

Genealogical Records

FAQs

- **What records are available?**
 - Information from records of birth or death may be provided for genealogical research purposes subject to provisions of Section 35.5 of the Health Commissioner's Rules and Regulations. Each uncertified copy must include the statement "For Genealogical Purpose Only".
 - Information may be released for genealogy research subject to the following requirements:
 - Birth Records – must be on file for at least 75 years and the person to whom the records relate is known to the applicant to be deceased.
 - Death Records – must be on file for at least 50 years. The Town of Canisteo death records begin 1888.
 - Marriage Records – must be on file for at least 50 years and both parties to the marriage are known to the applicant to be deceased.
 - The time periods specified for birth and death records may be waived if the applicant is a descendant or has been designated to act on behalf of the descendant of the person whose record is being requested. A descendant is a person in the direct line of descent such as a son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, etc. The local registrar must require proof that the requestor is a direct line ancestor when a waiver of the waiting period is required.
- **What is the cost?**
 - The fee schedule is per each name of type of record requested and vary depending on requested number of years to be searched.
 - 1-3 years searched \$22.00
 - 4-10 years searched \$42.00
 - 11-20 years searched \$62.00
 - 21-30 Years searched \$82.00
 - 31-40 Years searched \$102.00
 - 41-50 Years searched \$122.00
 - 51-60 years searched \$142.00
 - 61-70 years searched \$162.00
 - The fee is separate for each record requested. Example one birth record search 1-3 years and a death record search 11-20 years the charge will be:
 - $\$22.00 + \$62.00 = \$84.00$
 - Download [Application for Genealogical Services \(PDF\)](https://www.health.ny.gov/forms/doh-4384.pdf) or complete an application form available from the clerk.
 - <https://www.health.ny.gov/forms/doh-4384.pdf>
 - If no record is on file, a NO RECORD REPORT will be issued.
- **I want to do genealogical research, why can't I just look through the old records myself? After all, there is no confidential information in the old records.**
 - These records are permanent records and must be protected from excessive handling in order to help preserve them. Moisture and acids present on everyone's skin will deteriorate the paper and in.