

HB

159

HFIN

FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHB 159(HES)
 (H) Publish Date: 3/16/07
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 RDU Public Health
 Component Bureau of Vital Statistics

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
 Title STILLBIRTH CERTIFICATE

Sponsor GATTO
 Requester HOUSE (HES)

Component No. 961

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other - Receipt Supported Services						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB159 would require the Bureau of Vital Statistics (BVS) to issue, upon the request of a parent, a "certificate of birth resulting in a stillbirth" for an intrauterine fetal death occurring after 20 complete gestational weeks. Approximately 50 stillbirths are recorded in Alaska annually. Based on response in other states passing similar legislation, it is expected most families would request such a certificate. These certificates would cost \$20.00 each. The division has adequate budget authorization to receive these additional receipts resulting in a zero fiscal note, even though there will be a cost to the requestor similar to other certificates.

Minimal programming and administrative time will be necessary to issue such certificates - amounting to an estimated \$1,000 annually. Assuming 50 certificates are issued each year at \$20 each, costs will be covered by the fee. The BVS budget is funded primarily by receipt supported services; all certificates issued - birth, death, fetal death - require a \$20 fee.

Prepared by: Jay Butler, M.D.
 Division Public Health
 Approved by: Karloen Jackson, Commissioner
 Agency Department of Health and Social Services

Phone 465-3090
 Date/Time 03/02/2007
 Date 03/06/2007

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101


State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

April 18, 2007

SUBJECT: Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth
(CSHB 159 (JUD)(Work Order No. 25-LS0647M))

TO: Representative Carl Gatto
Attn: Sandra Wilson

FROM: Jean M. Mischel
Legislative Counsel 

You have asked for verification that subsection (f) on page two, lines 12 - 13 of the above referenced bill allows for the issuance of a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth to a parent who experienced a stillbirth before the effective date of HB 159, if it passes the legislature. The answer is yes.

The subsection at issue states:

(f) A parent may request that the bureau issue a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth regardless of the date on which the certificate of fetal death was issued.

As long as a certificate of fetal death was issued in the state under AS 18.50.240, a parent may request, under subsection (f), that a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth be issued at any time. A retroactivity clause is not necessary to accomplish this since the subsection is clear as to timing and, after the effective date, the parent may make such a request.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

JMM:med
07-255.med



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee on HB159, dated 041707.

I was unable to attend the public testimony at the local LIO office here in Kenai today regarding HB 159. This bill is very important to many people, myself included. Three years ago, I lost a daughter at 39 1/2 weeks of gestation. I went into the hospital for a routine test and we found there was no heart beat. I opted to have a C-Section as I felt traumatized enough by the loss of my daughter, that I felt I could not go through several hours of labor to have a silent baby carried out of the room. In the middle of night, I was awoken by a nurse who told me I had to decide what we were going to do with "the body" since our local hospital does not have a morgue.

Early the next day, another nurse came in and had us fill out a Birth Certificate. Then, 15 minutes later, another nurse came in and told us that we filled out the wrong form and we had to fill out a form for a Death Certificate. All of this added to the trauma our family was already going through. It was liked being kicked when I was down when I found out that I could only receive a Death Certificate.

Validation that she existed, even if only to me, my family and my physician, was so important. And I couldn't even get that. Our daughter was already a member o. our family. Something as easy as a "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Still Birth" means something that probably no one can understand except for another parent of a still born infant. That piece of paper is just about the only positive thing in a situation like that. When you have to go home and empty the diaper bag and take down the crib, it is a feeling of total loss and sadness. And when I go through what belongings I have from her, her gown, a lock of her hair, her hand and foot prints, I would like to have the Birth Certificate as well. I know other parents that have experienced this loss and they feel the same way.

Please consider this bill as important as I do. If worded correctly, the document would not be able to be used to obtain fraudulent benefits. I appreciate your time and consideration. Please join the several other states offering this document and help parents that have lost a child obtain something that may make the loss a little less painful.

