

Italian Vital Records Chart

Type/Years	Births	Marriages	Deaths
<p style="text-align: center;">Civil Vital Records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start ca. 1866 • Kept at commune • Waiting period: 75 years • Where to access: • Indexing: There is usually an index for every year and then a 10-year index. 	<p><i>Births had to be reported within three days. Usually reported by the father or midwife. The child was usually presented with the registration.</i></p> <p><i>1865-1875 – Some couples may have refused to have a civil marriage. This meant their children would be illegitimate. This would be noted on the child’s birth certificate. They may have eventually married civilly, but this wasn’t necessarily changed on the birth certificate.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Possible Details Given</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of birth • Time of birth (hours, minutes) • Father’s given name • Mother’s given and maiden name • Marginal notes: marriage, death, and emigration details about the child may be noted over time • Family’s place of residence • Baptismal details – date, parish, priest • Parent’s vocations 	<p><i>Marriages traditionally take place in the bride’s parish church.</i></p> <p><i>After Italian unification, all couples had to marry civilly.</i></p> <p><i>1865-1875 – Some couples may have refused to have a civil marriage. This meant their children would be illegitimate. They may have eventually married civilly.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Marriage Banns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posted for two consecutive Sundays usually on town hall door and also read aloud at church. Posted at both the bride and groom’s parish if they lived in different locations. • Banns may be kept in different books. First bann, second bann and third bann which is a confirmation that the process was completed. <p style="text-align: center;">Act of Marriage</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Possible Details Given</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of marriage 	<p><i>Civil official usually visited the home to verify the death in small towns. Two witnesses were also part of the recording of the death.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Civil Death Record</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Age • Marital status • Name of spouse • Occupation • Place of birth • Place of residence • Parents’ names, occupations, and residences • Date and place of death • Witnesses: names, ages, occupations, residences • Cause of death is usually not listed.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place of marriage • Marital status • Place of birth • Age or birth date • Vocation • Residence • Citizenship • Names of bride and groom • Parents' names, including mother's maiden names <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fu – indicates a person is deceased ○ di – indicates living • Parents' ages, places of residence, professions • Name of priest/town official • Witnesses, their age, residence and profession • Name and date of death of deceased spouse • Unusual circumstances: permission to marry from a commanding military officer if groom was in military; legitimization if bride/groom were born out of wedlock • A list of the marriage supplements that were given at the marriage. <p style="text-align: center;">Marriage Supplements</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>These are kept separately, not with the marriage act.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extracted birth and/or baptismal records to prove 	
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		<p>that the couple could consent to the marriage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permissions from parents not present. • Extracted death records of parents. If parents were deceased, the bride/groom's grandfather may consent. If grandfather was deceased too, there would be an extract of his death record. • Extracted death records of deceased spouse(s). • Extracted first and second marriage banns. • Certificate of no opposition to the marriage • Extract of marriage promise (required before 1865) • Certificate of poverty if the couple could not pay the fee 	
<p>Restoration Civil Records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1816-1865 • Many Northern areas stopped keeping these records for this time frame, but some restarted registration in the 1840s-1850s. • Sicily started 1820 	<p><i>Baptismal information had to be placed on the birth certificate.</i></p>	<p>Beginning 1815, marriages had to be performed in the Catholic Church.</p> <p>Marriage Promise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be done directly before the marriage 	
<p>Napoleonic Civil Records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1804-1815 • None for Sicily • Two copies of records were kept. One with the commune. The other with the provincial seat. 	<p>Father or midwife reported the birth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of child • Gender • Date and time of when the witness appeared (this date is often listed first) 	<p>Marriage Promise (Atto di solenne promessa di celebrare il matrimonio)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was completed first • Date of promise • Place of promise • Place of birth 	<p>Death Act (Atto di Morte)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date and time of the act • Witness names, ages, professions, residences • Name • Age • Date and time of death

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date and time of birth • Names of parents • Age and profession of father • If a midwife reported the birth the age of the mother is also listed as well as parents' place of residence • Margin notes may include questions of legitimacy or if child died at birth. • Baptismal information: name of church, date of baptism • Witnesses (2) names, ages, vocation, place of residence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Vocation • Residence • Names of bride and groom • Parents' names, including mother's maiden names <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fu – indicates a person is deceased ○ di – indicates living • Parents' places of residence, professions • Name and date of death of deceased spouse • Name of priest/town official • Witnesses, their age, residence and profession • A list of the marriage supplements that were examined at the marriage. Example: birth records of bride and groom, death records of parents. • Details and verification of church marriage (filled out after the marriage took place.) Church, marriage date, witness names. <p style="text-align: center;">Marriage Banns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was completed second. • Posted for two consecutive Sundays usually on the church or town hall door and also read aloud at church. Posted at both the bride and groom's parish if 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place of death • Vocation • Place of birth • Spouse's name • Residence • Parents' names, vocations and residences
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they lived in different locations.

- Banns may be kept in different books. First bann, second bann and third bann which is a confirmation that the process was completed.
- Date and time the banns were read/posted.
- Name of couple
- Ages, vocations
- Town and neighborhood of residence
- Parents: names, ages, professions
- Name and date of death of deceased spouse

**Marriage Act
(Atti di matrimonio)**

- This is the act of civil marriage. This happened after the church marriage.
- Province, district, commune, neighborhood of marriage.
- Date and time of civil marriage.
- Place of birth
- Age
- Vocation
- Residence
- Names of bride and groom
- Parents' names, including mother's maiden names
 - fu – indicates a person is deceased

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ di – indicates living • Parents' places of residence, professions • Name and date of death of deceased spouse • Name of priest/town official • Witnesses, their age, residence and profession • Details about the marriage which is going to take place • Confirmation that the banns has taken place. 	
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Request: If there is no access to the original document (online/film), ask for a copy of the original document (Atto Integrale/Copia Integrale [Integral Act]). If they do not offer a copy, be sure to specifically request an Estratto Per Riassunto Dai Registri [Extracted summary of the registers]. It will include more details than a certificate.