



TOOLS/WEBSITES TO ASSIST YOU IN FINDING CIVIL DOCUMENTS

Canonical & Tribunal Services
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FINDING CIVIL DOCUMENTS

DEATH RECORDS

Site: <http://www.ssdi.rootsweb.ancestry.com> fee charged after limited search by credit card.

You can also write the Department of Vital Records in the State where your former spouse was last known to reside to see if there is a possible death certificate. Not available in all states.

Site: <http://www.vitalrec.com> can be used as a tool to find the location and telephone of the State's Vital Statistics office. It is much cheaper if you then contact the State's Vital Statistics office yourself rather than use the paid service that is website charges.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

A marriage record can generally be found in the County Clerk's Office of the county and state in which the license was obtained. A divorce decree can generally be found in the District Clerk's Office of the county and state in which the divorce was obtained. Some counties will check their records free while other charge a search fee. Limited availability in some states.

If you know what county and state documents are located, you can go to <http://www.vitalrec.com> to find the address and telephone of the office that you need to contact to obtain that certain document. It is much cheaper if you then contact the county office yourself rather than using the paid service that his site charges.

If the marriage and divorce took place in Texas, you can check the rootsweb.com website for the date and location (county).

For marriage: <http://userdb.rootsweb.com/tx/marriage/search.cgi> or
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/marriagedivorce/mindex.shtm>

For divorce: <http://userdb.rootsweb.com/tx/divorce/search.cgi> or
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/marriagedivorce/mindex.shtm>

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MARRIAGE APPLICATION (If available)

It is extremely helpful to the Tribunal if you provide the following documents. Not available in all states.

Check with the county in which the civil marriage license was obtained for a copy of the marriage application. If this document is available, it may contain helpful information such as a person's surname, date and place of birth, driver's license number, social security number, marital status of the parties, previous marriage and divorce information, parent's names and addresses, etc. It is less expensive to ask for a non-certified copy.

ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE

Contact the District Clerk's Office for a copy of the original petition for divorce. This document sometimes contains useful information such as addresses, social security, driver's license numbers, etc. It is less expensive to ask for a non-certified copy and generally the first and last page of this document is sufficient.