Respectfully, Rhonda Crawford-
907-394-3739, 907-263-7224, 35875 Poppy Ridge Rd, Soldotna AK 99669

Alaska State Legislature

Interim:
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Phone: (907) 376-3725
Fax: (907) 376-4768



Session:
Alaska State Capitol, Rm 108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-3743
Fax: (907) 465-2381
Toll Free: (800) 565-3743
Rep_Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us

Representative Carl Gatto
Co-Chair, House Resources Committee
District 13 - Palmer

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 159

"An Act relating to the issuance of a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth."

HB 159 is meant to help bring closure to those who have suffered the loss of a stillborn child by giving them a Birth Certificate reflecting that they had a child who was stillborn. To paraphrase one parent of a stillborn child said being able to receive a Birth Certificate for that child would make me feel complete in that it would acknowledge that my daughter existed, even if it was only for a short while.

In existing law parents of a stillborn child receive a death certificate. This bill would allow parents the option of requesting a certificate of birth for their stillborn child. This birth certificate is completely optional. If the parents choose to have a Birth Certificate issued they also have the choice to have a name on it and if they choose not to name the child the Birth Certificate will reflect either "baby boy" or "baby girl."

There are an increasing number of states that are now offering Birth Certificates for parents of Stillborns. Let us join these states and offer parents of stillborns the option of obtaining a Birth Certificate for their child. Urge your support for HB 159.

MISSING ANGELS BILL FACT SHEET

- I. The bill establishes a "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth" as an *optional* document for families requesting and paying for it in our state;
- II. There is already a *death certificate* issued and *legislated final disposition at families' expense* for all stillborn babies in our state;
- III. Stillbirth is the unintentional death of an unborn baby who has *passed 20 completed gestational weeks* as defined by the NICHD. These are not early losses or abortions. Rather these are the births of dead babies;
- IV. Between 25,000-30,000 babies are stillborn in the U.S. each year, one in 100 pregnancies. Most occur at or near full term to otherwise apparently healthy babies;
- V. Other countries including the United Kingdom, Australia and Ireland already issue certificates of birth for stillborn babies;
- VI. The bill has been passed in 15 U.S. states, and legislation is pending in more than five states;
- VII. A baby born at 19 weeks gestation, pre-viability, but who takes one breath is issued a Certificate of Live Birth and is counted in infant mortality rates. Conversely, a baby born at 40 weeks gestation and past viability can die just one second prior to birth, will only receive a death certificate, and is not counted in infant mortality statistics;
- VIII. It is not only about dignity and validation, but also about maternal health and newborn well-being, epidemiology, and research. It is the right thing to do for women in our state and their families.

"MISSing Angels Legislation - A State Chart"

Those states offering an official, legal document that includes the words Certificate of Birth in the title to the parents of stillborn children are considered 'MISSing Angels States'.

The chart below provides:

1. A direct link to each state's legislative website (click on the state's name).
2. A 'five-star' status of the progress being made in each state.

★ - We have been contacted - someone in the state wants the legislation.

★★ - A state legislator has become involved.

★★★ - Legislation was filed at some point - but it failed to pass. We need your help!

★★★★ - Legislation is pending in the state's current legislative session.

★★★★★ (CoS) - This state offers a "Certificate of Stillbirth".

★★★★★★ - The state offers a document, by legislation, that includes the words 'Certificate of Birth' in the title to the parents of stillborn children. These MISSing Angels states will also have a shaded background.

3. A link to the pending (or) existing legislation, or, the actual statute or law for a particular state.
4. Does the pending (or) existing legislation (or) statute provide for the issuance of a document that includes the words 'Certificate of Birth' in the title to the parents of stillborn children? (Yes or No).
5. If an **Email Action List** has been created for your state - you can sign up to be notified with timely news regarding your state's Missing Angels Bill activity. Your email address will remain safe and secure - and you can help make this important change in your state by clicking on the "Sign Me Up!" link.
6. Email links to members and/or associates of The M.I.S.S. Foundation.

PLEASE READ - VERY IMPORTANT NOTE:

Although they are both worded very similarly, a "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth" and a "Certificate of Stillbirth" are not the same thing.

Legislators, Policy Analysts, and State Health Departments agree, there is a subtle, yet

immense difference in the two.

The M.I.S.S. Foundation believes that all states should record births as births... whether live or still.

