



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

## Afghanistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 19 November 2014

### Are birth certificates provided in hospitals

Research compiled and issued in December 2007 by the *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada* points out that:

“...birth certificates...in certain very unusual circumstances [may] be obtained from the hospital...provincial-level birth registration has started in Kabul...although registration is initially limited to a few maternity hospitals...Births that take place in a hospital are much more likely to be registered...the "availability and veracity" of birth certificates varies widely, birth records are provided by some hospitals and local authorities...” (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (18 December 2007) *Afghanistan: Issuance of birth certificates and marriage certificates; types of documents required by the applicant in Afghanistan or in embassies to obtain official documents*).

An undated document published by the *United States Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs* notes:

“Only recently have some hospitals in major cities started to provide birth records. Each hospital will issue a different type of birth certificate” (United States Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs (Undated) *Afghanistan Reciprocity Schedule*).

A report issued by *Human Rights Watch* in March 2012 points out that:

“Afghanistan has no consistent system for registering births or issuing birth certificates...” (Human Rights Watch (28 March 2012) *"I Had To Run Away": Women and Girls Imprisoned for "Moral Crimes" in Afghanistan*).

In March 2014 a publication released by the *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia*

“Although they are not common in Afghanistan, the Ministry of Public Health has begun issuing birth certificates through hospitals” (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (26 March 2014) *DFAT Country Report: Afghanistan*).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

### References

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (26 March 2014) *DFAT Country Report: Afghanistan*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/dfat-country-report-afghanistan>

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<http://www.irb.gc.ca/Eng/ResRec/RirRdi/Pages/index.aspx?doc=451630&pls=1>

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United States Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs (Undated) *Afghanistan Reciprocity Schedule*

<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/fees/reciprocity-by-country/AF.html#>

Accessed Wednesday 19 November 2014

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

#### Sources Consulted

Amnesty International  
BBC News  
Electronic Immigration Network  
European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
Google  
Human Rights Watch  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
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