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Fast-Track Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	State Board of Health
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	12VAC5-550
VAC Chapter title(s)	Board of Health Regulations Governing Vital Records
Action title	Amend Regulations Following Periodic Review
Date this document prepared	12/21/2023 (updated 8/24/2026)

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19, the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

The fast-track action amends the Regulations to improve the language used in the Virginia Administrative Code so that the public and government organizations have better direction concerning the responsibilities and requirements needed to perform their duties.

The fast track amendments should reduce the challenges faced by the public when determining how to register a vital event or request a copy of a vital record, will make the operations of the Office of Vital Records more transparent, and will improve clarity and readability to the Regulations by conforming the Regulations to recent statutory changes and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code* published by the Virginia Registrar of Regulations.

Acronyms and Definitions

Define all acronyms used in this form, and any technical terms that are not also defined in the "Definitions" section of the regulation.

The following acronyms are used in this form:

- OCME: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- VDH: Virginia Department of Health

Statement of Final Agency Action

Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) the name of the agency taking the action; and 3) the title of the regulation.

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, "mandate" has the same meaning as defined in the ORM procedures, "a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part."

Consistent with Virginia Code § 2.2-4012.1, also explain why this rulemaking is expected to be noncontroversial and therefore appropriate for the fast-track rulemaking process.

In 2023, the VDH completed a review of the regulations governing vital records. In its finding, VDH recommended that the regulations be amended to align with the objectives of Executive Order 19. The change to 12VAC5-550-490 removing an existing restriction on records governed by § 32.1-274 (E) of the Code of Virginia was made to align the Regulations to Chapter 115 of the 2025 Acts of Assembly which removed the requirement that funeral directors submit a monthly statistical report to the State Registrar outlining the number of caskets furnished and bodies prepared for disposition, and the transportation and funerals performed where no casket was furnished.

The rulemaking is expected to be non-controversial because there are few substantive changes made to the regulations. The regulations are being amended to (i) provide transparency and direction to vital records processes and responsibilities; (ii) reduce regulatory burden and requirements, where possible; (iii) align the regulations to statutory changes, and (iv) conform regulatory language to the *Form and Style Requirements* as published by the Virginia Registrar of Regulations.

Legal Basis

Identify (1) the promulgating agency, and (2) the state and/or federal legal authority for the regulatory change, including the most relevant citations to the Code of Virginia and Acts of Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable. Your citation must include a specific provision, if any, authorizing the promulgating agency to regulate this specific subject or program, as well as a reference to the agency's overall regulatory authority.

The regulations are promulgated under the authority of §§ 32.1-12, 32.1-250, and 32.1-273 of the Code of Virginia.

- The Board of Health (Board) is the promulgating agency. Va. Code § 32.1-12 authorizes the Board to ‘make, adopt, promulgate and enforce such regulations...as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of Title 32.1 and other laws of the Commonwealth administered by it, the Commissioner, or the Department.’
- Section 32.1-250 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to install, maintain and operate the only system of vital records throughout this Commonwealth.
- Section 32.1-273 of the Code of Virginia grants the Board the authority to prescribe fees for certified copies of vital records.

Purpose

Explain the need for the regulatory change, including a description of: (1) the rationale or justification, (2) the specific reasons the regulatory change is essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens, and (3) the goals of the regulatory change and the problems it is intended to solve.

This fast-track action seeks to increase clarity, accuracy, and completeness of the regulations governing vital records while aligning the Regulations to recent statutory changes and reducing regulatory burdens on the public and government organizations.

Substance

Briefly identify and explain the new substantive provisions, the substantive changes to existing sections, or both. A more detailed discussion is provided in the “Detail of Changes” section below.

All sections have been amended to conform to the *Form and Style requirements*.

- 12VAC5-550-5. Definitions. Existing definitions have been amended to conform to the *Style Guide Requirements*, and the definition of midwife has been revised to differentiate between a certified nurse midwife and a licensed midwife. Definitions have been added to make the regulations easier to understand.
- 12VAC5-550-70. State Registrar. This section has been repealed to remove duplicative statutory requirements from the regulations.
- 12VAC5-550-80. County and city registrars. This section has been repealed and incorporated into 12VAC5-550-90.
- 12VAC5-550-90. Use of forms. Revisions incorporate existing provisions from 12VAC5-550-80 into three subsections that clarify the use of forms, electronic media, and supplies related to the system of vital records, while removing duplicative statutory references to the duties of the State Registrar.
- 12VAC5-550-100. Birth certificate items. The changes provide clarity to the process to file a birth certificate, the forms required to file a birth certificate, and the forms used to request a copy of a birth certificate. References to delayed birth registrations after seven years from the date of birth have been moved to 12VAC5-550-230. The section title has been amended to “Filing a Certificate of Birth at the time of birth.”
- 12VAC5-550-110. Death certificate items. The changes identify the forms used to report a death in the Commonwealth, and the form used to request a copy of a death certificate. The section title has been amended from “Death certificate” to “Filing a Certificate of Death.”

- 12VAC5-550-130. Marriage return and certificate. The changes clarify the authority of the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue certified copies of marriage records and the forms used to request a copy of a marriage record from the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- 12VAC5-550-140. Report of divorce or annulment. The changes clarify the authority of the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue certified copies of divorce records and the forms used to request a copy of a divorce or annulment record from the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- 12VAC5-550-150. Requirements for Completion. Amendments clarify the requirements for completing vital statistics forms, so the forms are acceptable for filing. A requirement that forms may not be stained, damaged, or torn has been added and included with a requirement that improper forms may not be accepted.
- 12VAC5-550-180. Acceptance of certificates. The changes authorize a registrar's representative to examine forms filed for acceptance, clarify the process to complete a form's filing date, and instruct registrars and their representatives to consecutively number forms filed to document a birth, death, or fetal death based on the date of the vital event. The title has been amended to "acceptance of forms."
- 12VAC5-550-190: Local records. The changes require registrars to record information from forms filed to document a birth, death, or fetal death on electronic media approved by the State Registrar. Amendments also specify the forms from which such information may be obtained, and remove five items currently required to be recorded by registrars from birth certificates filed in their jurisdiction.
- 12VAC5-550-200: The amendments authorize special registrars to submit monthly reports documenting that no birth, death, or fetal death occurred in their jurisdiction for the previous month using electronic media approved by the State Registrar, and specify the form to be used to provide the report to the State Registrar if such electronic media cannot be used by the special registrar providing the report. Remaining amendments require a Death Index Report to be submitted alongside death certificates submitted by special registrars to the State Registrar on the monthly reporting cycle.
- 12VAC5-550-210: The section has been repealed as it does not meet the definition of a regulation under § 2.2-4001 of the Code of Virginia.
- 12VAC5-550-220: Amendments organize regulatory content into four subsections that define *foundling child* and identify the responsibilities of custodians and safe haven hospitals caring for foundling children, and physicians examining foundling children as related to birth registration. The title has been amended from "procedure" to "filing a Certificate of Birth for a foundling child."
- 12VAC5-550-230. Late birth registration and delayed birth registration. A provision identifying the items on the form used to file a late or delayed Certificate of Birth has been moved from 12VAC5-550-100(B) to 12VAC5-550-230, and has been amended to specify the forms used to file a late or delayed birth within seven years of the date of birth. Revisions also clarify the form and form items to be completed when filing a delayed certificate of birth after seven years since the intended registrant's date of birth. The section title has been amended from "late registration and delayed registration defined" to "late birth filings and delayed birth filings."
- 12VAC5-550-240. Who may file a late or delayed birth certificate and conditions. A requirement has been added specifying that a late or delayed Certificate of Birth shall not be filed if a prior birth certificate is located for the registrant. Revisions clarify that the documents submitted in support of a delayed birth filing that is rejected by the State Registrar be returned to the applicant's address on file with the Office of Vital Records. The title has been amended to "who may file a late or delayed Certificate of Birth and conditions."