Thus, our goal, for those states that offer a "Certificate of Stillbirth", is to legislatively *change* the certificate to a "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth" - which we view as a "BIRTH" certificate.

If there are no members listed for your state, and you'd like to champion for it, please email Joanne Cacciatore or John Nevels.

Please report any 'broken' or incorrect links that you may find on this chart to: John Nevels.

State:	Five-Star Status:	Link to Bill or Statute:	Yes or No:	MISS Foundation Contact(s):
<u>Alabama</u>	★★★	<u>HB208 (2004 Regular Session)</u> (Indefinitely postponed' as of May 5, 2004)	Yes	<u>Stormy Entrekin</u>
<u>Alaska</u>	★			<u>Rhonda Crawford</u>
Arizona - State Tax Exemption for		<u>Arizona Revised Statutes 43.1023</u> (LAW enacted May 10, 2004)		<u>Joanne Cacciatore</u>

Stillborn Children				
<u>Arkansas</u>	★★★★★ (CoS)	No known reference in 'Arkansas Code'... New legislation pending as of February 13, 2007	No	<u>Lynette Spruiell</u>
<u>California</u>	★★★	First Attempt (AB1929) Withdrawn		<u>Kirsten Pert</u> (lead contact), <u>Katie Hodge</u> , <u>Kim Lotz</u> , <u>Sari Ldber</u> , <u>Sunita Param</u>
<u>Colorado</u>	★★★★★ (CoS)	<u>Colorado Revised Statutes</u> <u>25-2-112 3</u> (Law enacted July 1, 2004)	No	<u>Caprice Bass</u> , <u>Leslie Clemenson</u>
<u>Connecticut</u>	★			<u>Kelly Weber</u>
<u>Delaware</u>	★★★★★ (CoS)	<u>Delaware Code</u> <u>Title 16, Subchapter 1,</u> <u>Paragraph 3110(h)</u> (Law enacted July 22, 2004)	No	
<u>District of Columbia</u>				
<u>Georgia</u>				
<u>Hawaii</u>	★			<u>Angela Bilan</u>
<u>Idaho</u>	★★★★★ (CoS)	<u>Idaho Statute 39-260</u>	No	<u>Nancy Graysen</u>
<u>Illinois</u>	★★★★★ (CoS)	<u>Public Act 93-0578</u>	No	<u>Mary Geitz (e-</u>

				mail) and (website)
<u>Iowa</u>	★★★★ (CoS)	<u>Iowa Code Chapter 144</u> (No direct mention of CoS in code. Done by policy - not by law)	No	<u>Laura Mikota,</u> <u>Jaye Zessar</u>
<u>Kansas</u>	★★★★ (CoS)	<u>K.S.A. 65-2412</u>	No	<u>Karen and Alan Wondra,</u> <u>Pat Flynn</u>
<u>Kentucky</u>	★★★★ (CoS)	<u>Kentucky Revised Statutes 213.096</u> (By policy - not by law)	No	
<u>Maine</u>				

<u>Michigan</u>	★★★★(CoS)	<u>Michigan Compiled Law</u> Act 368 of 1978 Section 333.2834 (Effective October 1, 2002)	No	<u>Michelle Baird</u>
<u>Mississippi</u>	★★★	<u>HB 566</u> (sent to Senate H & W committee as of January 19, 2007) ~ and ~ <u>SB 2764</u> (passed Senate as of February 6, 2007)	Yes	<u>Stacy Credille</u>
Missouri - State Tax Exempti on for Stillborn Children		<u>House Bill 816</u> Introduced and read first time on February 8, 2007		<u>Patrick Barclay</u>
<u>Montana</u>	★★★	<u>SB.</u> Passed Senate, but reported dead in committee on April 21, 2005	Yes	<u>Senator Gary L. Perry</u>
<u>Nebraska</u>	★			<u>Brandy Richardson</u>
<u>Nevada</u>	★			<u>Jacque Fougner</u>

