



Your Right to Privacy

1. Role of the NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

The Registry is responsible for the administration of the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995*.

The role of the Registry is to register NSW life events accurately and securely for all time, ensuring their integrity and confidentiality. Information is collected under the provision of this Act. This information forms the basis to register births, deaths, marriages and official changes of name and sex.

The Registry provides a range of certificates, products and information services to assist customers establish a range of legal entitlements.

2. Protecting Your Privacy

The *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PIPP Act)* outlines a set of privacy standards that regulate the way NSW public sector agencies deal with personal information.

PIPP Act sets out legal obligations that describe what a NSW government agency must do when it collects, stores, uses and discloses your personal information.

3. What is Privacy?

Privacy is the right to exercise control over your personal information.

Information privacy is the way in which governments or organisations handle our personal information such as our age, address, sexual preference and so on.

Personal information is any information or opinion about an identifiable person. This includes records containing your name, address, sex, etc.

4. Your Right to Privacy

Under the *PIPP Act* you have a number of rights, including the following:

- You must be told why your personal information is being collected and whether it can be given to anyone else;
- You must be told if the supply of information is required by law or is voluntary;
- You must be told of any right of access to your personal information and how to have it corrected;
- Your personal information must be stored securely and protected from unauthorised access or misuse.

5. Disclosure of Information

Information from the Register may be disclosed to external agencies for the purposes of statistical, medical research, community planning purposes and other uses provided for by law. This includes:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Electoral Commission and NSW Electoral Commission
- Roads and Traffic Authority, NSW (RTA)
- Sheriff's Office
- Cancer Institute
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Department of Transport
- Commission for Children & Young People
- Heart & Stroke Register (Newcastle University)
- Seniors Card Department
- NSW Police Firearms
- NSW Ombudsman
- Department of Health
- Professional Boards such as: Osteopath, Dentist, Dental Technician, Medical Practitioner, Optical Dispenser, Optometrist, Pharmacy/Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Podiatrist, Psychologist and Veterinarian

6. Document Verification

Your information may be provided to agencies including (but not limited to) other Registries of Births, Deaths & Marriages, Law Enforcement agencies, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFaT), Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), and motor vehicle or driver licencing authorities. Usually these referrals will be to simply verify the documents or other evidence that you have provided us in making your application for a certificate. If there are discrepancies, we may require you to correct any errors with the issuing agency, before being able to process your application. It is extremely important that all your identity documents are accurate and reflect your correct identity information.

Documents provided as proof of identity may have their authenticity verified through Certificate Validation System (CertValid) and the National Document Verification System (DVS). Documents issued by this office may also be verified by other organisations using CertValid and/or DVS.

7. Concerned About Privacy?

For more information on privacy please visit the 'Office of the Privacy Commissioner NSW' website at

- www.ipc.nsw.gov.au

If you think the Registry has breached your privacy or confidentiality, you can make a complaint by:

Telephone: 1300 655 236

Writing: Complaints Officer
NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages
GPO BOX 30
Sydney NSW 2001

Email: bdm-complaints@agd.nsw.gov.au