- 12VAC5-550-250. Procedures and requirements for late birth registration and delayed birth registration within seven years of the date of birth. Revisions remove a requirement that late or delayed birth certificates are filed according to the State Registrar's instructions, and instead identify the signatures required for form acceptance. The section title has been amended to "procedures and requirements for late birth filing within one year from the date of birth and delayed birth filing between one and seven years after the date of birth."
- 12VAC5-550-260. Procedures and requirements for late birth registration and delayed birth registration after seven years of the date of birth. Duplicative requirements and requirements that are unenforceable have been removed from the regulations. The requirement specifying a late or delayed birth certificate cannot be filed if a registrant has an existing birth certificate was moved to 12VAC-550-240 as a condition of all late and delayed birth certificates. The title has been amended to "Procedure and requirements for delayed birth filing seven or more years after the date of birth."
- 12VAC5-550-280. Adoptions. Amendments reflect the conditions under which a new birth certificate is established after adoption, and direct applicants to the processes for late and delayed birth filings if there is no existing birth certificate for an adopted child, prior to establishing a new post-adoptive birth certificate. Revisions remove references to acknowledgement of paternity, court determination of paternity, and legitimation, as they are discussed in subsequent sections of the regulations. Subdivision 3 of subsection A has been added to specify that a new birth certificate may be created for a child adopted by Virginia residents under the conditions of § 63.2-1200.1(B) of the Code of Virginia.
- 12VAC5-550-290. Legitimation. The regulation has been repealed and incorporated into 12VAC5-550-300.
- 12VAC5-550-300. Acknowledgement of Paternity. Revisions incorporate an existing requirement from 12VAC5-550-290 that a copy of the marriage record of the registrant's biological parents is to be submitted to the State Registrar if a new birth certificate is established as a result of legitimation. The section title has been changed to "acknowledgement of paternity and legitimation."
- 12VAC5-550-310. Court determination of paternity. The changes clarify the individuals who are to transmit a certified copy of a court order for a court determination of paternity to the State Registrar to establish a new birth certificate for a registrant born in the Commonwealth. Further amendments name the form used to change the surname of the registrant to reflect the biological father's surname, and conform the regulations to the *Form and Style Requirements*.
- 12VAC5-550-330. New certificate. Amendments specify the forms and items of information to be provided to the State Registrar to locate a registrant's existing birth certificate. The title has been amended to "New Certificate of Birth."
- 12VAC5-550-340. Sealed files. The amendments specify that the special file used to house sealed birth certificates may be in a physical or electronic format, and that electronic media approved by the State Registrar is used to store special files in an electronic format. Remaining amendments conform the provision to the *Form and Style Requirements*.
- 12VAC5-550-350: A proper and complete medical certification of cause of death defined. The definition of medical certification of cause of death has been removed and added to 12VAC-550-5 (Definitions). Two discretionary requirements included in examples for submitting supplemental reports for the cause of death by physicians and medical examiners were also removed. The section title has been amended by removing the word "defined" and specifying "medical certification of the cause of death."

- 12VAC5-550-360. Responsibility of the attending physician. Amendments combine the responsibilities of medical certifiers for the cause of death and incorporate 12VAC5-550-370 provisions into the regulations. The changes align the regulations to the Code of Virginia by authorizing autonomous nurse practitioners in charge of a decedent's care for an illness or condition contributing to death or who pronounce death to complete and file the medical certification of the cause of death. The changes add additional persons authorized by §32.1-263 of the Code of Virginia to complete the medical certification of the cause of death in the absence of such a physician or autonomous nurse practitioner, and remove existing permissions granted to associate physicians to complete the medical certification of the cause of death if a physician is unavailable or on vacation. The title has been updated to reflect the "responsibility of the medical certifier."
- 12VAC5-550-370. Responsibility of the medical examiner. This section has been repealed. The provisions have been incorporated into 12VAC5-550-370.
- 12VAC5-550-380. Responsibility of the hospital or institution. Amendments align the regulations with §32.1-263 of the Code of Virginia by authorizing autonomous nurse practitioners to complete and file the medical certification of the cause of death if a death occurs in a hospital or institution, the death is known and of natural causes, and the decedent's medical history is part of hospital or institutional records.
- 12VAC5-550-390. Responsibility of the funeral service licensee. A provision restricting the filing of death certificates to registrars in the jurisdiction where a death occurs, or a deceased body is found, was removed to align with statutory changes adopted as part of Chapter 784 of the 2017 Acts of Assembly.
- 12VAC5-550-400. Out-of-State Transit Permits. Revisions remove existing provisions requiring registrars who receive forms to register deaths occurring in a different jurisdiction not to consecutively number forms and forward the forms to the registrar in the jurisdiction of death along with confirmation whether an out of state transit permit has been issued for the dead body, and specify the forms used to file a provisional death certificate.
- 12VAC5-550-410: Emergency cases: filing of death certificates elsewhere. A reference to 12VAC12-550-390 has been amended to reference the correct regulatory section 12VAC5-550-390. Amendments remove requirements instructing registrars to document the issuance of out of state transit permits filed with the registrar for a death in a different jurisdiction and the requirement that the registrar forward the form to the registrar in the jurisdiction of death, as out-of-state transit permits are issued electronically.
- 12VAC5-550-420. Forwarding "pending" cause death certificates. Revisions authorize medical certifiers and the State Registrar to add cause of death information to a death certificate form if the form is in a pending status. Amendments instruct medical examiners to add cause of death information to such forms in pending status electronically, and specify the Medical Certifier Query Letter form is to be used by medical certifiers when adding cause of death information to death certificate forms in pending status. The changes also authorize medical certifiers to submit a written statement in lieu of the Medical Certifier Query Letter if the medical certifier does not have access to the form.
- 12VAC5-550-430: Disinterment permits. A provision has been added authorizing electronic submission of disinterment permit applications to registrars within the Commonwealth. Subsection D has been amended to specify that a dead body is not considered as disinterred body unless 30 days has passed since the body was interred.

- 12VAC5-550-450. Evidence required for corrections or amendments. Revisions add a definition of a “correction affidavit” to the regulations, remove a discretionary requirement identifying evidence to supply to a court to amend the date of birth on a birth certificate more than one year, increase by one day the amount of time by which the State Registrar may correct the date of birth administratively, and identify the forms and evidence required to correct or amend vital records.
- 12VAC5-550-470. Individual requests. Revisions separate the requirements related to issuance of vital records and fulfilling requests for vital record information, vital record data, and death verifications. Amendments add a provision instructing a registrar to issue a verification of a death record upon request of an applicant with a direct and tangible interest in the death certificate, differentiate between the permissions granted to the Department of Motor Vehicles related to issuance of vital records and fulfilling requests for vital record data by individuals with a direct and tangible interest. Two definitions of “legal representative” have been combined and moved to 12VAC5-550-5 (Definitions), removing two discretionary requirements in the regulation.
- 12VAC5-550-480: Amendments remove the authority of city and county registrars to permit the use of vital record data for research purposes, as research requests for vital record data are made to the State Registrar and not city or county registrars, and because city or county registrars do not have access to all of the vital record data or information (e.g., supplemental health data).
- 12VAC5-550-490: Official requests. Technical amendments remove reference to the requirements applicable to § 32.1-274 (E) of the Code of Virginia and conform the Regulations to Chapter 115 of the 2025 Acts of Assembly - which eliminated the requirement that funeral directors submit a monthly statistical report to the State Registrar. The statutory authority has also been updated to include § 32.1-272 of the Code of Virginia which authorizes the State Registrar to furnish vital records, and/or disclose data or information contained in vital records, in response to official requests by federal, state, local, county, and municipal agencies or public and private agencies or persons if requested in the conduct of official duties.
- 12VAC-550-550-510. Certified copies; how prepared. Amendments authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue certified copies of vital records to conform to §32.1-273 of the Code of Virginia, and identify the signatures and seal used on each certified copy of a vital record that is issued.
- 12VAC5-550-160, 12VAC5-550-170, and 12VAC5-550-500: There are no substantive changes made to the regulations. The amendments conform regulatory language to the *Form and Style Requirements*.

Issues

Identify the issues associated with the regulatory change, including: 1) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the public, such as individual private citizens or businesses, of implementing the new or amended provisions; 2) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the agency or the Commonwealth; and 3) other pertinent matters of interest to the regulated community, government officials, and the public. If there are no disadvantages to the public or the Commonwealth, include a specific statement to that effect.

The primary advantage to the public, the VDH, and the Commonwealth is the enhanced integrity of the regulations governing vital records and clarity to the processes by which the system of vital records operates. There are no known disadvantages to the public, regulated entities, business entities, or the Commonwealth.

Requirements More Restrictive than Federal

Identify and describe any requirement of the regulatory change which is more restrictive than applicable federal requirements. Include a specific citation for each applicable federal requirement, and a rationale for the need for the more restrictive requirements. If there are no applicable federal requirements, or no requirements that exceed applicable federal requirements, include a specific statement to that effect.