<u>New Hampshire</u>	★★	House Bill (Number Assignment Pending)	Yes	<u>Stacey Burnell</u>
<u>New Mexico</u>	★★			<u>Rence Padilla,</u> <u>Chuck Baca,</u> <u>Christy Rutherford,</u> <u>Carin Dhaouadi</u>
<u>New York</u>	★★★	<u>A02264</u> (sent to Health as of January 16, 2007) ~ and ~ <u>S00186</u> (sent to Health as of January 3, 2007)	Yes	<u>Janet Press,</u> <u>Bryan & Kimberly Granata</u>
<u>North Carolina</u>	★★★	<u>Senate Bill 46</u> In Senate - held as filed as of February 1, 2007	Yes	<u>Natalie Conner,</u> <u>Karl Huber,</u> <u>Kelly Webber</u>
<u>North Dakota</u>	★★★	<u>House Bill 1129</u> Passed House on February 12, 2007	Yes	<u>Melissa Stuart</u>
<u>Ohio</u>	★★★★ (CoS)	<u>Ohio Revised Code §3705.23(B)(3)</u>	No	<u>Kym Smith</u>
<u>Oklahoma</u>	★★★	<u>SB889</u> (2005 Regular Session) (Voted down as of March 5, 2004)	Yes	<u>Pat Flynn</u>
<u>Oregon</u>	★★★★ (CoS)	<u>Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 432 - Vital</u>	No	<u>Nita Lundberg</u>

		Statistics Section 432.266 Effective on January 1, 2006		
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	★ ★ ★	House Bill 1031 Laid on the table, September 26, 2005	No	<u>Dorothy Knappenberger</u>
<u>Rhode Island</u>	★ ★	House Bill 5086 Introduced and referred to House H.E.W. on January 17, 2007	Yes	<u>Richard & Nancy Silva</u>
<u>South Dakota</u>	★ ★ ★	Senate Bill 206 Passed Senate as of February 13, 2007	Yes	<u>Sharon Apa</u>
<u>Tennessee</u>	★ ★ ★	SB 003 (Bill died in committee on May 4, 2005)	No	<u>Elisha Conway</u>
<u>Vermont</u>				

<u>Washington</u>	★ ★			<u>Liz Allen , Kara</u> <u>L.C. Jones</u>
<u>West Virginia</u>	★			
<u>Wyoming</u>				

What is a stillbirth?

Stillbirth is the death of a baby after the 20th week of pregnancy, but before delivery. The baby might have died in the uterus weeks or hours before labor, or rarely, during labor.

How common are stillbirths?

Stillbirth occurs in about 1 percent of all births.

What causes stillbirths?

The three major causes of stillbirths are:

- Problems with the placenta and/or umbilical cord — Because the fetus gets its blood, oxygen, and nutrients through the placenta and umbilical cord, problems in either will interfere with fetal development.
- Maternal medical conditions and lifestyle choices — Certain illnesses in the mother, or their treatments, sometimes cause stillbirths. Some of these conditions include high blood pressure, pre-eclampsia (high blood pressure and swelling, often late in the pregnancy) diabetes, lupus, heart or thyroid disease, and certain viral or bacterial infections. Older mothers are usually at increased risk for these conditions, as well as for stillbirths. Smoking, drinking alcohol, and using certain recreational drugs during pregnancy are also associated with higher rates of stillbirth.
- Birth defects — In about one-fourth of stillborn babies, one or more birth defects are responsible for the death. Many are found only after a thorough examination of the baby and an autopsy.

Unfortunately, many stillbirths are unexplained, which only adds to parents' grief.

What happens after a stillborn baby is delivered?

You will be able to hold your baby, and your health care providers will allow you as much time as you need to spend with your child. You might feel uncomfortable with this idea at first.

Ask for and keep any mementos and keepsakes of your child, such as the I.D. bracelet, blanket, or a lock of your child's hair, and take as many pictures as possible. As with holding your baby, this might also be uncomfortable but it might be a cherished possession at a later time and might help you during your grieving process. Most hospitals will issue the family a birth certificate, but make sure you ask, and request that it include the baby's hand and footprints.

Can a stillbirth be prevented?

Usually a stillbirth cannot be prevented, and often occurs because the baby's development was not normal.

Sometimes, treatment of a mother's illness can improve the chances for a successful pregnancy.

Is a funeral necessary?

After the death of your baby, one of the first decisions you will be faced with is whether or not you need to arrange a funeral.

