



ACCESS TO VITAL RECORDS

*Birth, Marriage, Divorce, and Death Certificates
& Police Records*

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, many of them related to the essential vital records their clients need for their cases. These questions include: **how to obtain birth, marriage, and divorce certificates; how to secure death certificates; and how to access police records.**

The relevant information about how to access these documents 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 an initial group of 31 jurisdictions for which we frequently receive requests. The guide includes countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The chapters for three countries (Brazil, India, and Mexico) include sub-sections with state-level information for a selection of states. This guide complements the Vance Center's previously published resource, [*Accessing Vital and Official Records in Latin America: A Guide for Immigration Practitioners*](#), published in March 2026. While that guide focused on 14 jurisdictions in Latin America and covered a broader range of procedures related to obtaining and correcting official records, this new version expands the geographic scope significantly and narrows the focus to the official documents most frequently requested in immigration matters.



The Guide covers:

- **Procedures to request and obtain birth, marriage, divorce, and death certificates**
- **Locating and obtaining criminal, police, or arrest records**

Each country chapter includes information about the appropriate authorities or agencies responsible for these records, the processes to request them, timing and associated costs, and other relevant information. When applicable, it also includes information about available digital or remote procedures that can enable practitioners to more efficiently assist migrant clients.

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 early 2026. 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 31 countries is available [here](#).

Acknowledgments

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ARGENTINA

Birth certificate

What is the government authority or agency responsible for issuing this document?	Public Registry of the Province (or CABA) where the person was registered.
Can the document be obtained online?	Yes
Please provide the link.	Source: https://buenosaires.gob.ar/tramites/solicitud-partidas
Please provide a brief description of the process.	• The birth certificate (partida de nacimiento) is obtained from the Civil Registry of the province or jurisdiction (including the City of Buenos Aires – CABA) where the birth was originally registered. In most jurisdictions, the procedure can be completed online through the official government portal. • The applicant must complete a form providing the personal details of the individual (full name, date and place of birth, and parents' names) and attach a copy of a valid identification document (DNI or passport). • If the request is made by a third party, proof of relationship or legal authorization must be submitted. • Once the application is submitted and the corresponding fee is paid, the Civil Registry issues a certified copy of the birth certificate, either in digital or physical format, depending on the jurisdiction. • Digital certificates include an electronic signature and verification code, granting them full legal validity throughout Argentina. • If the document is to be used abroad, it must be apostilled or legalized digitally through the Trámites a Distancia (TAD) online platform of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Must the application be done in person?	Unclear from available sources.

Can a third party apply on behalf of the person?	Yes
Must the third party be a lawyer or have a notarized power of attorney (POA)?	No
What are the typical documents or information required to request this certificate?	In Argentina, a birth certificate (partida de nacimiento) may be requested by someone other than the person named in the record, provided that sufficient identifying information is supplied and, in certain cases, proof of relationship or authorization is presented. General rule: • A third party can request a copy of a birth certificate if they provide the exact personal details needed to locate the record. However, when the certificate belongs to a minor, or when the information is considered restricted or sensitive, the applicant must demonstrate a legitimate interest or a legal relationship with the person concerned. Required information: • Full name of the person whose birth certificate is being requested. • Date and place of birth (city, province). • Full names of both parents (or at least one). Volume, folio and act number (if known). • Applicant's full name and contact information.
Is there a fee to obtain the certificate?	Yes
How much is the fee?	ARS 2,000 – 2,500.
What is the average time it takes to receive the document?	• Digital: two to five business days. • Physical: seven to 15 days.
Is the certificate provided digitally, by mail or must it be picked up in person?	Digitally or by mail.

