

Resources for Caregivers of Children

Birth Certificates

The [PA Department of Health](http://www.health.pa.gov/) issues birth certificates. A birth certificate costs \$20 and can be obtained online at <http://www.health.pa.gov/>, through the mail (an application can be obtained from the website), or at one of the following six Pennsylvania Department of Health locations:

Pittsburgh Public Office
Division of Vital Records
411 Seventh Ave., Suite 360
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1973
412-565-5113

Scranton Public Office
Division of Vital Records
Scranton State Office Bldg., Room 112
100 Lackawanna Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503-1928
570-963-4595

Philadelphia Public Office
Division of Vital Records
110 N. Eighth St., Suite 108
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2412
215-560-3054

Erie Public Office
Division of Vital Records
1910 W. 26th St.
Erie, PA 16508-1148
814-871-4261

Harrisburg Public Office
Division of Vital Records
Forum Place Building
555 Walnut St., First Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1914
717-772-3480

New Castle Public Office
Division of Vital Records
105 Nesbitt Rd.
New Castle, PA 16105
724-656-3100

Social Security Cards

The [Social Security](https://www.ssa.gov/) website (<https://www.ssa.gov/>) provides information about obtaining Social Security cards. You will need the child's birth certificate and additional documentation, such as school or daycare records. Any child age 12 and older must appear in person to apply for a Social Security card.

To locate a Social Security Office, call 1-800-772-1213

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Human Services Assistance Programs and Services

[The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/) (<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/>) provides information about Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Benefits. You may be eligible for cash assistance, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), help with child care, health care coverage (Children’s Health Insurance Program, also known as CHIP) for your grandchildren, home heating assistance (LIHEAP), or school meals, while raising your grandchild.

Following are the contact numbers for additional services through the Department of Human Services:

Service	Phone Number
Autism Services	1-866-539-7689
Benefits Helpline (for Cash Assistance, SNAP, MA, etc.)	1-800-692-7462
Children's Health Helpline (CHIP)	1-800-986-KIDS
Disability Services	1-800-753-8827
Pharmacy Services	1-800-537-8862, option 1

School Information

The [Education Law Center](https://www.elc-pa.org/) (<https://www.elc-pa.org/>) ensures equal access to education for all children and has free services and [publications](#) which may help resolve issues, including a [School Enrollment Guide](#) for how to enroll a child living with someone other than their parent. The Educational Law Center can also be contacted at 215-238-6970.

[Head Start](http://paheadstart.org/) (<http://paheadstart.org/>) is a program for eligible low-income children, age birth through five years. Head Start provides children with a developmentally appropriate early childhood education, ensures that young children get health checkups and treatment, oral health screenings, and ensures that children are fed a nutritious, hot meal every day. The PA Head Start Association can be reached at 717-526-4646.

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Other Resources

- The [Statewide Adoption Network](http://www.adoptpakids.org/) (SWAN – <http://www.adoptpakids.org/>) offers Post-Permanency Services to Pennsylvania families to ensure that families are provided the support they need for the long term to encourage a positive life-long experience. Eligibility requirements include: If you live in Pennsylvania and your child was: adopted from foster care, adopted privately, or adopted internationally; or if you live in Pennsylvania and you are a formal kinship family or a child’s permanent legal custodian. Post-Permanency Services include case assessment, case advocacy, support groups, and respite services. SWAN can be contacted via phone at 1-800-585-7926 Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., or via email at swanhelpline@diakon-swan.org.
- The [Boys and Girls Clubs of America](https://www.bgca.org/) (<https://www.bgca.org/>) offer recreation in addition to multiple other programs that help children and youth build character and leadership, ensure graduation from high school and prepare for college, and develop life skills. They also offer [resources](#) for parents and caregivers, from homework tips to bullying information.
- [Big Brothers Big Sisters of America](http://www.bbbs.org) (<http://www.bbbs.org>) offers a one-to-one supportive relationship, pairing an adult with a child or youth. Big Brother Big Sister relationships positively impact relationships, lifestyles and schoolwork.