There are no requirements of this proposal that are more restrictive than applicable federal requirements.

Agencies, Localities, and Other Entities Particularly Affected

Consistent with § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia, identify any other state agencies, localities, or other entities particularly affected by the regulatory change. Other entities could include local partners such as tribal governments, school boards, community services boards, and similar regional organizations. "Particularly affected" are those that are likely to bear any identified disproportionate material impact which would not be experienced by other agencies, localities, or entities. "Locality" can refer to either local governments or the locations in the Commonwealth where the activities relevant to the regulation or regulatory change are most likely to occur. If no agency, locality, or entity is particularly affected, include a specific statement to that effect.

Other State Agencies Particularly Affected

No other state agencies are affected by the proposed amendments.

Localities Particularly Affected

No localities are affected by the proposed amendments.

Other Entities Particularly Affected

No other entities are affected by the proposed amendments.

Economic Impact

Consistent with § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia, identify all specific economic impacts (costs and/or benefits), anticipated to result from the regulatory change. When describing a particular economic impact, specify which new requirement or change in requirement creates the anticipated economic impact. Keep in mind that this is the proposed change versus the status quo.

Impact on State Agencies

<i>For your agency: projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from the regulatory change, including:</i> a) fund source / fund detail; b) delineation of one-time versus on-going expenditures; and c) whether any costs or revenue loss can be absorbed within existing resources	The projected cost to the Virginia Department of Health to implement and enforce this regulatory proposal is negligible. It will not interrupt or affect business operations within the Office of Vital Records.
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<i>For other state agencies:</i> projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from the regulatory change, including a delineation of one-time versus on-going expenditures.	There is no projected cost to other state agencies to implement and enforce this regulatory proposal.
<i>For all agencies:</i> Benefits the regulatory change is designed to produce.	The analysis has been reported in tables 1a and 2 on the Economic Review Form.

Impact on Localities

If this analysis has been reported on the ORM Economic Impact form, indicate the tables (1a or 2) on which it was reported. Information provided on that form need not be repeated here.

Projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from the regulatory change.	Implementing and enforcing this regulatory proposal will not produce a cost to any localities.
Benefits the regulatory change is designed to produce.	The analysis has been reported in table 2 on the Economic Review Form.

Impact on Other Entities

If this analysis has been reported on the ORM Economic Impact form, indicate the tables (1a, 3, or 4) on which it was reported. Information provided on that form need not be repeated here.

Description of the individuals, businesses, or other entities likely to be affected by the regulatory change. If no other entities will be affected, include a specific statement to that effect.	The analysis has been provided in tables 1a and 3 on the Economic Review Form. There is no impact to small businesses.
Agency's best estimate of the number of such entities that will be affected. Include an estimate of the number of small businesses affected. Small business means a business entity, including its affiliates, that: a) is independently owned and operated and; b) employs fewer than 500 full-time employees or has gross annual sales of less than \$6 million.	No entities, including small businesses, are likely to be affected by the regulatory changes.
All projected costs for affected individuals, businesses, or other entities resulting from the regulatory change. Be specific and include all costs including, but not limited to: a) projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for compliance by small businesses; b) specify any costs related to the development of real estate for commercial or residential purposes that are a consequence of the regulatory change; c) fees; d) purchases of equipment or services; and e) time required to comply with the requirements.	The analysis has been provided in tables 1a and 3 on the Economic Review Form.
Benefits the regulatory change is designed to produce.	There are no monetized benefits resulting from regulatory changes. Non-monetized benefits are reported in tables 1a and 3.

Alternatives to Regulation

Describe any viable alternatives to the regulatory change that were considered, and the rationale used by the agency to select the least burdensome or intrusive alternative that meets the essential purpose of the regulatory change. Also, include discussion of less intrusive or less costly alternatives for small businesses, as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia, of achieving the purpose of the regulatory change.

There are no viable alternatives to the proposal considered. The regulatory action is necessary to provide clarity to regulatory language and processes related to the system of vital records.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Consistent with § 2.2-4007.1 B of the Code of Virginia, describe the agency's analysis of alternative regulatory methods, consistent with health, safety, environmental, and economic welfare, that will accomplish the objectives of applicable law while minimizing the adverse impact on small business. Alternative regulatory methods include, at a minimum: 1) establishing less stringent compliance or reporting requirements; 2) establishing less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements; 3) consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements; 4) establishing performance standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the proposed regulation; and 5) the exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the regulatory change.

No alternative regulatory methods are available to the agency. Non-substantive changes are made for the purpose of clarity, readability, and transparency, but do not change compliance or reporting requirements. Few substantive changes have been made. Substantive amendments are proposed to organize content, remove duplicative requirements, and align the regulations with statutory changes. The proposed changes do not impact small businesses.

Public Participation

Indicate how the public should contact the agency to submit comments on this regulation, and whether a public hearing will be held, by completing the text below.

Consistent with § 2.2-4011 of the Code of Virginia, if an objection to the use of the fast-track process is received within the 30-day public comment period from 10 or more persons, any member of the applicable standing committee of either house of the General Assembly or of the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules, the agency shall: 1) file notice of the objections with the Registrar of Regulations for publication in the Virginia Register and 2) proceed with the normal promulgation process with the initial publication of the fast-track regulation serving as the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action.

If you are objecting to the use of the fast-track process as the means of promulgating this regulation, please clearly indicate your objection in your comment. Please also indicate the nature of, and reason for, your objection to using this process.

The Virginia Department of Health is providing an opportunity for comments on this regulatory proposal, including but not limited to (i) the costs and benefits of the regulatory proposal and any alternative approaches, (ii) the potential impacts of the regulation, and (iii) the agency's regulatory flexibility analysis stated in this background document.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments for the public comment file may do so through the Public Comment Forums feature of the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall web site at: <https://townhall.virginia.gov>. Comments may also be submitted by mail, email or fax to Rilee Bennett; Office of Vital Records, P.O. Box

1000, Richmond, VA 23218; Phone 804-66-6258; Fax 804-662-6256. In order to be considered, comments must be received by 11:59 pm on the last day of the public comment period.

If you are objecting to the use of the fast-track process as the means of promulgating this regulation, please clearly indicate your objection in your comment. Please describe the nature of, and reason for, your objection to using this process.

The Virginia Department of Health is providing an opportunity for comments on this regulatory proposal, including but not limited to (i) the costs and benefits of the regulatory proposal and any alternative approaches, (ii) the potential impacts of the regulation, and (iii) the agency's regulatory flexibility analysis stated in this background document.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments for the public comment file may do so through the Public Comment Forums feature of the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website at: <https://townhall.virginia.gov>. Comments may also be submitted by mail, email, or fax to

Rilee Bennett
Office of Vital Records
P. O. Box 1000
Richmond, VA, 23218
Phone: (804) 662-6258
Fax: (804) 662-6256
Email: rilee.bennett@vdh.virginia.gov.

In order to be considered, comments must be received by 11:59 pm on the last day of the public comment period.

Detail of Changes

List all regulatory changes and the consequences of the changes. Explain the new requirements and what they mean rather than merely quoting the text of the regulation. For example, describe the intent of the language and the expected impact. Describe the difference between existing requirement(s) and/or agency practice(s) and what is being proposed in this regulatory change. Use all tables that apply, but delete inapplicable tables.

If an existing VAC Chapter(s) is being amended or repealed, use Table 1 to describe the changes between existing VAC Chapter(s) and the proposed regulation. If existing VAC Chapter(s) or sections are being repealed and replaced, ensure Table 1 clearly shows both the current number and the new number for each repealed section and the replacement section.