Is the issuance centralized at the national level or is it handled locally (e.g., by municipality or state)?	Local
Please describe how to identify the appropriate local office.	Per province or in the City of Buenos Aires.
Are there any known challenges to accessing this document (e.g., bureaucratic delays, corruption, limited online access)?	1. Decentralized system (provincial control): Each province—and the City of Buenos Aires—manages its own civil registry and maintains independent databases. There is no unified national registry of birth, marriage or divorce certificates. As a result, the applicant must know exactly where the event was registered. If the province or locality is unknown, the search can become slow or even impossible. 2. Limited digitization and historical records: Although many provinces have digital systems, older records (pre-1980s) often exist only in physical ledgers. Requests for these records require manual searches, sometimes in municipal archives, which can cause delays of several weeks or months. Smaller provinces or rural municipalities may lack digital request platforms altogether. 3. Identity verification and privacy restrictions: When requesting the certificate of another person, some jurisdictions require: proof of family relationship or legal authorization. In cases involving minors, adoption or sensitive data, access may be restricted entirely to parents, guardians or the person concerned. This means NGOs or researchers cannot freely obtain copies without explicit consent from the individual or a judicial order. 4. Inconsistent online infrastructure: Online platforms vary widely: Some systems (e.g., CABA, Buenos Aires Province, Córdoba) are modern and reliable. Others experience frequent downtime, lack clear payment options, or require in-person confirmation. This inconsistency complicates large-scale data collection efforts. 5. Cost and payment barriers: While fees are modest (≈ ARS 1,800 to 2,500 per certificate), electronic payment options can be a barrier for low-income individuals or those without credit cards or internet access.

	6. Processing delays and administrative bottlenecks: Backlogs, staff shortages or coordination issues between the Civil Registry can cause extended waiting times—especially when verifying marginal annotations or requesting certified hard copies.
Please list any methods for contacting the relevant agencies and organizations (e.g., WhatsApp, email, online contact form, telephone numbers, postal address, etc.).	It depends, but all have a website and a telephone. Some may answer via email or WhatsApp.
Please share any additional information that may be helpful.	Unclear from available sources.

Marriage certificate

What is the government authority or agency responsible for issuing this document?	A marriage certificate (partida de matrimonio) is issued by the Civil Registry of the province or jurisdiction (including the City of Buenos Aires – CABA) where the marriage was celebrated or registered.
Can the document be obtained online?	Yes
Please provide the link.	Source: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/tramitar/tramites_y_servicios/acta%20de%20nacimiento
Please provide a brief description of the process.	- The applicant fills out a form with the spouses' information, attaches identification, pays the corresponding fee and receives a certified copy—either digitally (signed electronically and sent by email) or in paper form. - If the document will be used abroad, it must then be apostilled or legalized through the Trámites a Distancia (TAD) platform of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Must the application be done in person?	Unclear from available sources.

Can a third party apply on behalf of the person?	Yes
Must the third party be a lawyer or have a notarized power of attorney (POA)?	No
What are the typical documents or information required to request this certificate?	A third party can request the certificate on behalf of one or both spouses if the following information and documentation are provided: • Full names of both spouses. • Date and place of the marriage. • Book, folio and act number (if known). • Applicant's full name, ID number and contact details.
Is there a fee to obtain the certificate?	Yes
How much is the fee?	ARS 2,000 to 2,500.
What is the average time it takes to receive the document?	• Three to seven business days for digital certificate. • Seven to 15 business days for paper copy.
Is the certificate provided digitally, by mail or must it be picked up in person?	Digitally, by mail or in person.
Is the issuance centralized at the national level or is it handled locally (e.g., by municipality or state)?	Local
Please describe how to identify the appropriate local office.	The certificate must be requested from the Civil Registry of the locality where the marriage was celebrated or recorded, not where the applicants currently live.
Are there any known challenges to accessing this document (e.g., bureaucratic delays, corruption, limited online access)?	• Provincial fragmentation — Each province keeps its own registry; there is no unified national database. • Limited digitization — Older records often require manual retrieval. • Privacy restrictions — Some jurisdictions require proof of relationship or authorization.

