Online Genealogical Resources

San Francisco Public Library Databases:

· Heritage Quest—includes digital, searchable records of U.S. federal census records, full-text family history books. Access from outside the Library requires SFPL library card.
www.sfpl.org

· Ancestry Library—genealogical collection including vital, church, immigration, court and census records. Available only on library computers.

· San Francisco County Genealogy:
www.sfgenealogy.com/sf/index.htm

· California Death Index:
www.vitals.rootsweb.com/ca/death/search.cgi

· California State Library Genealogy Guide:
www.library.ca.gov/html/genealogy.cfm

· California Genealogical Society Library:
www.calgensoc.org

· San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society:
www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

Professional & Fee-based Researchers

· Board for Certification of Genealogists
www.bcgcertification.org

· The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Family History Center
1900 Pacific Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94602
(415) 771-3655
By appointment

· California Genealogical Society Library
2201 Broadway, Suite LL2
Oakland, CA 94612-3031
(510) 663-1358
www.calgensoc.org
Thursday & Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

The San Francisco History Center
San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4567
info@sfpl.org
www.sfpl.org/librarylocations/sfhistory/sfhistory.htm

San Francisco Public Library

Where to search for vital records in the City and County of San Francisco and California

The Office of Vital Records and Statistics in the San Francisco Department of Public Health maintains a continuous record of births and deaths that have occurred within the legal limits of the City and County of San Francisco since April 1906. To request the record of a birth or death that occurred outside San Francisco contact the county, state, or country in which the birth or death occurred.

Certified copies can be ordered by mail, by telephone, in person or on the Internet.

Department of Public Health
Office of Vital Records
101 Grove Street, Room 105
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 701-2311
www.dph.sf.ca.us
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Payment may be made with VISA, Mastercard, cash, money order or by personal check payable to Department of Public Health.

Birth Certificates

$14 per certified copy

Information required:

- Date of birth
- Full name at birth
- Mother's maiden name
- Optional: father's name and hospital/place of birth

Death Certificates

$12 per certified copy

Information required:

- Date of death
- Full name of the deceased
- Optional: age at death and name of mortuary

In person, please allow a minimum of 30 minutes to process requests. By mail, send the required information with check or money order. Please include your return address. Your order will be shipped approximately four to six weeks from receipt. By phone, call with the information required. Your order will be shipped three to five business days from receipt.

Marriage Records

$13 per certified copy of a public marriage license purchased in San Francisco

Information required:

- name of the groom
- full maiden name of the bride
- exact date of the marriage

Certified copies can be ordered by mail, by telephone, in person or on the Internet.

Assessor-Recorder's Office
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 190
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-5596
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
www.sfgov.org/site/assessor_index.asp

Note: There is an additional $5 convenience fee when ordering by phone or internet.

Autopsy Records

Autopsy records can be found at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, 1956–current. $33 per certified autopsy report. Non-certified copies are $14.

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Hall of Justice
850 Bryant Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
(415) 553-1694

For Medical Examiner's records dating 1902–1956, please contact the San Francisco History Center at the San Francisco Public Library. 24-48 hours delayed paging, (415) 557-4567. Name and date of death required. Copies are 15 cents per page.

Divorce, Wills and Probate Records

Records from April 1906 onwards

Clerk of the Superior Court, Room 103
400 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 551-3800
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
www.ci.sf.ca.us/courts

The Office of Vital Records in the California Department of Health Services also maintains birth, death, and marriage records from July 1905.

California Department of Health Services
Office of Vital Records – M.S. 5103
P.O. Box 997410
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410
(916) 445-2684
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.
www.dhs.ca.gov/chs/default.htm

$14.00 per certified birth certificates, $12 per death records, $13 marriage records. Personal checks are accepted. For credit cards, include your account number, expiration date and cardholder's name.

Adoptions

In most cases of adoption, the pre-adoption certificate is sealed and a new certificate is created. The record will need to be obtained from:

California State Office of Vital Records
304 S Street, Box 730241
Sacramento, CA 94244-0241
(916) 445-2684

Other Resources

Many religious groups have records prior to the 1906 earthquake. If the deceased was Catholic, contact the Holy Cross Cemetery at (650) 756-2060. Episcopal records remain with the parish. Closed parishes records are archived with the Episcopal Diocese of California, (415) 673-5015. For early Jewish cemetery records, contact Home of Peace (650) 755-4700.

The San Francisco Public Library's Magazine and Newspaper Department has microfilm copies of *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Examiner* and other local newspapers. These periodicals contain marriage, birth and death notices and are particularly useful for pre-1906 research.