records (death certificates, marriage licenses, divorce decrees)?**

Argentina is divided in different Provinces / States. Each Province has their own Public Entities regarding this matter. In general, all Provinces have an online system for retrieval of vital records.

For further information please access the following link:

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/renaper/registros-civiles-provinciales>

- a. If there are no online systems, is it possible to request these documents via email or another online method?***

Please see answer to question above.

- 2. Who is authorized to request a death certificate (e.g., family members, legal representatives)?**

In general, in the different Public Entities of each Province, the requester must prove their relationship or relation with the deceased individual. Typically, a death certificate can be requested by a relative or a Legal Representative. For example, in Buenos Aires City, requesters must inform a legitimate interest with an affidavit. In some jurisdictions, they may also have to file in the local online system with some personal information, though this varies by jurisdiction.

- 3. What information is needed to locate a death certificate (e.g., full name, date of death, place of death)?**

In general, the following information is required:

- Full Name of the Deceased
- Date of Death /// Place of Death
- Gender
- Parents' Names
- Identification Number (DNI) or birth date of the deceased (in cases where the person's ID number is known)
- Marriage information (if the deceased was married)

Take into account that this information may vary in each jurisdiction.

4. How are older records or archived death certificates accessed if the death occurred many years ago?

In general, if a death occurred many years ago, it may be necessary to consult other public entities where the records might be available.

5. What information is needed to locate a marriage license or a divorce decree (e.g., names of spouses, date, place)?

In general, is required the following information to locate a marriage license that may vary each in each jurisdiction:

- Full Names of Both Spouses
- Date of Marriage
- Place of Marriage

And, in general, is required the following information to locate a divorce decree that may vary each in each jurisdiction:

- Full Names of Both Spouses
- Date of Divorce
- Place of Divorce
- Court Information

This is only applicable if the spouses are formally divorced, not if they are informally separated.

6. Are marriage licenses and divorce decrees publicly accessible, or are there restrictions on who can request them?

In general, there are restrictions on obtaining a marriage license or a divorce decree and a legitimate interest must be demonstrated.

7. What is the process for finding older marriage records that may not be digitized?

In general, obtaining this information requires a manual search, often necessitating visits to the local Civil Registry ("Registro Civil"), other public offices, or relevant archives. The process varies depending on the jurisdiction.

8. Are there fees or costs associated with retrieving documents, and are fee waivers available?

In general, retrieving documents involves fees or costs, which vary by jurisdiction. However, in some jurisdictions, such as the City of Buenos Aires, if the information is readily available and clearly recorded, the service may be free or subject to very low fees.

9. How long does the retrieval process usually take, and is expedited service an option?

The processing time varies by jurisdiction. In the City of Buenos Aires, for instance, it can take from one business day (if expedited) up to 15 days, depending on the availability and clarity of the information.

Medical Records

- 1. What is the procedure for requesting medical records from a hospital or healthcare provider? If there is no regulation on the procedure, can an example be provided from a major hospital system.**

In general, requesting medical records from a hospital or healthcare provider involves a formal process to verify the legitimacy of the request, as medical information is protected under the Ley Nacional de Protección de Datos Personales (Law 25.326).

As established by Law 25.326, all citizens have the right to access their medical records. For more information, please visit the following website:

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/solicita-tu-historia-clinica>.

- a. Is this procedure the same if it's a private hospital or provider?***

This question was left unanswered.

- b. Can this process be done online?***

This question was left unanswered.

- 2. Are there specific laws that govern access to medical records?**

Yes, access to medical records is governed by Law 25.326, known as the Ley Nacional de Protección de Datos Personales. This law regulates the collection, processing, and access to personal data, including medical records, to ensure privacy and data protection.

- 3. Can medical records be obtained by someone other than the patient (e.g., legal guardian, next of kin, attorney)?**

Yes, medical records can be obtained by someone other than the patient, such as a legal guardian, next of kin, or attorney, provided they can demonstrate a legitimate interest or legal authority to access the information.

- 4. What is the typical cost of obtaining medical records, and are fee waivers available?**

Obtaining medical records from public hospitals is free of charge, while private healthcare providers may charge a fee for processing the request. The specific costs, if applicable, vary by institution.

- 5. How long are medical records retained by hospitals, and what happens to older records?**

The retention period for medical records varies by healthcare provider and jurisdiction. Each hospital or medical institution sets its own policies, but records are generally kept for several years. Older records may be archived or, in some cases, securely disposed of following legal and regulatory guidelines.