Table 1: Changes to Existing VAC Chapter(s)

Current chapter-section number	New chapter-section number, if applicable	Current requirements in VAC	Change, intent, rationale, and likely impact of new requirements
12VAC5-550-5		This section provides definitions applicable to the Regulations Governing Vital Records.	CHANGE: Existing definitions have been amended to conform with <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> . The existing definition of "midwife" has been revised to differentiate between a certified nurse midwife and a licensed midwife. The definition of "immediate family" has been amended to include a registrant's grandparents and adult

			grandchildren. The definition of “registrant” has been revised to clarify that the registrant is the person whose information is “primarily” registered on a vital record. Several terms used or defined in the body of the regulations have been incorporated into the definitions section, and new definitions have been added: administrative, affiant, amendment, applicant, attendant, certificate, Commonwealth, correction, dead body, delayed birth filing, delayed Certificate of Birth, file, form, intended registrant, late birth filing, legal representative, maiden name, medical certifier, medical certification of cause of death, registration, true copy, and vital record. INTENT: The intent is to promote understanding of the terms used in the regulations, to reduce discretionary requirements, and to conform with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. For example, relocating the definitions of delayed and late birth registrations from 12VAC5-550-230(A)(C) to 12VAC-550-5 (definitions) brings clarity to the process of late and delayed birth registrations for the reader, without definitions intermingled with regulatory text. Revising the definition of “immediate family” authorizes a registrant’s grandparents and adult grandchildren to express a direct and tangible interest when requesting a copy of a vital record. RATIONALE: The rationale is that clearer regulatory language promotes readability and understanding for the public and agency staff. Revisions to the definition of “immediate family” opens a pathway for members of a registrant’s immediate family to obtain copies of vital records. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that the definitions will be easier to locate, and the regulations will be easier to read and understand.
12VAC5-550-70	12VAC5-550-90	This section identifies the duties of the State Registrar relative to the development and use of vital statistical forms, electronic media, and supplies.	CHANGE: The section has been repealed as it duplicates statute under §32.1-267 of the Code of Virginia. INTENT: The intent is to remove duplicative statutory requirements from the regulations. RATIONALE: The rationale is that §32.1-252 of the Code of Virginia outlines the duties of the State Registrar, including the establishment of form instructions, approving forms and electronic media used for vital event registration, securing uniform observance of the statutes and regulations governing vital records, and maintaining an adequate system of collection, registration,

			and preservation of data of vital records in the Commonwealth. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that repeal of the regulation will reduce duplicative statutory requirements throughout the Regulations Governing Vital Records (12VAC5-550).
12VAC5-550-80	12VAC5-550-90	This section identifies the duties of county and city registrars relative to the retainment and dissemination of vital statistical forms.	CHANGE: The section has been repealed and combined with 12VAC5-550-90 to communicate the effective use of vital statistical forms, electronic media, and supplies, and the duties of the county and city registrars, and the State Registrar. INTENT: The intent is to provide clarity to the use of forms, electronic media, and supplies related to the system of vital records, as well as the duties of registrars throughout the Commonwealth. RATIONALE: The rationale is that reducing duplicative statutory references; streamlining the use of forms, electronic media, and supplies; and conforming the regulation to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will promote clarity in the regulations. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will better understand the role of registrars as related to the use of forms, electronic media, and supplies used as part of vital records processes.
12VAC5-550-90		This section describes the use of vital statistical forms, reports, records, and electronic media.	CHANGE: The section has been combined with 12VAC5-550-80 to communicate the effective use of vital statistical forms, electronic media, and supplies, and the duties of the county and city registrars, and the State Registrar. Duplicative statutory requirements have been removed. The section title has been amended to “use of forms, electronic media, and supplies.” INTENT: The intent is to provide clarity to the use of forms, electronic media, and supplies related to the system of vital records, as well as the duties of registrars throughout the Commonwealth. RATIONALE: The rationale is that reducing duplicative statutory references; streamlining the use of forms, electronic media and supplies; and conforming the regulation to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will promote clarity in the regulations. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will better understand the role of registrars as related to the use of forms, electronic media, and supplies used as part of vital records processes.

12VAC5-550-100		This section identifies the form items to be completed to register a birth in the Commonwealth, and describes what evidence is required if a birth is not registered within 30 days of a home birth.	CHANGE: Amendments direct readers to the forms filed to record births at the time of birth. Content has been reorganized to identify the processes associated with filing a birth certificate at the time of birth for home births and non-home births. Subsection F has been added to specify the forms used when requesting a copy of a birth certificate. An existing provision identifying the form used for delayed birth registrations has been moved to section 12VAC5-550-230 (late and delayed birth filings). Remaining amendments conform the section to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. The section title has been amended to "Filing a Certificate of Birth at the time of birth." INTENT: The intent is to specify the forms used to register births in the Commonwealth or to request a copy of a birth certificate. The intent in restructuring the regulation and conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> is to provide organization and promote understanding of the requirements related to birth registrations in the Commonwealth. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the public and government agencies will be better poised to identify the forms, items, and timeframes required for birth registrations and what is needed to request a copy of a birth certificate. Restructuring the regulation organizes content so that it is easier to read and understand. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will better understand the requirements of birth registration in the Commonwealth, and the forms used to register births or request a copy of a birth certificate.
12VAC5-550-110		This section identifies what form items are to be completed as part of death registration in the Commonwealth.	CHANGE: Provisions have been added to direct readers to the forms used to register deaths in the Commonwealth, both subject and not subject to inquiry by the OCME, and the forms used by the public when requesting a copy of a death certificate. Remaining amendments conform the section to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. The section title has been amended to specify "Filing a Certificate of Death." INTENT: The intent is to clarify the specific forms used to register deaths in the Commonwealth, or to request a copy of a death certificate while improving the clarity of the regulations. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the public and government agencies will be better poised to identify the forms used for death

			registrations and what is needed to request a copy of a death certificate. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that the public will be better informed of the requirements to register a death in the Commonwealth, and the specific forms used to register deaths or to request a copy of a death certificate.
12VAC5-550-130		This section identifies the form to be used and form items to be completed when filing a marriage record, and the forms used to request a copy of the marriage record.	CHANGE: Subsection C has been amended to include in the regulations the authorization granted to the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue certified copies of vital records under §32.1-273 of the Code of Virginia, and the forms used by applicants when requesting a copy of a marriage record from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Additional changes to the regulations identifying the form used to file a marriage record in the Commonwealth, items included on the form, and reporting responsibilities of the clerk of the court were approved by the Board of Health in June 2023. INTENT: The intent is to clarify the individuals and places authorized by the Code of Virginia to issue certified copies of vital records, and the forms used by applicants when requesting a copy of a marriage record. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the public and government agencies will be better poised to identify the forms used to request a copy of a marriage record, and the places from which a copy of a marriage record may be obtained. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that the public will be better informed of the specific forms used to request a copy of a marriage record, and the places from which a copy of a marriage record may be obtained.
12VAC5-550-140		This section identifies the form to be used and form items to be completed when filing a record of divorce or annulment, and the forms used to request a copy of the marriage record.	CHANGE: Subsection C has been amended to include in the regulations the authorization granted to the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue certified copies of vital records under §32.1-273 of the Code of Virginia, and the forms used by applicants when requesting a copy of a record of divorce or annulment from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Additional changes to the regulations identifying the form used to file a record of divorce or annulment, form items, and reporting responsibilities of the clerk of the court were approved by the Board of Health in June 2023. INTENT: The intent is to clarify the individuals and places authorized by the Code of Virginia to issue certified copies of vital records, and the forms used by

			applicants when requesting a copy of a record of divorce or annulment. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the public and government agencies will be better poised to identify the forms used to request a copy of a record of divorce or annulment, and the places from which a copy of a record of divorce or annulment may be obtained. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that the public will be better informed of the specific forms used to request a copy of a record of divorce or annulment, and the places from which a copy of a record of divorce or annulment may be obtained.
12VAC5-550-150		This section identifies the requirements to complete a correct and accurate vital statistical certificate or record.	CHANGE: Regulations have been reorganized by creating subsections A-C. Subsection A reflects the order of the most common methods of data entry on vital statistical forms. Subsection B was created using an existing provision requiring signatures in black ink. Subsection C identifies the requirements for completion and acceptance. The requirement that carbon copies or photocopies are not acceptable has been combined with the provision that documents may not be marked "copy" or "duplicate." Changes also add specificity to an existing provision that certificates prepared on improper forms will not be accepted by including that forms may not be stained, damaged, or torn; and clarify that registrars shall not consider a form acceptable for filing that has false, incomplete, or inconsistent data. The section title has been amended to add the word "form" to specify the requirements for form completion. Remaining amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to clarify the requirements for form completion and acceptance and to combine similar requirements for the completion of vital statistical forms. The intent of conforming language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> is that the regulations will be easier to read and understand. RATIONALE: The rationale is to clearly communicate the requirements for completion and acceptance as statutes and regulations state that forms, records, and certificates must be completed correctly and accurately for acceptance by the State Registrar. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will have a better understanding of what is required for form acceptance.