The type of arrangements you make might play an important role in the grieving process. It is a decision that only you and your partner can reach together. You might find that you need time to make your decisions and arrangements. It is quite common for families to take up to a week (and sometimes longer) to make arrangements. This is okay.

No matter what your choice is, you have the right to change your mind. Be sure you ask whomever is carrying out your arrangements just how long you have to make any changes.

March 7, 2007

The Honorable Representative Carl Gatto
The Honorable Representative Bob Roses
Alaska House of Representatives

Dear Representatives Gatto and Roses,

Thank you for allowing me to testify by telephone on HB 159 (Certificate of Birth Resulting In Stillbirth).

Please create Alaska's "Certificate of Birth Resulting In Stillbirth." These six words are of vital importance. Here is why:

'Stillbirth protocols', and the medical courtesies given to mothers throughout Alaskan hospitals (or lack thereof) dictate the parents may be given mementos such as the baby's "crib-card," the wrist or ankle bands, or the handprints associated with the birth of their baby. Yet parents of stillborn babies check out of the hospital with empty arms, broken hearts and sent home with deep wounds. It's easy to understand that any "tangible item" from these traumatic events could be considered essential in the bereavement process.

Under this bill, parents who lose a child after 20 weeks of gestation would be issued a "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth."

As of this letter, the State of South Dakota has been the 15th state in the United States to adopt such meaningful legislation. Please support the specific wording, "Certificate of Birth Resulting In Stillbirth." . If your colleagues have concerns over pro-choice issues, consider following Florida's law (14th state), and adding clear language, "This Certificate Is Not Proof of Live Birth," to squash those concerns.

Please do not allow the wording to be changed, or any amendments offered to dilute or diminish the issue of "birth." Birth is a process: Life or death is an outcome. To no fault of the parents, their child was born dead. Your great state can deem it very appropriate to acknowledge all of Alaska's stillborn children. The fact is: they lived, they died, and that even in their deaths, all of these children very much matter.

Respectfully with appreciation,



Daryl T. Logullo, Proud Father of Katherine Elizabeth Logullo
(Born Sleeping on May 10, 2005)

National Legislative Liaison (volunteer)
www.MissingAngelsBill.org

Form VS-201
06-2284 (Rev. 5-88)

150

CERTIFICATE OF FETAL DEATH

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS - JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0675

STATE FILE NUMBER

DATE REGISTERED

TYPE OR PRINT IN
PERMANENT INK

RECORDERS NO.

FETUS

1. FETUS—NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST

2. SEX Male Female
3a. THIS DELIVERY SINGLE TWIN TRIPLET
3b. IF NOT SINGLE DELIVERY - BORN 1st 2nd 3rd
4a. DATE OF DELIVERY (Month, Day, Year)
4b. HOUR

PLACE OF DELIVERY ALASKA
5a. RECORDING DISTRICT
5b. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION

6a. HOSPITAL - NAME (if not in hospital, give street and number)
6b. STREET AND NUMBER

FATHER

6a. FATHER - NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST
6b. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)
6c. BIRTHPLACE (State or Foreign Country)

MOTHER

7a. MOTHER - MAIDEN NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST
7b. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)
7c. BIRTHPLACE (State or Foreign Country)

8a. RESIDENCE - STATE
8b. RECORDING DISTRICT OR COUNTY

8c. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION
8d. INSIDE CITY LIMITS? Yes No
8e. STREET AND NUMBER

CAUSE

9. PER L FETAL DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a.), (b.), AND (c.)

(a) FETAL OR MATERNAL CONDITION DIRECTLY CAUSING FETAL DEATH
(b) FETAL AND/OR MATERNAL CONDITIONS, IF ANY, OLVING RISE TO THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a.) STATING THE UNDERLYING CAUSE LAST.
(c) DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

10. FETUS DIED BEFORE LABOR DURING LABOR UNKNOWN
11a. AUTOPSY? Yes No
11b. IF YES, WITH THE INDICAL CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING CAUSE OF DEATH? Yes No