Protective Orders

Argentina does not have an equivalent legal figure to a Protective Order as understood in U.S. immigration law. However, various legal protections exist for individuals in specific situations, such as precautionary measures in immigration cases, confidentiality rules in asylum procedures, and protective measures in cases of domestic violence or human trafficking. These measures, however, are handled through distinct legal frameworks rather than a centralized system similar to protective orders in the U.S.

Given this distinction, the specific questions regarding obtaining copies, eligibility documentation, third-party access, record retention, and associated costs do not directly apply to the Argentine legal system. Access to protective measures, where applicable, is generally governed by the courts or administrative bodies responsible for the specific legal matter involved.

- 1. Where can a copy of a protective order be obtained (e.g., court clerk's office, law enforcement)?**
 - a. Can this be done online?***
- 2. What documentation is required to prove eligibility to request a copy of the protective order?**
- 3. Can an attorney or family member or other third-party request a copy on behalf of the protected person?**
 - a. If so, what documentation is necessary?***
- 4. How long are protective orders retained in legal records, and can copies be retrieved after they expire?**
- 5. Are there restrictions on who can access protective orders if they involve sensitive information?**
- 6. Are there any costs associated with this request?**

For the answers to the questions above, see the preamble of this section.

Court Records and Judgments

1. What is the process for accessing court records and judgments?

Argentina is a federal country, meaning that power is divided between the national government and the provinces, each with autonomy to enact laws and administer justice within their territories. However, certain matters fall under federal jurisdiction, including specific law enforcement and judicial responsibilities.

In Argentina, court records and judgments can be accessed through the Judicial Branch of Government (PJN) or the respective provincial judicial system, depending on the jurisdiction. This can be done in person at the court handling the case or online via official digital platforms.

To access records online, users can visit the official website of the Judicial Branch of Government (PJN) at <https://www.pjn.gov.ar/>

In the “[Case Consultation](#)” section, users can search for specific cases by providing the required details. See the following guide for the Judicial Branch of Government website:

<https://old.pjn.gov.ar/publico/TUTORIAL/Libro.Digital.Exptes.relacionados.pdf>

See below requirements for case consultation:

- Case Number or Party Name: To initiate a search, the full judicial case number or the name of one of the parties involved is required.
- Court Details: Information about the court handling the case, such as the jurisdiction (civil, criminal, labor, etc.) and/or its geographic location is also required to perform a search.

See below identifications options for using the Judicial Branch of Government website:

- Registered Users with Personal Credentials: Detailed information is accessible to registered users, including licensed attorneys, court-appointed experts, and parties with a user account in the judicial case management system (e.g., Lex 100 Judicial Management System).
- Unregistered Citizens: Individuals without a registered account may access limited information, depending on whether the case is public or private.

2. Are all court records publicly accessible, or are some restricted (e.g., sealed cases)?

In Argentina, not all court records are publicly accessible. While judicial proceedings are generally public for the parties involved, their legal representatives, and, in most cases, the general public, access may be restricted depending on the nature of the case.

Certain cases, such as family law matters (e.g., domestic violence, child custody, divorce), cases involving minors, asylum and refugee proceedings, and criminal cases under investigation, are typically confidential or subject to restricted access. Additionally, sealed cases

("expedientes reservados") exist when courts determine that disclosure could compromise privacy, security, commercial secrets, sensitive information or an ongoing investigation.

In civil and commercial matters, court records are generally public unless a court specifically orders their confidentiality for reasons such as the protection of trade secrets, sensitive personal data, or classified information. Additionally, some cases may be public, but specific documents within them may be sealed.

Access to court records is typically managed through judicial portals or court clerks, but full access often requires proper authorization.

3. Can court records be accessed online, or must requests be made in person?

Court records can be accessed online. There might be cases of old records that are only available in paper files. For those cases, it is necessary to attend to the court in person. In some cases, it may also be necessary to request the retrieval of archived files ("desarchivo") before accessing the records.

4. What fees are associated with obtaining certified copies of judgments or other court documents?

Certified copies of judgments are generally provided free of charge when requested from the parties involved in the case directly from the court that issued them. If a certified copy is obtained through a notary public ("escribano"), additional notarial fees will apply, which vary depending on the professional and jurisdiction.

5. How are archived or older court records accessed if they are not part of current systems?

Archived or older court records that are not part of current digital systems must be requested directly from the court where the case was handled. In such cases, a file retrieval request ("solicitud de desarchivo") is usually required.

6. Can anyone request these documents or are there restrictions?

If the case file is public, anyone can request access to the documents. When making the request, it is common practice to provide a general reason, such as "requested for the purpose of making motions" ("se solicita el desarchivo a efectos de formular peticiones"), without needing to go into detail.

