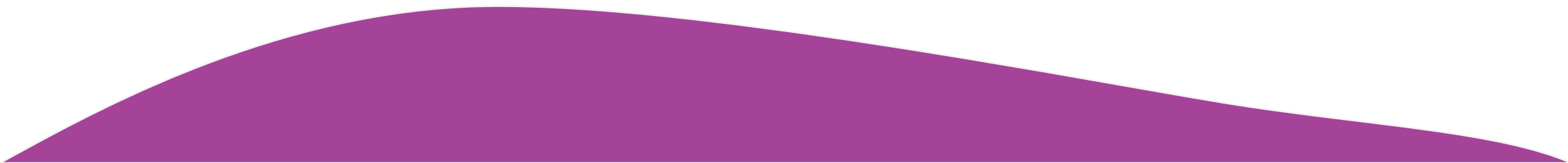




LONDON BOROUGH OF
MERTON



BIRTH REGISTRATION



WHERE TO REGISTER

All births must be registered within 42 days, in the district where the baby was born.

The London Borough of Merton does not have a maternity hospital. If the baby was born in a local hospital, the relevant register office will need to be contacted:

- St Helier Hospital - [Sutton Register Office](#) : 020 8779 6770
- St George's Hospital - [Wandsworth Register Office](#) : 020 8871 6120
- Kingston Hospital - [Kingston upon Thames Register Office](#): 0208 547 4600
- Croydon Hospital - [Croydon Register Office](#) : 020 8726 6300

To register a birth that occurred in Merton - [Merton Register Office](#): 020 8274 5777



WHO CAN REGISTER A BIRTH – OPPOSITE-SEX COUPLES

Married or civil-partner parents

Either parent can register the birth on their own. They can include both parents' details if they were married or in a civil partnership when the baby was born or conceived.



Unmarried parents

The details of both parents can be included on the birth certificate if one of the following happens:

- they sign the birth register together
- one parent completes a statutory declaration of parentage form and the other takes the signed form to register the birth
- one parent goes to register the birth with a document from the court (for example, a court order) giving the father parental responsibility

The mother can choose to register the birth without the child's father if they're not married or in a civil partnership. The father's details will not be included on the birth certificate.

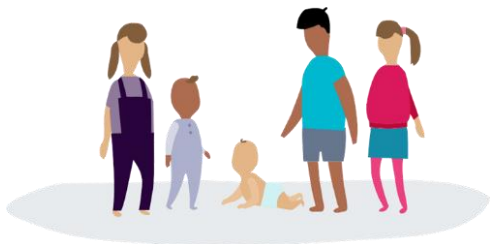
WHO CAN REGISTER A BIRTH – SAME-SEX FEMALE COUPLES

Female couples can include both their names on their child's birth certificate when registering the birth.

Married or civil-partner parents

Either parent can register the birth on their own if all of the following are true:

- the mother has a child by donor insemination or fertility treatment
- she was married or in a civil partnership at the time of the treatment



Unmarried, non-civil-partner parents

When a mother is not married or in a civil partnership, her partner can be seen as the child's second parent if both women:

- are treated together in the UK by a licensed clinic
- have made a 'parenthood agreement'

However, for both parents' details to be recorded on the birth certificate, they must do one of the following:

- register the birth jointly
- complete a 'Statutory declaration of acknowledgement of parentage' form
- get a document from the court (for example, a court order) giving the second female parent parental responsibility and one parent shows the document when she registers the birth

WHO CAN REGISTER A BIRTH – SAME-SEX MALE COUPLES

Male couples must get a parental order from the court before they can be registered as parents.

To apply for a parental order, a C51 application form needs to be completed and sent to a family court, along with the child's full birth certificate. There is a court fee of £232.

The court will then set a date for the hearing and issue a 'C52 acknowledgement form' that must be given to the child's legal parent (surrogate).

The surrogate and anyone else who's a parent of the child must agree to the parental order.

The image shows a sample of the C51 Application for a Parental Order form. The form is titled 'C51 Application for a Parental Order' and is for Section 54 or 54A of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008. It includes a 'To be completed by the court' section with fields for Name of court, Date received by the court, Date issued, and Case number. There is also a 'Help with Fees' section with a grid for HMFE. The main section is '1. About the child', which includes fields for the child's birth name (First name, Middle name(s), Surname), Date of birth, Address where the child was born, Gender (Male/Female), Address where the child lives now, Postcode, and The person(s) who have parental responsibility. There is also a section for 'The child has had their home with the applicant(s) continuously since' with a grid for dates.

INFORMATION NEEDED WHEN REGISTERING A BIRTH

Parents will need to take a least one form of identification when attending the register office:

- passport
- birth certificate
- deed poll
- driving licence
- proof of address (a utility bill)
- Council Tax bill
- marriage or civil partnership certificate

Parents should also take their child's personal child health record or 'red book'.



FURTHER SUPPORT



[Registering a birth](#)



[Birth registration and certificates](#)

