

DIGITAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND BIRTH ATTESTATIONS IN NIGERIA: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

Introduction

Nigerian Birth certificates are fundamental civil status documents required for a wide range of immigration, consular and official purposes, including visa and passport applications, family reunification, overseas school admissions, age verification, and the correction or regularisation of identity records.

As immigration and consular authorities increasingly adopt digital verification systems, many foreign embassies and institutions now require civil status documents that can be electronically authenticated. Consequently, applicants relying on older, non-digital National Population Commission ("NPC") birth certificates may encounter difficulties in satisfying the documentary requirements for certain immigration, consular and international administrative processes.

To address this, the NPC has introduced digital birth certificate and digital birth attestation platforms, enabling eligible applicants to obtain electronically verifiable civil status records that are increasingly recognised and accepted by foreign embassies and other institutions.

This Client Alert outlines the eligibility requirements, applicable government fees, and the step-by-step application procedures for obtaining a digital birth certificate or digital birth attestation through the NPC's self-service portals.

How to Obtain a Digital Birth Certificate: Birth Registration (Applicants Aged Zero (0) to Seventeen (17) Years)

The digital birth certificate application process is available for children between the ages of Zero (0) and Seventeen (17) years whose births occurred in Nigeria.

Eligibility Requirements

To commence the birth registration process, the following conditions must be satisfied:

- (a) The child must have been born in Nigeria;¹
- (b) The child must possess a valid National Identification Number (NIN); and
- (c) Either of the child's parent must be Nigerian and have a valid Birth Certificate.

Required Documents

- (a) Child's NIN
- (b) Parent's Attestation Number

Application Fee

The prescribed application fee is Five Thousand Naira Only (₦5,000.00) (approximately US\$11) per applicant.

Please note that birth registration is free of charge for children under the age of five (5) years.

Application Process

- i. Visit the birth registration self service website at: <https://www.birthreg-selfservice.nationalpopulation.gov.ng/>
- ii. Click "New Application".
- iii. Enter your valid email address where Payment Reference would be sent to.
- iv. Make the prescribed payment of Five Thousand Naira (₦5,000.00) (approximately US\$4) (please note that payment processing charges will apply).

1. A Birth Notification is the ideal application for children born outside Nigeria.



- v. Upon successful payment, login to the portal using your payment reference number.
- vi. Complete the online application form by providing all the required information.
- vii. Review your application and submit.

Once the application has been successfully submitted, the digital birth certificate is generated and made available for download within a few hours.

How to obtain a Digital Birth Attestation (Applicants Aged Eighteen (18) Years and Above)

Individuals who are Eighteen (18) years of age or older may apply for a Digital Birth Attestation where a birth certificate is unavailable.

Required Documents

- (a) Valid NIN
- (b) Valid email address
- (c) Active Phone Number
- (d) Court Sworn Affidavit of declaration of Age

Application Fee

The prescribed application fee is Fifteen Thousand Naira Only (₦15,000.00) (approximately US\$11) per applicant.

Application Process

- i. Visit the birth attestation self-service website at: <https://attestation.nationalpopulation.gov.ng/welcome>
- ii. Click "Attestation".
- iii. Enter your valid email address where Payment Reference will be sent to.
- iv. Make the prescribed payment of Fifteen Thousand Naira (₦15,000.00 (approximately US\$11)) (please note that payment processing charges will apply).
- v. Upon successful payment, login to the portal using your payment reference number.
- vi. Complete Face Capture. Ensure you have a stable network, good lighting and a plain background.
- vii. Complete the online application form by providing all the required information.
- viii. Upload Court Sworn Affidavit.
- ix. Review your application and submit. Please note that attestation can only be applied for once, it is therefore important to verify all information carefully before submission.

Once the application has been successfully submitted, the digital birth attestation letter is generated and made available for download within a few hours.

Conclusion

As immigration and consular authorities continue to place greater emphasis on digitally verifiable civil records, applicants should ensure that their birth documentation complies with the requirements of the relevant authority before commencing any application. Where a Digital Birth Certificate or Digital Birth Attestation is required, obtaining the appropriate document in advance may help prevent avoidable processing delays or requests for additional documentation.

For additional information, please contact Immigration Team Bloomfield LP - Email immigration@bloomfield-law.com or call +234 1 454 2130

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