12VAC5-550-160		This section describes the constitution of registration districts.	CHANGE: There are no substantive changes made to the regulation. The amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to align regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. RATIONALE: The rationale is that conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is the regulations will be more readable and easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-170		This section authorizes county or city registrars to appoint a designee for after hours services, including the issuance of out-of-state transit permits.	CHANGE: There are no substantive changes made to the regulation. The amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to align regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. RATIONALE: The rationale is that conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is the regulations will be more readable and easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-180		This section describes the duties of registrars when examining vital event records for registrations, communication processes related to unsatisfactory registrations, and the numbering of birth, death, and fetal death certificates for each calendar year.	CHANGE: Amendments authorize a registrar's representative to examine forms filed for acceptance, clarify that a form's filing date is to be completed using the item "date record filed," and instruct registrars and their representatives to consecutively number forms filed to document a birth, death, or fetal death based on the date of the vital event. The remaining amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. The section title has been changed from "acceptance of certificates" to "acceptance of forms." INTENT: The intent is to bring clarify who is authorized to examine certificates for acceptance and the processed used by registrars and their representatives when reviewing forms for acceptance, entering a filing date on forms filed with a registrar or a representative, and when a registrar or their representative consecutively number forms filed to document a birth, death, or fetal death. Remaining amendments were made to align regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>.

			RATIONALE: The rationale is to clarify who is authorized to review forms for acceptance and the process used to complete the filing date when filing acceptable forms. Specifying that forms documenting a birth, death, or fetal death are to be consecutively numbered based on the date of the vital event is included in the regulations to ensure forms are numbered in the order that a vital event occurred, and is not based upon the date the form was filed with a registrar or their representative. Amendments conforming the regulations to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. Amendments to the section title conform the regulation to the definition of form and certificate proposed in this action. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that registrars, their representatives, and the public will better understand who is authorized to review, accept, and file forms with a registrar or registrar's representative. Forms documenting a birth, death, or fetal death will be consecutively numbered based on the date of the vital event rather than the form's filing date. Form and style changes will make the regulations easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-190		This section identifies information to be recorded by county, city, deputy, or special registrars prior to transmitting original records to the State Registrar.	CHANGE: The changes restructure the regulation. Subsection A has been amended to require registrars to use electronic media approved by the State Registrar to record information from forms filed to document a vital event for local records. Subsections B, C, and D have been created to specify the information to be recorded electronically by registrars, and the forms from which the information to be recorded may be obtained. The requirement that registrars or their representatives record information related to an intended registrant's race and sex, the names and residence of the intended registrant's parents when filing a birth certificate have been removed from the regulations, and certificate numbers. The remaining amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to align regulatory language with the processes and technologies used by registrars throughout the Commonwealth when recording information from forms filed to document a vital event. Remaining amendments are intended to conform with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the regulations will reflect the current procedures executed by registrars when recording

			information for local records, and the information to be referenced if a registrar searches local records. Amendments conforming the regulations to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is the regulations will be more readable and easier to understand, and registrars throughout the Commonwealth will have a better understanding of the information needed to be documented for local records.
12VAC5-550-200		This section describes the reporting protocols for city, county, and special registrars.	CHANGE: Amendments authorize special registrars to use electronic media approved by the State Registrar when reporting to the State Registrar that no birth, death, or fetal death occurred in their jurisdiction. The changes also instruct special registrars that unable to use such electronic media for reporting to submit a Monthly Report of Vital Statistics form to report this information to the State Registrar. The changes require a Death Index Report be submitted to the State Registrar along with any death certificates filed with the special registrar during the previous month. The remaining amendments conform the section to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to clarify the requirements and processes for regulated parties when transmitting completed forms and reports to the State Registrar. RATIONALE: The rationale is that clarifying requirements will result in well-defined processes for the transmission of vital statistical forms and reports to the State Registrar. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is the process will be easier to understand and follow.
12VAC5-550-210		This section describes the responsibilities of registrars to promote vital event registration within the Commonwealth.	CHANGE: The section has been repealed as it is not regulatory in nature. INTENT: The intent is to ensure that only regulations as defined in § 2.2-4001 of the Code of Virginia are included in the regulations governing vital records. RATIONALE: The rationale is that, as written, the section does not fit the definition of a regulation under §2.2-4001 of the Code of Virginia. LIKELY IMPACT: The impact is that the Chapter will provide the regulations under which the system of vital records is governed and will not incorporate non-regulatory components into the provisions.

12VAC5-550-220		This section provides the procedure for foundling birth registration.	CHANGE: The regulations have been restructured into four subsections that define foundling child and outline the responsibilities of the custodian and the physician or other health care provider who examines a foundling child. Language has been added that identifies the responsibility of the hospital to which a foundling child has been taken for care, if applicable. The section title has been amended from "procedure" to "Filing a Certificate of Birth for a foundling child." Amendments to regulatory language conform the regulations to the Form and Style Requirements. INTENT: The intent is to align regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> and to identify the content of the provisions in the section title. Including safe haven hospitals is intended to account for infants surrendered to hospitals. RATIONALE: The rationale is that conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. Renaming the section title will help readers locate regulations related to foundling birth registration. Including safe haven hospitals in the regulation reflects current practices of surrendering infants to hospitals. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that the public will be able to quickly identify the section relating to foundling child birth registration and the responsibilities of custodians of foundling children as related to birth registration. Amendments conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will make the regulations more readable and easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-230		This section defines late and delayed birth registrations.	CHANGE: Definitions for late and delayed birth registrations have been removed from the provision. The definitions have been changed to reflect "late birth filings" and "delayed birth filings," and have been moved to the definitions section 12VAC5-550-5. Regulatory language has been amended to reflect the forms used to file a late or delayed Certificate of Birth, and directs applicants where to file forms for late or delayed birth filings. Revisions clarify the form items for a delayed Certificate of Birth filed after seven years from the date of birth have been included. Duplicative requirements were removed from the regulation. The section title has been amended to "late birth filings and delayed birth filings." The remaining amendments conform the section to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>.

			INTENT: The intent is to organize content of the regulation to bring transparency to the processes and forms used to file a late or delayed Certificate of Birth. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the regulations will direct the public to the processes and forms used to file a late or delayed Certificate of Birth. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that the public will be better informed of the processes and forms used to file a late or delayed Certificate of Birth.
12VAC5-550-240		This section identifies who is authorized to file late and delayed birth registrations, and the conditions under which late and delayed birth registrations are completed.	CHANGE: The requirement prohibiting late or delayed birth registration if a prior birth certificate is located for the registrant has been removed from 12VAC5-550-260 and included in this section as it relates to the conditions under which any late or delayed birth certificate is completed. The provision has been combined with an existing requirement that also restricts late and delayed birth certificate filings for deceased persons. Late and delayed birth registrations have been changed to reference late or delayed birth "filing." Changes to Subsection C clarify that documents submitted in support of a delayed Certificate of Birth that is dismissed by the State Registrar be returned to the applicant's address on file with the Office of Vital Records. Amendments conform the provisions to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. The title has been updated to "who may file a late or delayed Certificate of Birth and conditions." INTENT: The intent is to include all conditions under which late or delayed birth certificates are filed into the appropriate regulatory section while reducing requirements and burdens on regulants. Updates to the title are intended to specify the Certificate of Birth. Form and style updates are intended to bring clarity to the regulations. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the conditions under which late or delayed birth certificates are filed should be organized in the same section of regulations to promote clarity for the reader. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that the conditions under which late or delayed birth filings are authorized will be more easily understood by the public, entities, and government agencies.
12VAC5-550-250		This section describes the procedure and requirements for late or delayed birth	CHANGE: The requirement that a certificate of live birth form be used for birth registrations within seven years from the date of birth has been removed as it is referenced

		registrations completed within seven years from the registrant's date of birth.	in 12VAC5-550-230. Duplicative provisions requiring the State Registrar's acceptance of registration have been removed, and emphasis has been placed on the signatures required for form acceptance. The section title has been amended to "procedures and requirements for late birth filing within one year from the date of birth and delayed birth filing between one and seven years after the date of birth." Form and style updates make the regulations easier to read. INTENT: The intent is to remove duplicative references to the forms used for late and delayed birth registration between one and seven years from the date of birth, as the form is referenced in previous regulatory sections. Amendments to the section title are intended to clarify the timeframes associated with late and delayed birth filings up to seven years after the registrant's date of birth. RATIONALE: The rationale is that references to the form used do not need to be repeated, as an existing section in the regulations confirms the form to be used in these instances. Changes to the section title clarify the timeframes and types of birth filings associated with the provisions. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that the provisions in this section will focus on the procedures and requirements for completing the form for late and delayed birth registrations up to seven years after the date of birth, and that the public will be better informed of the requirements for completion and registration.
12VAC5-550-260		This section describes the procedure and requirements for delayed birth registrations completed seven or more years after the registrant's date of birth.	CHANGE: Amendments to subsection A removed the requirement that delayed births be filed according to instructions issued by the State Registrar, as the requirement is unenforceable, and specify the form used for delayed birth filings after seven years from the date of birth. The provision prohibiting filing of a delayed birth if a prior birth certificate is located for the registrant has been moved to 12VAC5-550-240(B), as it is a condition of all late or delayed birth filings. The provision specifying the form used for birth filings after seven years from the date of birth has been removed as it is referenced in 12VAC5-550-230(C). A duplicative reference that only forms supplied by the State Registrar may be used for delayed birth filings has also been removed. The section title has been amended to specify delayed birth "filings" after seven years of "the" date of birth of the registrant. Form and style updates make the regulations easier to read.

