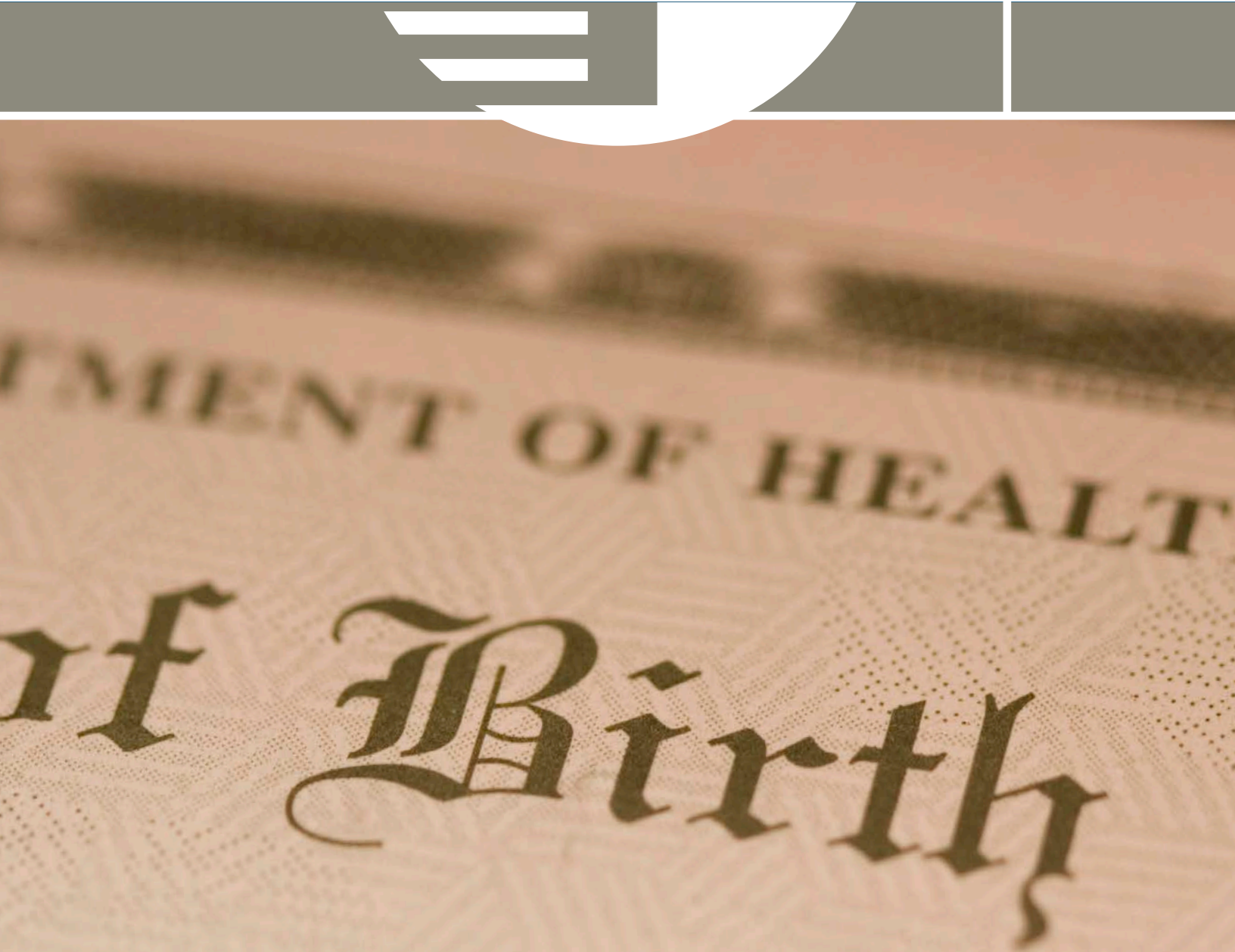


# Protecting Birth Certificates in the United States



# Introduction

In the United States, over 6,000 different vital records entities issue more than 14,000 legitimate versions of birth certificates (Brown 2000). This large number of state, county, city, and township vital records entities that issue birth certificates increases the opportunities for fraud, theft, bribery and other methods of illegally obtaining birth certificates. One vital records office decided that it was time to make a change to their birth certificates to prevent the fraudulent alteration of these documents. Birth certificates are used as 'breeder documents'. Breeder documents are documents that allow the holder to obtain other documents – passports, drivers' licenses, etc. and social security benefits, resident status, loans, and other government aid). Fraudulent birth certificates are being used to obtain genuine documents and with other

fraudulent documents, to create new identities. The primary purpose for which birth certificates were created – to document and record births – is served well by the large number of entities that issue them and the technology that makes them readily and quickly available. Because redesigning birth certificates could jeopardize their availability, to do so might be undesirable. Unfortunately, that availability contributes to fraud and the unreliability of birth certificates as identification documents (Brown 2000). One vital records office stepped up and made a change to protect the legitimacy of birth certificates moving forward. They reached out to TROY Group for help strengthening the security of their birth certificates using TROY solutions without affecting their current layout and design.

## TROY Solution



To help eliminate alteration of these documents, the vital records office utilized TROY solutions to add two forms of document authentication to their printing process without affecting their current layout and design.

TROYMark™ is a unique watermark of user defined or variable data, printed diagonally across the front or back of each birth certificate. With multiple unique data fields, this intelligent anti-tampering technology allows birth certificates to be authenticated. Paired with TROY SecureUV ink or toner, TROYMark™ provides a covert layer of security on each birth certificate.

TROY SecureUV ink or toner protects each and every birth certificate by adding an invisible layer of security that allows companies and fraud examiners to verify authenticity of the document. By utilizing SecureUV ink or toner, the ability to alter or duplicate a birth certificate becomes substantially harder. TROY SecureUV inks and toners are used in place of selected cartridges and print clear, fluorescing with an ultraviolet (UV) verification light.





# Benefit

TROY solutions provide easy document authentication and make it nearly impossible for alterations or duplications to occur because of the new security features. Utilizing these TROY solutions decreased the number of fraudulent birth certificates produced and therefore decreased the number of other fraudulent documents manufactured that help to create new fraudulent identities. It is likely that those who try to create or obtain fraudulent birth certificates were not aware of the invisible features that are now part of the birth certificates and therefore, are more easily caught when attempting to use fraudulent documents.

# Conclusion

TROYMark™ and TROY SecureUV ink or toner together provide a level of security that allows fraud examiners to authenticate birth certificates, and makes altering or duplicating birth certificates far more difficult. As more vital records offices decide to make the commitment to protect the legitimacy of their birth certificates, thieves will be deterred from altering or duplicating birth certificates, substantially decreasing the number of additional fraudulent documents and new identities created because of unprotected documents.