ATTESTED BY

12a. I CERTIFY THAT THIS DELIVERY OCCURRED ON THE DATE ENTERED ABOVE AND THE FETUS WAS BORN DEAD.
12b. DATE SIGNED (Month, Day, Year)
12c. CERTIFIER'S NAME AND TITLE (Type in full)
Name: M.D. P.D. Hospital / Clinic N.M. O.R.N. CHA. R.P.
 Other (Specify) Other (Specify)

13a. ATTENDANT'S NAME AND TITLE (if other than mother) (Type in full)
Name: M.D. P.D. O.R.N. CHA. R.P.
 Other (Specify)
13b. ATTENDANT'S MAILING ADDRESS (Print and include or Rural Route Number, City or Town, State, and Zip Code)

14a. RECORDER - SIGNATURE
14b. ADDRESS
14c. DATE RECORDED (Month, Day, Year)

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH USE ONLY

FATHER

15. OF HISPANIC ORIGIN? (Specify No or Yes - If yes, specify Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, etc.)
15a. No Yes
16. RACE - Hispanic, Black, Latino, White, etc. (Specify below)
16a.
17. EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed)
17a. Elementary/Secondary (0-12) College (14 or 16+)

MOTHER

15b. No Yes
16b. No Yes
17b.

18. PREGNANCY HISTORY (Complete each section)
18a. LIVE BIRTHS
18b. Now Living Number None
18c. Now Dead Number None
18d. DATE OF LAST LIVE BIRTH (Month, Year)
18e. DATE OF LAST OTHER TERMINATION (Month, Year)
18f. OTHER TERMINATIONS (Spontaneous and induced at any time after conception) Number None
19. MOTHER MARRIED? (At delivery, conception, or any time between) Yes No
20. DATE LAST NORMAL MENSTRUATION (Month, Day, Year)

21. MONTH OF PREGNANCY PRENATAL CARE BEGAN - First, Second, Third, etc. (Specify)
22. PRENATAL VISITS - Total Number (If none, so state)

23a. WEIGHT OF FETUS (Specify unit)
23b. CLINICAL ESTIMATE OF GESTATION (Weeks)

19f. TOTAL PRIOR PREGNANCIES
None Number _____

24a. MEDICAL CONDITIONS AFFECTING THIS PREGNANCY (Check all that apply)
Anemia (Hct. <30% for <10) 01
Cardiac disease 02
Acute or chronic lung disease 03
Diabetes 04
Diabetes - Gestational 05
Genital herpes 06
Hydramnion/Oligohydramnios 07
24b. OBSTETRIC PROCEDURES (Check all that apply)
Amniocentesis 01
Continuous fetal monitoring 02
Induction of labor 03
Stimulation of labor 04
Tocolysis 05
Ultrasound 06
None 07
Other (Specify) 07
25. CONGENITAL ANOMALIES OF FETUS (Check all that apply)
Anercephalus 01
Spina bifida/Meningocele 02
Hydrocephalus 03
Microcephalus 04
Other central nervous system anomalies (Specify) 05
Heart malformations 06
Other circulatory/respiratory anomalies

EAST CHICAGO HEALTH DEPARTMENT

EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth

ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS OF THE EAST CHICAGO HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MARY SHANN CHRISTOPHER MENSING, JR. (Deceased)

WIFE OF THE DECEASED OF EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA, ON JULY 18, 1990

MICHAEL ANTHONY MINSOPH AND ANGELA MICHELE MENSING

Local Number 468

HEALTH OFFICER SIGNATURE



ISSUED

JULY 1, 2002

THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT PROOF OF A LIVE BIRTH



*Department of Health and Social Services
Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics*

Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth

According to Alaska State Records

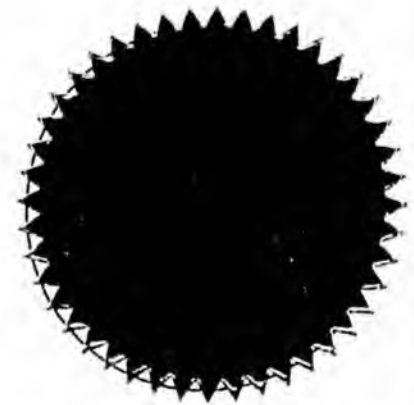
Bump Nevels Was Delivered on August 1, 2002

In Cicely, Alaska

To Carolyn Anne Puckett and John Earl Nevels

Date Issued: 11/29/2005

FD Number: 2002999999



This certificate is not proof of live birth

When they pass through they often leave nothing behind but footprints.



