

Comparison of National and Local Registration

In England and Wales civil registration began in 1837 when major events had to be logged nationally and locally as well as in parish records. Each organisation logs the certificates with its own numbering system. Local register offices are run by individual local councils and hold registers of nearby Births, Marriages and Deaths while the General Register Office in Southport holds the national records. The searches will only find you a reference number, you then need to apply for the certificate.

Searching Nationally

There is a free national search site: www.freebmd.org.uk, this site holds over 112 million certificate records from 1837 to about 1915 at the moment, covering England and Wales. It grows week by week.

If you require access to **all** of the certificates available you could pay a subscription to different websites which provide details of registrations from 1837 to 2004.

www.ancestry.co.uk – charges from weekly to annual subscriptions (England and Wales) £6.00 to £70.00. Also includes all census information for England and Wales 1841 – 1901. No limits to how often you search/view information.

www.1837online.com – buy units which allow you to keep a close eye on what you are spending (England and Wales). Also includes all census information for England and Wales for the 1861 and 1891 census from £5.00 for 50 units to be used within 3 months to £60.00 for 810 units over a year.

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> - again buy units in batches of £6.00 for 30 units that need to be used up over 7 days. (Civil registration began in 1855 in Scotland)

The national office will charge about £8.50 per certificate by post. You can apply over the internet for £7.00. These charges apply if you know the reference number for the certificate you need. A full list of charges is available at : <http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>

Local Register Offices

Usually the local register offices will provide a certificate for around £7.00 either over the counter or by post as long as you have found out the reference number.

There are some very good council websites that have begun transcribing certificate details into searchable lists. However, coverage is patchy – try the website : www.ukbmd.org and use the Select a County option to find out what information is stored. Yorkshire has a particularly good service.

The following pages show how the same certificate has two different reference numbers depending on where you are searching for it. Each organisation only recognises its own reference number. The following search is for the birth certificate of Annie Kenny, born in Hull in 1907.

www.freebmd.org.uk

Result

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page
Births Sep 1907				
KENNY	Annie	Sculcoates	9d	199 Info

Has our search engine found the record you are seeking? Found one partner in a marriage but now looking the spouse?
 Click [here](#) to learn what to do now. Click [here](#) for more info

Getting a Certificate

The freebmd search finds you the District, Volume and Page number for the event held by the **General Register Office**. You would only use these reference numbers if you were requesting a certificate from there. The cost is around £8.50 per certificate.

You can request a certificate by printing out a form from the General Register Office web site on :

<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/births/obtainingbirthcertificates/certificatefees.asp>

You could alternatively apply for the certificate online for £7.00 with the same reference number using the following link :

<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/Login.asp>

www.yorkshirebmd.org.uk

Remember to hold down the Control key if you wish to select more than one year or region at a time. (Mac users should use the Shift key)

Date ranges: 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909

Region: All regions, Bradford, East Riding, Hull, Leeds

Order: Alphabetically

Surname: kenny

Initial: a

Match: Exact Soundex Near Vague

Output to file: No Yes

Display Surnames

Result



Yorkshire Birth indexes for the years: 1906				
Surname	Forename(s)	Sub-District	Registers At	Reference
KENNY	Arthur	Newlands	Hull	NWL/1/237

Yorkshire Birth indexes for the years: 1907				
Surname	Forename(s)	Sub-District	Registers At	Reference
KENNY	Annie	Drypool	Hull	DRY/94/78

The Yorkshirebmd site gives you the Sub District, Reference number and Register Location for the **local register office**. You would use this reference number if you were going direct to the Register Office for a certificate.

If you click on the underlined Reference you will be provided with a filled out form including the postal address of the office in question. You can print this out and post it with a cheque, currently around £7.00 per certificate.