



STATE OF MARYLAND

# DHMH PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **DHMH to Assist Katrina Evacuees With Birth Certificates**

*Louisiana natives needing copies may apply free of charge at Baltimore office*

BALTIMORE, MD (September 23, 2005) -- In an effort to assist Hurricane Katrina evacuees born in Louisiana in obtaining certified copies of birth certificates or birth cards, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) Division of Vital Records has posted important information on its Web site. Birth certificates are needed by many evacuees to enroll children in school, get identification and receive benefits during this time.

The information details the number and type of documents necessary to process the request and is available by logging onto [www.dhmh.state.md.us](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us) and clicking on 'response to Hurricane Katrina' found in the 'hot issues' box.

DHMH, along with other states, is working cooperatively with the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) to coordinate this effort with Vital Records staff in Louisiana.

"Katrina evacuees have experienced enough trauma already," said DHMH Secretary S. Anthony McCann. "It is just plain common sense to help in any way we can."

Evacuees relocated to Maryland can apply for birth certificates free of charge at the DHMH Division of Vital Records located at 6550 Reisterstown Road (in The Plaza shopping center) in Baltimore. The Division of Vital Records is open Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., and the third Saturday of each month. The Division of Vital Records can be reached by calling 410-764-3186 or 410-764-2962.

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