Cheyenne Cacciatore July 27, 1994

Over 26,000 times a year in the United States a mother delivers a "still" baby. For many footprints on paper are the only memento they have to show they once had a baby who passed through this world. The lucky ones find out why their baby died. But for two-thirds of mothers no answer can be given them to explain why their "normal" baby was delivered dead. Not knowing a cause leaves them blaming themselves, and searching for answers.

Far from being a rare event, Sudden Antenatal Death Syndrome (SADS) – as it's referred to in medical circles - was 12 times as prevalent as S.I.D.S. or crib death last year. And yet one neither hears nor reads much about it. Until the National Stillbirth Society was founded last year by a bereaved stillbirth father, there was no organization fighting to defeat stillbirth.

One reason there's so little SADS awareness is because the birth of a "still" baby, rather than being acknowledged in official state records, has been swept under the carpet. The death of the baby is acknowledged, but not the birth. A woman who delivers a live baby receives a **Certificate of Live Birth.** But let the same mother give birth to a "still" baby and she doesn't get a certificate of birth for that baby.... as if that birth never happened!

Birth is a process; live or "still" is only a result. A mother of twins, who delivers one twin live and one "still", is now given a certificate for the live birth only in 38 states. We believe a mother should receive a **Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth** in recognition of having delivered her dead baby too, as should all stillbirth mothers. That's the reality of what happened. They all gave birth!

Arizona, the first state to pass legislation, named it "The Missing Angel Act". Since then states across the nation have introduced their own version of the Bill and as of February 1, 2004 there were 12 states that issue a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth. It's a simple bill that seeks only to provide closure for mothers who suffered the pains and joys of pregnancy and childbirth, without getting to take home their reward.

The Missing Angel Act does not impact on or involve in any way "elective terminations of pregnancies". That is not our issue and never will be our issue! We are fighting solely for the rights of stillbirth mothers – and there are more than a million living in this country today – who carried a child, in some cases to full term, and having lost that child to stillbirth, were denied a certificate that says they tried. The right to receive a Certificate that acknowledges they went through a birthing process.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LEGISLATION IN YOUR STATE



The National Stillbirth Society

www.stillnomore.org

Richard K. Olsen, Executive Director E-mail: stillnomore@cox.net

Sandra Wilson

From: Michelle Hoyt [mehoyt@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2007 6:55 PM
To: Sandra Wilson
Subject: Still Birth Bill

Sandra,

The bill to create a 'Birth Certificate resulting in a Still Birth' would make me and a lot of people feel complete. My daughter was still born at 36 weeks and we had a large funeral for her. The idea that the state will only accept the fact that she died is so heart breaking. How can a person die with out being born? Having that piece of paper in my hand would bring closure to the entire grieving process. This would validate that my little girl was once here and apart of our lives.

Thanks so much for bringing this bill forward.

Michelle Hoyt
907-357-4891

Bonnie Gruening

From: Colleen Sullivan-Leonard [colleen_sullivan_leonard@gov.state.ak.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2007 2:49 PM
To: Rep. Carl Gatto
Subject: HB 159

Dear Carl,

Thank you, thank you thank you! I appreciate you bringing this legislation forward on behalf of many parents who have lost a little one due to fetal demise. I am one of those people. I lost my daughter Michelle at 32 weeks gestation, my first child. I was 21 years old and at that time all the hospital staff requested was for me to sign a death certificate for vital statistics and that was it. Imagine my surprise when 3 months later I went through an incredible grieving process for this child. At that time there was very little interaction with staff, counselors or family members regarding this loss. Many well meaning friends would say, it happened, move on with life. It is a true loss and no one knows what it feels like until you go through it. I believe this bill will assist in the acknowledgement of the child that was wanted and loved and also assist in the grieving process as well. I do know that hospitals now days do assist in the grieving process following a fetal demise and I have worked with several families who have had a loss so I know we have come a long way on this issue.

Thank you for bringing this forward, I know that many will appreciate this kind gesture.

Regards, Colleen