However, if the case is confidential—such as family law matters, cases involving minors, asylum proceedings, or criminal investigations—access may be restricted. In these instances, only the parties involved or those who can demonstrate a legitimate interest in the case may request the retrieval of the file ("desarchivo"). If a third party without standing requests access, the court may deny the request.

Military Records

1. Where are military records stored for individuals who served in the armed forces?

In Argentina, military records for individuals who served in the Armed Forces (Fuerzas Armadas) are stored by the Ministry of Defense (Ministerio de Defensa) and the respective branches of the military:

- National Army Archive (https://www.datos.gob.ar/dataset/defensa-documentacion-preservada-archivos-fuerzas-armadas/archivo/defensa_c138bf2d-2438-40dc-8dca-30da0405ebcb).
- Naval Archive ([Archivo General de la Nación - Armada](#)).
- Air Force Archive ([Archivo General de la Fuerza Aérea Argentina](#)).

Former service members or their authorized representatives can request their records by submitting a formal request to the appropriate military archive. Access to these records may be subject to restrictions, particularly if they contain classified or sensitive information.

2. What information is needed to request military records (e.g., service number, branch, dates of service)?

To request military records, the following information is typically required:

- Full name of the individual who served.
- Service number.
- Branch of the military (Army, Navy, Air Force, etc.)
- Dates of service (enlistment and discharge dates).
- Date of birth (to help identify the individual).

3. Who is authorized to request military records (e.g., veterans, family members, legal representatives)?

Military records can usually be requested by:

- The individual veteran.
- Immediate family members.
- Legal representatives (with proper authorization, such as a power of attorney).
- Government agencies

Access may be restricted for classified or sensitive records, and additional documentation may be required depending on the nature of the request.

4. How long does it take to process requests for military records, and are expedited options available?

The processing time for military records requests in Argentina can vary depending on the institution and the completeness of the submitted documentation. In many cases, the process

may take several weeks to a few months. Although some institutions might offer expedited processing for urgent situations, this is not guaranteed.

Many records requests can be submitted online through the official websites of the relevant military archives or the Ministry of Defense. However, in some cases, you may be required to submit the request in person or via postal mail.

5. Can this be done online?

Please see answer to Locating and Obtaining Criminal Records, question 1.

6. Are there any costs associated with this?

In Argentina, there are generally no fees for requesting military records from the Ministry of Defense or the relevant branch of the Armed Forces (Ejército, Armada, Fuerza Aérea) when requested for personal use, such as pension claims or official documentation.

Passports

1. What documentation is needed to obtain a passport?

To obtain a passport in Argentina, the following documentation is required:

- National Identity Document (“Documento Nacional de Identidad” – “DNI”).
- Birth certificate (if it is the first time applying for a passport).
- Updated photo (that meets the required size and quality specifications).
- Proof of payment of the corresponding passport application fee.
- If the applicant is a minor, authorization from the parents or guardians is required, along with their identification documents (DNI “Documento Nacional de Identidad,” birth certificate, etc.).

More information is available in the following link: [Tramitar el pasaporte argentino en el exterior | Argentina.gob.ar](https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/renaper/tarifario-de-tramites-de-renaper)

2. Can the process be done in an embassy or consulate? Does this apply, even if it is an application for a first passport?

Yes, the process to obtain an Argentine passport can be done at embassies or consulates of Argentina abroad, even if it is a first-time passport application. In this case, the applicant must present the required documentation and follow the procedures set by the relevant embassy or consulate. It is also necessary to schedule an appointment in advance at the embassy or consulate.

3. What fees or costs are associated with this process?

The costs for obtaining a passport in Argentina are the following:

- Regular Passport: ARS 35,000
- Express Passport (within 96 business hours): ARS 70,000
- Instant Passport (delivery within 6 hours from the start of the process): ARS 125,000
- Exceptional Passport for Foreigners: ARS 35,000

More information is available in the following link:

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/renaper/tarifario-de-tramites-de-renaper>

Accessing Pro Bono and Low-Cost Legal Services

1. **Can a private individual or foreign immigration attorney contact a pro bono clearinghouse directly for assistance? Is there an intake form?**

Yes, a private individual or a foreign immigration attorney can contact a pro bono clearinghouse directly for assistance.

2. **Are there any other organizations that provide pro bono or low-cost services in accessing the above documents or services?**

Yes, for pro bono legal assistance in Argentina, individuals can contact the Comisión Pro Bono, a network of lawyers who professionally, voluntarily, and free of charge provide legal advice and representation in cases of public interest.

For more details and to determine eligibility, you can visit their website at:

<https://www.probono.org.ar/>