			INTENT: The intent is to organize the provisions related to late or delayed birth filings by moving a general provision of all late and delayed birth filings to the regulatory section that describes general conditions of establishment and removing duplicative references to the forms supplied by the State Registrar. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the conditions under which a late or delayed birth filing may be established should be included in the regulatory section which describes the required conditions. Provisions in 12VAC-550-260 should outline the procedure and requirements for delayed birth filings established after seven years from the date of birth, specifically. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will better understand the conditions under which a late or delayed birth filing is established, and the specific procedures related to establishing a delayed birth registration after seven years of the registrant's date of birth.
12VAC5-550-280		This section describes the conditions under which a new birth certificate may be established for a registrant after adoption.	CHANGE: Amendments reflect the conditions under which a new birth certificate is established after adoption by removing references related to the establishment of new birth certificates after legitimation, acknowledgment of paternity, and court determination of paternity, as the processes for establishing a new birth certificate in these circumstances are discussed in subsequent sections. The provisions have been restructured into three subsections. Subdivision 3 has been added to subsection A to specify the State Registrar may establish a new birth certificate for a child adopted by Virginia residents under the conditions of § 63.2-1200.1(B) of the Code of Virginia. Subsection B specifies the responsibilities of the adoptive parents and clerk of the court finalizing the adoption when establishing a new Certificate of Birth for an adopted child. Subsection C restricts the State Registrar from establishing a new Certificate of Birth for the adopted child if no existing birth certificate is located, and instructs applicants to follow the process for a late or delayed birth filing to establish an original birth certificate so that the State Registrar may create a post-adoptive birth certificate for the registrant. The remaining amendments conform the regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to ensure the provisions in the section relate to the establishment of a birth certificate after adoption of the registrant. Form and style

			amendments are intended to bring clarity to the regulations. RATIONALE: The rationale is to amend the regulation to reflect the conditions under which a new birth certificate is established after adoption and remove references to alternative causes for the establishment of a new birth certificate that are located in subsequent sections of the regulations. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will be better directed to regulations related to the establishment of a new birth certificate after adoption, and that the regulations will more clearly communicate the conditions under which a new birth certificate is established after adoption. The regulations will be easier to read and understand.
12VAC5-550-290		This section describes the conditions under which a new birth certificate may be established after legitimation.	CHANGE: This section has been repealed and combined with 12VAC5-550-300. INTENT: The intent is to clearly reflect the process by which a new birth certificate is established for a registrant as a result of acknowledgement of paternity and/or legitimation of the registrant. Amendments also intend to align regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. RATIONALE: The rationale is to accurately reflect the process used to request the preparation of a new birth certificate after an acknowledgement of paternity or legitimation of a registrant, as the processes require the same forms and evidence, except that a copy of the biological parent's marriage record is also required if a new birth certificate is established due to legitimation. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that the public will better understand the processes by which a new birth certificate may be established if a registrant's parents marry after the registrant's birth or as a result of an acknowledgement of paternity.
12VAC5-550-300		This section describes the conditions under which a new birth certificate may be established after an acknowledgment of paternity.	CHANGE: Amendments (i) include an existing requirement from 12VAC5-550-290 that a copy of the registrant's biological parent's marriage record be provided to the State Registrar if a new birth certificate is created as a result of a registrant's legitimation; (ii) clarify who may submit a copy of the registrant's parents' marriage record to the State Registrar as evidence of legitimation, (iii) specify the forms used to establish a new birth certificate as a result of an acknowledgement of paternity and/or legitimation of the registrant, and (iv) direct applicants to the form used to request a change in the registrant's surname to reflect the surname of the father on the registrant's

			birth certificate. Remaining amendments conform the regulations to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to clearly communicate the processes associated with establishing a new birth certificate because of paternity acknowledgement and/or legitimation. Aligning regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> is intended to make the regulations easier to understand. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the same forms and processes are used to request the preparation of a new birth certificate because of an acknowledgement of paternity or legitimation, including changing the surname of the registrant to reflect the biological father's surname; except that a copy of the biological parent's marriage record is required to be provided to the State Registrar only if the establishment of a new birth certificate is requested as a result of a registrant's legitimation. Conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is the regulations will be more readable and easier to understand. The processes and requirements by which a new birth certificate is established because of paternity acknowledgement and/or legitimation will be more clearly communicated to the public.
12VAC5-550-310		This section describes the conditions under which a new birth certificate may be established as a result of a court determination of paternity.	CHANGE: The amendments specify the persons authorized to submit a court determination of paternity to the State Registrar when requesting a new birth certificate for a registrant, and specify the form used when requesting to change a registrant's surname to reflect the surname of the biological father. Remaining amendments conform the regulations to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to identify who may transmit the court order for a determination of paternity to the State Registrar and the form used to change the registrant's surname to the biological father's surname if a new birth certificate is created due to a court determination of paternity. Revisions are also intended to align regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the regulations should identify who may transmit the court order for a determination of paternity to the State Registrar and specify the form used to amend a registrant's surname to the biological father's surname in such circumstances. Conforming the

			regulations to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will better identify the persons who can transmit copies of a court order for a determination of paternity to the State Registrar when requesting the preparation of a new birth certificate in such circumstance. <i>Form and Style</i> amendments will bring clarity to the regulations, and make the regulations more readable and easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-330		This section identifies the items necessary to complete a new birth certificate established after adoption, legitimation, a court determination of paternity, or an acknowledgement of paternity.	CHANGE: The changes add two new subsections: (i) subsection B has been added to specify the information to be provided by applicants to the State Registrar when requesting a new birth certificate be established for a registrant under Part IX of the Regulations Governing Vital Records, and (ii) subsection C has been added to specify the forms used to provide the information required to locate a registrant's existing birth certificate. The amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to identify the information needed to locate a registrant's existing birth certificate so that a new birth certificate can be established after adoption, legitimation, acknowledgement of paternity, or a court determination of paternity. Aligning regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> is intended to make the regulations easier to read and understand. RATIONALE: The rationale is to communicate to the public the information needed to locate an existing certificate of birth and the forms used by applicants to provide the information when requesting the preparation of a new birth certificate after adoption, legitimation, acknowledgement of paternity, or a court determination of paternity. Conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is the process by which applicants provide information to locate the existing birth certificate will be clearer. <i>Form and Style</i> amendments mean the regulations will be more readable and easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-340		This section provides the procedure for sealing existing vital records and evidence after a new certificate is established.	CHANGE: Structural changes reorganize the section into two subsections. Subsection A revisions authorize the State Registrar to store sealed files in physical or electronic files and requires that special electronic files be stored on electronic media approved by the State Registrar. Subsection

			B revisions restrict issuance of sealed original birth certificates except by court order or upon request by an adult adoptee as authorized under Chapter 587 of the 2026 Acts of Assembly (§ 32.1-261 of the Code of Virginia). Further amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to align regulatory language with current procedures followed by the State Registrar when sealing existing birth certificates by allowing sealed files to be incorporated into the electronic database used by the Office of Vital Records. <i>Form and Style</i> updates are intended to make the regulations easier to read. RATIONALE: The rationale is to specify that both physical and electronic special files may be used for sealed birth certificates, as the system of vital records has undergone modernization and utilizes an in-house electronic database to retain vital records and information. Conforming the regulations to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring make the regulations easier to read and understand. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that the regulations will reflect the current procedures followed by the State Registrar when exercising authority for administration and governance of the system of vital records.
12VAC5-550-350		This section defines the medical certification of cause of death, and how the medical certification is completed on death certificates.	CHANGE: The definition of the medical certification of cause of death has been removed and added to 12VAC5-550-5 (Definitions). Amendments removed a discretionary requirement included in examples for submitting supplemental reports for cause of death by physicians and medical examiners. Remaining amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. The section title has been amended to remove a reference to defining medical certification of cause of death. INTENT: The intent is to define the medical certification of cause of death for the regulatory chapter, rather than including it in one regulatory section only, and to clearly communicate section content in the section title of the regulation. Form and style changes were completed to increase clarity and readability of the regulations, and to reduce regulatory requirements. RATIONALE: The rationale is that “medical certification of cause of death” is used throughout the regulatory chapter and should be defined in the definitions section of the