	• Uneven digital platforms — Quality and reliability vary widely. • Cost and payment access — Online payment systems may exclude low-income users. • Processing delays — Manual verification. • Digital literacy gaps — Lack of awareness of online options in rural areas.
Please list any methods for contacting the relevant agencies and organizations (e.g., WhatsApp, email, online contact form, telephone numbers, postal address, etc.).	All have a phone number, but some local offices have email and even WhatsApp.
Please share any additional information that may be helpful.	Unclear from available sources.

Divorce certificate

What is the government authority or agency responsible for issuing this document?	Unclear from available sources.
Can the document be obtained online?	No
Please provide the link.	Unclear from available sources.
Please provide a brief description of the process.	Unclear from available sources.
Must the application be done in person?	No
Can a third party apply on behalf of the person?	No
Must the third party be a lawyer or have a notarized power of attorney (POA)?	Unclear from available sources.

What are the typical documents or information required to request this certificate?	Unclear from available sources.
Is there a fee to obtain the certificate?	No
How much is the fee?	Unclear from available sources.
What is the average time it takes to receive the document?	Unclear from available sources.
Is the certificate provided digitally, by mail or must it be picked up in person?	Unclear from available sources.
Is the issuance centralized at the national level or is it handled locally (e.g., by municipality or state)?	Local
Please describe how to identify the appropriate local office.	Unclear from available sources.
Are there any known challenges to accessing this document (e.g., bureaucratic delays, corruption, limited online access)?	Unclear from available sources.
Please list any methods for contacting the relevant agencies and organizations (e.g., WhatsApp, email, online contact form, telephone numbers, postal address, etc.).	Unclear from available sources.
Please share any additional information that may be helpful.	In Argentina, there is no single divorce certificate issued by the Civil Registry as in some other countries. Instead, divorce is a judicial process that produces two official documents which, together, serve as proof of the dissolution of marriage: 1. A certified copy of the divorce judgment, issued by the Family Court that handled the case.

	2. The marriage certificate with a marginal annotation of divorce, issued by the Civil Registry where the marriage was originally registered, once the court's ruling becomes final and is officially recorded. These two documents jointly provide the official legal evidence of divorce in Argentina, and their issuance involves coordination between judicial and civil authorities.
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Police record

What is the government authority or agency responsible for issuing this document?	Registro Nacional de Reincidencia (under the Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos de la Nación) is the federal body that issues the certificate of criminal records (antecedentes penales) in Argentina.
Can the document be obtained online?	Yes
Please provide the link.	Source: Argentina.gob.ar
Please provide a brief description of the process.	• Applicant accesses the online form. • Provides identity document and Social Security number. • Pays applicable fee, (varies depending on how fast the certificate is issued, to be selected by the applicant). • The certificate is issued and available to be downloaded.
Must the application be done in person?	Unclear from available sources.
Can a third party apply on behalf of the person?	No
Must the third party be a lawyer or have a notarized power of attorney (POA)?	Unclear from available sources.
What are the typical documents or information required to request this certificate?	• Valid identity document. • Social security password (ANSES).

	- Completed application request form. - Payment receipt of relevant fee, where required.
Is there a fee to obtain the certificate?	Yes
How much is the fee?	The applicable fees pending on time of application and choice of expediting certificate: Express service – received within an hour. Business day: - Between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. – ARS 8,500. Certificate received in six hours. - Between 8 a.m. and noon – ARS 4,800. Certificate received in 24 hours. - Between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. – ARS 2,400. Certificate received in five business days.
What is the average time it takes to receive the document?	Between one hour and five days, depending on the fee paid by the applicant.
Is the certificate provided digitally, by mail or must it be picked up in person?	Digitally
Is the issuance centralized at the national level or is it handled locally (e.g., by municipality or state)?	National
Please describe how to identify the appropriate local office.	Unclear from available sources.
Are there any known challenges to accessing this document (e.g., bureaucratic delays, corruption, limited online access)?	No
Please list any methods for contacting the relevant agencies and organizations (e.g., WhatsApp, email, online contact)	Online form on the Argentine government portal for antecedentes penales.

form, telephone numbers, postal address, etc.).	
Please share any additional information that may be helpful.	Unclear from available sources.