

## **U.K. GRO Online Indexes Births and Deaths**

To researchers wanting information on English and Welsh ancestry, the publication online of the UK General Register Office's Births and Deaths Indexes was the best thing since the proverbial sliced bread.

The General Register Office is where to go to find births, deaths, marriages, adoptions and civil partnerships, and is located within HM Passport Office. The Online indexes are those Births and Deaths entries which have been digitised. Unfortunately there has been no digitisation of marriages as yet. The address is [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk) and was updated on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

It is free to use and is very user friendly. The user has firstly to register and login with email address and password. Once registered, you can return as often as you like.

The great issue with the Online GRO is that the birth index has the mother's maiden name, and this is right from the very start at September 1837, through to 1918. (There is the hundred-year privacy rule which stops newer entries being added.) Remember that FreeBMD only starts at 1912 to give the maiden name, so it is a huge step forward. Deaths are from 1837 to 1957 and give the age at death. (50 year privacy rule, but only digitised to 1957).

It is very worthwhile to go back over your family tree for UK entries which were by made relying on FreeBMD and check especially births to ensure that you have the correct entries. If you use Ancestry family trees as a means to grow your tree, always check the births and deaths entries against the GRO Online entries. There are hundreds of examples of wrong children attributed to incorrect parents.

The updated website is extremely useful with PDFs to explain many of the options. One new cost option is to purchase a Birth or Death certificate via PDF at a cost of GBP7.00, which will be supplied via email usually in 4 working days. This is opposed to purchasing a printed certificate costing GBP11.00 and taking 3 weeks to come via snail-mail. (See below Item 10: Other services we provide.)

Once you have logged in there is a menu from which to choose:



### What would you like to do?



#### [Place an Order](#)

Enter the details, including the GRO Reference if you already have it, of a registration you would like to order.



#### [View a recent order](#)

Check the details and progress of recently placed orders.



#### [Search the GRO Indexes](#)

Search registration indexes to find a GRO reference, this will help locate the correct entry and get your order sooner.



#### [Find out about researching my family history](#)

Information on how to get the most from the records held by GRO.



#### [Find out about GRO services](#)

View answers to frequently asked questions.



#### [Check or update my details](#)

Update contact and account details.



#### [Contact GRO](#)

Online, by Email, Telephone or Post.



#### [Visit GOV.UK](#)

For information on birth, marriage, civil partnership, death, adoption and stillbirth records and registrations.

- ▶ [Logout](#)
- ▶ [Main Menu](#)
- ▶ [Place an Order](#)
- ▶ [Search the GRO Online Index](#)
- ▶ [Data Quality & Error Reporting](#)
- ▶ [Multilingual Standard Forms](#)
- ▶ [My Details](#)
- ▶ [My Orders](#)
- ▶ [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- ▶ [Contact us](#)
- ▶ [View GRO information on GOV.UK](#)
- ▶ [Births & Adoptions](#)
- ▶ [Marriage & Civil Partnership](#)
- ▶ [Death](#)
- ▶ [Family History Records](#)
- ▶ [Cookie Policy](#)
- ▶ [Apply online for a UK Passport](#)

[Home](#) > [Online Ordering](#)

Clicking on “Search the GRO Indexes” brings this screen, where the choice is between Births and Deaths:



### Search the GRO Online Index

Which index would you like to search?

Events registered in England or Wales:

Birth

Death

[Home](#) > [Online Ordering](#)

- ▶ [Logout](#)
- ▶ [Main Menu](#)
- ▶ [Place an Order](#)
- ▶ [Search the GRO Online Index](#)
- ▶ [Data Quality & Error Reporting](#)
- ▶ [Multilingual Standard Forms](#)
- ▶ [My Details](#)
- ▶ [My Orders](#)
- ▶ [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- ▶ [Contact us](#)
- ▶ [View GRO information on GOV.UK](#)
- ▶ [Births & Adoptions](#)
- ▶ [Marriage & Civil Partnership](#)
- ▶ [Death](#)
- ▶ [Family History Records](#)
- ▶ [Cookie Policy](#)
- ▶ [Apply online for a UK Passport](#)

Click on Births:

## Search the GRO Online Index

### Which index would you like to search?

Events registered in England or Wales:  Birth  Death

Please enter your search criteria, mandatory fields are indicated with a \*

Up to 250 matching results will be returned so providing any additional information you know will help locate the registration you are looking for.

### Who are you searching for?

Surname at Birth: \*  ?

*Search for records with a matching surname*

Include:  ?

First Forename:  ?

*Search for records with a matching first forename*

Include:  ?

Second Forename:  ?

Sex: \*  ?

Mother's Maiden Surname:  ?  
 ?

*Search for records with a matching Mother's Maiden Surname*

### When was the birth registered?

Year: \* ?  +/-  year(s) ?

Quarter:  ? [\(used 1837-1918\)](#)

### Where was the birth registered?

District of Birth:  ?

[View list of registration districts](#)

### Do you already know any GRO Reference details for the registration?

Volume: ?  [\(used 1837-1918\)](#)

Page: ?  [\(used 1837-1918\)](#)

---

Click on Deaths:

# Search the GRO Online Index

Which index would you like to search?

Events registered in England or Wales:  Birth  Death

Please enter your search criteria, mandatory fields are indicated with a \*

Up to 250 matching results will be returned so providing any additional information you know will help locate the registration you are looking for.

Who are you searching for?

Surname at Death:  ? Include:  ?

*Search for records with a matching surname*

First Forename at Death:  ? Include:  ?

*Search for records with a matching first forename*

Second Forename at Death:  ?

Sex:  ?

Age at Death in years:  ? +/-  ? year(s) ?  
*(Enter 0 if less than 1 year old)*

When was the death registered?

Year:  ? +/-  ? year(s) ? Quarter:  ? [\(used 1837-1957\)](#)

Where was the death registered?

District of Death:  ? [View list of registration districts](#)

Do you already know any GRO Reference details for the registration?

Volume:  ? [\(used 1837-1957\)](#) Page:  ? [\(used 1837-1957\)](#)

[Search](#)

[Reset](#)

The new web site has introduced a section on Family History where there are PDFs available to help in searching:

 [The GRO Index Reference Number](#)  
PDF, 259KB, 3 pages

 [GRO online historical birth and death indexes overview](#)  
PDF, 162KB, 3 pages



[Guide to searching the online historic indexes](#)  
PDF, 82KB, 2 pages



[Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates](#)  
PDF, 149KB, 1 page  
[What you will see on the certificate]



[Overseas Records](#)  
PDF, 167KB, 3 pages  
[Records available and how to apply for them]



[Adoption Certificates](#)  
PDF, 175KB, 2 pages  
[Records available and how to apply for them]



[Civil Partnership Certificates](#)  
PDF, 96KB, 1 page  
[How to apply]

## 10. Other services we provide

### PDF

Portable Document Format (PDF) is a file format used to present and exchange documents reliably and in a manner that is independent of user's software, hardware, or operating system. PDF's are available for historical digitised civil registration records held by GRO (birth entries from 1837 - 1918 and death entries from 1837 - 1957). Orders for a PDF copy of a registration record must be made via our online ordering site; **this service is not available via telephone or postal applications.** The following document provides information on how to order a PDF, what information you will require and what a PDF copy of a registration record will look like.



[PDF](#)  
PDF, 289KB, 4 pages

The new web site has other features, such as reminding the user that FreeBMD has records which the GRO has not yet digitised and which are freely available.