			Regulations Governing Vital Records. Removing exemplary references reduced discretionary requirements. Conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that the regulations will be more readable and easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-360		This section describes the responsibilities of the attending physician when completing the medical certification of cause of death.	CHANGE: The regulation has been amended to include the responsibilities of medical examiners that is currently located in 12VAC5-550-370. Further substantive changes to the regulations include (i) specifying that an autonomous nurse practitioner treating the deceased or pronouncing death is authorized by §32.1-263 of the Code of Virginia to complete and file the medical certification of the cause of death; (ii) adding to the regulations the individuals authorized by §32.1-263 of the Code of Virginia to complete and file the medical certification of the cause of death in the absence of the physician or autonomous nurse practitioner or with their approval; (iii) clarifying that the medical certification of the cause of death is to be completed on the Certificate of Death form if the death is not in the jurisdiction of the medical examiner; and (iv) removing an existing provision from the regulations that authorizes an associate physician to certify the cause of death in limited circumstances. The title has been amended to “responsibilities of the medical certifier. Remaining amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent of combining the provisions in 12VAC5-550-360 and 12VAC5-550-370 is to clearly communicate the responsibilities of medical certifiers. Further revisions are intended to align the regulations with the Code of Virginia when clarifying the individuals authorized to complete and file the medical certification of death on the Certificate of Death form when the death is not in the jurisdiction of the medical examiner. Conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> is intended to make the regulations easier to read and understand. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the regulations will reflect the responsibilities of medical certifiers. Changes restrict completion and filing of the medical certification of the cause of death to the individuals authorized to complete and file the certification by the Code of Virginia. Amendments to the title communicate that the section is relative to the responsibilities of medical certifiers. Conforming to the <i>Form</i>

			<i>and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will be better enabled to identify the persons responsible for completing and filing the medical certification of the cause of death if a medical examiner does not assume jurisdiction in a death. Form and style updates will make the regulations more readable and easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-370		This section describes the responsibilities of the medical examiner when completing the medical certification of cause of death.	CHANGE: The section has been repealed. Provisions relating to the responsibilities of medical examiners when preparing and filing the medical certification of the cause of death on a death certificate have been moved to 12VAC5-550-360. INTENT: The intent is to ensure that regulations related to the responsibilities of medical certifiers are included in the same section of the regulations. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the responsibilities of medical certifiers are more easily located by readers if the provisions are in the same section of the regulations. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will be better able to identify the responsibilities of medical certifiers in the regulations.
12VAC5-550-380		This section describes the responsibilities of hospitals and institutions in the preparation of death certificates.	CHANGE: The revisions specify the form to be completed by persons in charge of institutions or hospitals when completing the form used to register a death in the Commonwealth. Amendments authorize autonomous nurse practitioners to sign the medical certification of the cause of death in instances where the cause of death is known and determined to be of natural causes, occurs in a hospital, and where the medical history are part of hospital records. Remaining amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to align the regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>, while conforming the regulations to reflect the authorization of autonomous nurse practitioners to complete the medical certification of the cause of death under §32.1-263 of the Code of Virginia. RATIONALE: The rationale is that statutory authorizations provided to autonomous nurse practitioners will be reflected in the regulations. Conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements.

			LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is the regulations will be more readable and easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-390		This section describes the responsibilities of the funeral service licensee when preparing and filing death certificates.	CHANGE: A provision in 12VAC5-550-390(3) that deaths certificates be filed with the registrar in the jurisdiction in which the death occurred or a dead body is found has been removed pursuant to § 32.1-263 (A) of the Code of Virginia. The provision instructs that death certificates must be filed prior to final disposal of the body or its removal from the Commonwealth. Amendments restructure the regulations to better communicate the responsibilities of funeral service licensees when completing and filing death certificates. Remaining amendments conformed the regulations to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to align the regulation with statutory changes adopted under Chapter 784 (2017 Acts of Assembly). RATIONALE: Chapter 784 (2017 Acts of Assembly) removed the requirement that all death certificates be filed with registrars in the jurisdiction a death occurs or a deceased body is found, allowed non-electronically filed death registrations to be filed with any registrar in the Commonwealth, and required electronically filed death registrations to be filed with the State Registrar. LIKELY IMPACT: The regulations will reflect the statutes as currently written and will reflect the operations of the system of vital records.
12VAC5-550-400		This section provides the process by which out-of-state transit permits are issued after a death certificate is filed, and before a deceased human body is removed from the Commonwealth.	CHANGE: The amendments specify the forms used to file a death certificate that must be completed before an out-of-state transit permit is granted. The amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to specify the forms used to file a death certificate that are to be completed before an out of state transit permit is issued by a registrar, and to align regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. RATIONALE: The rationale is that readers will be enabled to identify the forms used to file a death certificate that are required by the regulations to be filed before an out of state transit permit is granted. Conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will better understand the requirements to obtain an out of state transit

			permit. <i>Form and Style</i> changes will make the regulations readable and easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-410		This section provides emergency provisions for extending the timeframe associated with filing death certificates.	CHANGE: A reference to 12VAC12-550-390 has been amended to reference the correct regulatory section 12VAC5-550-390. Provisions requiring registrars not to consecutively number forms filed with them to establish death certificates if a death occurred in a different jurisdiction, and to forward the form to the registrar of the jurisdiction where death occurred with a notation on the form confirming if an out of state transit permit has been issued has been removed from the regulations as permits are issued electronically. Remaining amendments conform the regulations to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to reference the appropriate regulatory section related to the responsibilities of the funeral service licensee when preparing and filing death certificates. The intent of removing provisions instructing registrars not to consecutively number death certificate forms, note if an out of state transit permit is issued, and forward a completed death certificate form to the registrar of the jurisdiction where the death occurred is to align with current practices executed by registrars in the Commonwealth, as out of state issuance permits are issued using electronic media approved by the State Registrar. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the regulations should reflect the procedure by which out of state transit permits are issued. Readers should be directed to the correct regulatory sources when referenced within other regulations. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will be directed to the appropriate regulatory section if further information is needed. The regulations will reflect the current issuance procedures executed by registrars throughout the Commonwealth.
12VAC5-550-420		This section requires county and city registrars to submit death certificates to the State Registrar if the medical certification is signed but the cause of death is incomplete due to a pending inquiry, and describes the process by which the cause of death is completed after the inquiry has concluded.	CHANGE: Revisions structure the regulations into two subsections. Subsection A specifies that the State Registrar or medical certifier may add cause of death information to a death certificate and the documentation required to be provided to the State Registrar to initiate the change to the medical certification of the cause of death – including a Medical Certifier Query Letter. Subsection B identifies the items on the Medical Certifier Query Letter that must be completed to complete the medical certification of the cause of death on a death certificate form where the cause of death is in

			a pending status. The changes open pathways to compliance for medical certifiers, by authorizing medical examiners to submit cause of death information electronically in such instances, and allow for the submission of a written statement in lieu of a Medical Certifier Query Letter if a medical certifier does not have access to the corresponding Medical Certifier Query Letter form. The amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to inform readers of the forms and processes to utilize when adding cause of death information to a death certificate in "pending" status, including the items of information to be submitted to the State Registrar to complete the death certificate. align regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. RATIONALE: The rationale is that readers will be better able to identify the items of information, forms or statements to be completed and submitted to the State Registrar, and processes associated with adding cause of death information to a death certificate in "pending" status. Authorizing medical examiners to add cause of death information to death certificates in "pending" status allows medical examiners to utilize e-amendment processes in the Virginia Vital Events Screening and Tracking System (VVESTS). Conforming the regulations to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will better understand the processes to be followed, forms or statements to be completed, and informational items required to be submitted to the State Registrar when adding cause of death information to a death certificate in "pending" status. VVESTS enhancements, such as e-amendments, may be utilized by medical examiners to facilitate faster processing of death certificates when adding cause of death information to a death certificate in pending status. <i>Form and Style</i> changes will make the regulations more readable and easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-430		This section provides the requirements for disinterment, requires registrars to issue permits in triplicate, and clarifies the timeframe after which a human body kept in a receiving vault is determined to be disinterred.	CHANGE: A provision allowing for the electronic submission of disinterment permit applications to Commonwealth registrars if submitted on electronic media approved by the State Registrar has been added to the regulations. Amendments specify the individuals authorized to submit applications for a disinterment permit to a city or county registrar. Further amendments conformed the regulations to <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>.

