Town of Mount Desert

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To Whom It May Concern:

Many new state laws went into effect July 12, 2010 regarding vital records. The most significant change is in the area of access to these records. The following is an excerpt from the state summarizing the new requirements:

New Vital Records Law Goes Into Effect

On July 12th, a new law preventing fraudulent use of vital records goes into effect. Vital records include birth certificates, fetal deaths and death certificates, marriage certificates and domestic partner registrations. Maine's new law will require a person requesting a copy of records less than 100 years old to provide documentation establishing their direct and legitimate interest in the records.

Individuals who may access vital records less than 100 years old include:

- **The person named on the record;**
- **The person's spouse or registered partner;**
- **The parent(s) named on the record;**
- **Descendents of the person named on the record;**
- **Registrant's legal custodian, guardian, or conservator or respective authorized representative (includes attorney, physician, or funeral director); and**
- **Genealogists who have a Maine CDC issued researcher identification card.**

Proof of identity must also be presented to the Town Clerk or State Vital Records Office staff. A brief application for securing a copy of the vital record must be filled out and presented, along with positive identification such a driver's license, passport, or other government issued picture identification that clearly shows that the person requesting the record is who they say they are. Identification requirements apply whether the records are requested in person or by mail.

Enclosed is our vitals request form, which must be completed and returned in order to obtain certified copies. In addition, a copy of the applicant's proof of identity must also be included with the request form.

Should you have any questions feel free to contact the office.

Sincerely,
Joelle D. Nolan, Town Clerk
Jennifer McWain, Deputy Clerk
Town of Mount Desert