

GOVERNMENT SOURCES OF VITAL RECORDS FOR BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY

New York State began its vital records registration program in 1880, but the law was not well-enforced until 1914. **Prior to 1914, birth, marriage and death records may not be complete.** Some municipalities may have vital records that are older than 1880.

The offices listed below cannot guarantee access or results when searching for records. A fee may be charged for searches. Some records must be searched in person by you. **Most of the records described below are NOT online.** Some of the indexes for these records are online. Please see the following guides for details:

Vital records in the Grosvenor Room: <https://tinyurl.com/qkra3pf>

Miscellaneous Genealogy Records in the Grosvenor Room: <https://tinyurl.com/v2b4392>

	TYPE of RECORD	PLACE of EVENT	DATES AVAILABLE	WHO to CONTACT	NOTES
1	Births	City of Buffalo	1878-1915	City of Buffalo Inactive Records Center 45 Comet St Buffalo, NY 14216 (716) 874-6402	Index onsite. Records can be ordered and mailed to you, or can be picked up at City Hall. Please call before arriving. Staff divides their time between record sites.
2	Births	City of Buffalo	1881 to 1913 (incomplete)	Erie County Clerk Erie County Hall 92 Franklin Street Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 858-8785	On microfilm. No index. Must be searched in person.
3	Births	City of Buffalo	1916 to present	Vital Records Buffalo City Hall Room 1302 65 Niagara Square Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 851-5431 (City Clerk number) (716) 851-5440 (Births)	Some privacy restrictions apply. Genealogy copies may be available. Searches can take time; may need to leave contact info while staff searches.
4	Births	Erie County towns	Varies	Town Clerk in the community	See telephone book or Town websites.
5	Births	Erie County towns	1914 to present*	Certification Unit New York State Dept. of Health Vital Records Section P.O. Box 2602 Albany, NY 12220-2602 (518) 474-3077 / (518) 474-3038 https://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/genealogy.htm	* If on file for at least 75 years and the person is known to be deceased. May take 8 months or longer to process.
6	Adoptions: See our separate Adoption guides.				
7	Marriages	City of Buffalo/ Erie County towns	1878 to 29 April 1935 (incomplete)	Erie County Clerk See address on line 2.	These records are also available in the Grosvenor Room.
8	Marriages	City of Buffalo	1877-1907, Bride index only	City of Buffalo Inactive Records Center. See address on line 1.	Index onsite. Records can be ordered and mailed to you, or can be picked up at City Hall.
9	Marriages	City of Buffalo	1908 to present	Buffalo City Hall--(716) 851-5444 See address on line 3.	Some privacy restrictions apply.
10	Marriages	Erie County towns	1881 to present*	New York State Dept. of Health Vital Records Section See address on line 5.	*If on file for at least 50 years and both spouses are known to be deceased. May take 5 months or more to process.

	TYPE of RECORD	PLACE of EVENT	DATES AVAILABLE	WHO to CONTACT	NOTES
11	Marriages	Erie County towns	30 April 1935 to present	Town Clerk in the community	See telephone book or town websites.
12	Divorces	Buffalo/Erie County	Early 1800s to present	Erie County Clerk See address on line 2.	Sealed for 100 years except to parties involved and their attorneys. A certificate of dissolution may be obtained, which includes the parties' names, date of dissolution, and type of judgment (annulment, separation, divorce.)
13	Naturalizations	Buffalo/Erie County	1827 to 1929	Erie County Clerk See address on line 2.	Little genealogical value in records prior to 1900. For more information see the miscellaneous records guide: https://tinyurl.com/bdz5hb62
14	Naturalizations	Buffalo/Erie County	27 Sep 1906 to present	U.S District Court Clerk's Office, 2 nd Floor, Room 2 2 Niagara Square Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 551-1700	In-person requests only. Staff will search their index. This index is also in the Grosvenor Room through 1966. Naturalization records are not kept locally. They can be ordered from the National Archives: http://tinyurl.com/bj5rfkz . For more information see the miscellaneous records guide: https://tinyurl.com/bdz5hb62
15	Land Records	Buffalo/Erie County	1808 to present	Erie County Clerk See address on line 2.	Many deeds are also online at: https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2078654
16	Tax Records	City of Buffalo	1815-1997	City of Buffalo Inactive Records Center See address on line 1.	1815-1837: original bound volumes 1838-1997: on microfilm
17	Deaths	City of Buffalo	1852-1944	City of Buffalo Inactive Records Center See address on line 1.	Index on site. Records can be ordered and mailed to you, or can be picked up at City Hall.
18	Deaths	City of Buffalo	1945 to present	Buffalo City Hall (716) 851-5437 See address on line 3.	Some privacy restrictions apply. Searches can take time; may need to leave contact info while staff searches.
19	Deaths	Buffalo Psychiatric Center	1878-1999	Buffalo City Hall (716) 851-5437 See address on line 3.	See above.
20	Deaths	VA Hospital	2012-present	Buffalo City Hall (716) 851-5437 See address on line 3.	See above.
20	Deaths	Erie County towns	Varies	Town Clerk in the community	See telephone book or town websites.
21	Deaths	Buffalo/Erie County	1914 to present*	New York State Dept. of Health See address on line 5.	*If on file for at least 50. May take 5 months or longer to process.
22	Coroners' Reports	Buffalo/Erie County	1878 to present	Erie Co. Medical Examiner's Office 501 Kensington Ave. Buffalo, NY 14214 (716)-961-7591	Erie County coroners' reports from Oct. 1878 – Jun. 1902 are available on microfilm in the Grosvenor Room. Other dates are not available to the public. Copies are available to next of kin. To request an autopsy report, contact the department in writing with as much detail as you know about the deceased.
23	Coroners' Reports	Buffalo Hospital / Erie County Poorhouse	1898-1925	Grosvenor Room	Available by request in the Grosvenor Room.
24	Wills	Buffalo/Erie County	Ca. 1800 to present	Will & Probate Division Surrogate Court 92 Franklin St. Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 845-2560	Staff will retrieve 3 files per day. Most records are offsite and may take several days to retrieve. An index is available onsite.

Grosvenor Room • Buffalo & Erie County Public Library • 1 Lafayette Square • Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 858-8900 • www.buffalolib.org • Edited January 2023