			INTENT: The intent is to provide additional methods for regulants to apply for disinterment permits, and clarify who is able to apply for a disinterment permit. RATIONALE: The rationale is that allowing applications to be submitted electronically will provide an additional method for disinterment permits to be obtained and issued. The regulations should clarify who is authorized to apply for a disinterment permit. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that regulants have additional methods of submitting applications for disinterment permits, and will be better able to determine who is authorized to apply for a disinterment permit to a city or county registrar.
12VAC5-550-450		This section identifies the evidence required for the correction or amendment of birth and death certificates.	CHANGE: Amendments restructure the provisions into seven subsections. Subsection A defines a “correction affidavit.” Subsection B clarifies the evidence requirements for corrections and amendments to birth certificates – (i) removing language authorizing corrections or amendments to the item “spouse” as listed on a birth certificate; (ii) specifying that a mother may submit a correction affidavit to amend the given names listed on a birth certificate within one year of the registrant’s date of birth if the registrant was born out of wedlock and no paternity is established; (iii) amends the regulations to require a court order to change a registrant’s name on the birth certificate if it has previously been changed; (iv) specifying evidence requirements for altering the date of birth on a certificate by more or less than one year “and one day” from the date registered as the date of birth on the certificate; (v) removing a requirement specifying the evidence to be provided to a court to obtain a court order to correct the date of birth on a certificate by more than one year and one day from the date of birth. Subsection C has been created using an existing provision that any second change to an item on a certificate requires a court order. Subsections D and E have been added to specify the process by which information may be corrected or amended on marriage certificates and records of divorce or annulment. Subsection F is regulatory language approved by the Board of Health in June 2023. Subsection G requires secondary evidence to be established at least five years, and provides an exception for death certificate evidence that may be established less than five years. INTENT: The intent is to clarify the processes and evidence requirements for corrections and amendments to vital records, and to remove requirements that do not relate the

			authority of the State Registrar (e.g., determining what evidence is accepted by a Commonwealth court). Excluding death certificate evidence from a five-year establishment period as secondary evidence is needed to confirm the decedent's residence at the time of death as part of the process to complete a death certificate. Changes to form and style are intended to bring clarity to the regulations and make them easier to read. RATIONALE: The rationale is that restructuring the regulations and defining a correction affidavit makes the regulations easier to read and follow. Revisions to requirements related to correcting and amending birth certificates specify for readers what forms and evidence are required, remove the authority to correct certain items that are not currently listed on the birth certificate form (e.g., "spouse"), and provide Commonwealth courts with the discretion to determine the evidence to be supplied to obtain a court order to change a registrant's date of birth more than one year and one day after the date of birth. Changing the regulations to specify changes to the date of birth to reflect "one year and one day more than" or "one year and one day less than" incorporates the registrant's first birthday into the timeframe for an administrative correction to the date of birth. Remaining changes identify the evidence and forms required to correct or amend information on marriage records, records of divorce and annulment, and death certificates. The exception that death certificate evidence does not need to be established for five years takes into consideration that information pertaining to a decedent's current residence is required to be provided when filing a death certificate. Conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that the regulations will clearly communicate the court's authority to determine the evidence required to obtain a court order when the date of birth as listed on a birth certificate is requested to be amended by more than one year. Secondary evidence requirements will align with business practices executed by the Office of Vital Records. Style and form updates will promote readability and understanding of the regulations.
12VAC5-550-470		This section identifies who may request a copy of a vital record certificate, and	CHANGE: Revisions separate requirements related to requests for vital records, vital record information, vital record data, and

		authorizes the State Registrar, or county or city registrars, to disclose data or information, or to issue copies of birth and death certificates to applicants with a direct and tangible interest or their legal representatives.	death verifications. The changes direct readers to the processes to request a copy of a birth certificate or a death certificate. Amendments add language specifying the authority of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to issue vital records to applicants with a direct and tangible interest in the record, but do not authorize the DMV to fulfill requests for vital record data. Further changes clarify that individual requests for vital record data are to be made to a registrar. Two definitions of “legal representative” related to birth and death certificates have been combined and moved to 12VAC5-550-5 (Definitions). Remaining amendments conform the regulations to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to include definitions applicable to the governance of the system of vital records to the definitions section in order to promote a better understanding of the terms used throughout the regulatory chapter. RATIONALE: The rationale is that terms applied to the regulatory chapter should be included in the chapter’s definitions section, rather than isolated to one regulatory section only. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will better understand who is considered a legal representative for purposes of obtaining vital event information and certificates.
12VAC5-550-480		This section authorizes the State Registrar, or county or city registrars, to permit the use of vital statistical data for research purposes.	CHANGE: Revisions restrict the authority to permit the use of vital record data for research purposes to the State Registrar as city and county registrars do not have access to all the vital record data and do not receive the requests for such data under current processes. The amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to align regulatory language with the processes and procedures followed by registrars in the Commonwealth when requests for vital record data are made and to align the regulations to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. RATIONALE: The rationale is that specifying the authority of the State Registrar to permit the use of vital record data will direct research requests involving vital record data to the correct person to review and fulfill the request. Conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements.

			LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will be directed to the State Registrar for vital record data requests, and that the regulations will be more readable and easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-490		This section authorizes the State Registrar, or county or city registrars, to disclose vital statistical data to federal, state, county, or municipal government agencies if requested in the conduct of official duties.	CHANGE: A technical amendment removes reference to § 32.1-274 (E) of the Code of Virginia which outlines existing restrictions applicable to the disclosure of information contained in the monthly statistical report submitted by funeral directors to the State Registrar. The technical changes conform the Regulations to Chapter 115 of the 2025 Acts of Assembly which eliminates the requirement that such report be submitted. Further amendments to regulatory language conform the Regulations to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. The statutory authority has also been updated to include § 32.1-272 of the Code of Virginia which permits the State Registrar to furnish vital records, information, and data in response to official requests. INTENT: The intent is to align regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> and Chapter 115 of the 2025 Acts of Assembly, which removed the requirement that funeral directors submit a monthly statistical report to the State Registrar outlining the number of caskets furnished and bodies prepared for disposition, and the transportation and funerals held where no casket was furnished. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the Regulations should reflect recent statutory changes, and the statutory authority should correctly reference relevant law. Conforming the Regulations to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the Regulations and requirements. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is the regulations will reflect recent statutory changes and will be more readable and easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-500		This section authorizes the State Registrar to require applicants provide a written application, proof of identification, or a sworn statement to establish their right to information from vital records.	CHANGE: There are no substantive changes made to the regulation. The amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to align regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. RATIONALE: The rationale is that conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements.

			LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is the regulations will be more readable and easier to understand.
12VAC5-550-510		This section authorizes the State registrar to produce certified copies of vital records and issue short form certifications of birth records. The section identifies the statement of certification to be included on each copy of a vital record that is issued.	CHANGE: The changes authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue certified copies of vital records pursuant to §32.1-273 of the Code of Virginia, specify the State Registrar's signature is required to be included on certified copies of vital records issued by the Commonwealth, and identifies the seal of the issuance office to be included on each certified copy of a vital record. The amendments conform regulatory language to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. INTENT: The intent is to clarify the signatures and seals that are included on certified copies of vital records, and communicate to readers that copies of vital records may be obtained at Department of Motor Vehicle locations. Technical amendments align regulatory language with the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i>. RATIONALE: The rationale is that the regulations will better reflect the signatures and seals that are present on certified copies of vital records. Conforming to the <i>Form and Style Requirements</i> will bring clarity to the regulations and requirements. LIKELY IMPACT: The likely impact is that readers will be better able to identify valid certified copies of vital records that are issued by the Commonwealth through the VDH. <i>Form and Style</i> updates will make the regulations more readable and easier to understand.