



# State Representative **MARK B. COHEN**

202nd Legislative District

[www.pahouse.com/Cohen](http://www.pahouse.com/Cohen)



## CAPITOL OFFICE:

128 Main Capitol  
P.O. Box 202202  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2202  
(717) 787-4117

## CONSTITUENT SERVICE OFFICES:

6001 North 5th St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19120  
(215) 924-0895  
Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

7601 Castor Ave., Room 200  
Glendale Office Center, Philadelphia, PA 19152  
(215) 342-2167 • (215) 342-2168  
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## *Como su representante estatal es mi...*

### WE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- **ADULTBASIC:** health-care coverage for low-income adults.
- **CHIP:** children's health insurance coverage and Cover All Kids.
- Assistance in obtaining state forms of all kinds, including PACE (prescription assistance for seniors), LIHEAP (heating assistance for low-income families) and the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.
- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications.
- Information on financial assistance for higher education.
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation.
- Birth and death certificates.
- Problems with the Department of Public Welfare (food stamps, medical and income assistance).
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications.
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information.

### MI OFICINA PUEDE AYUDARLE CON:

- **ADULTBASIC:** Cobertura medica gratuita para adultos
- **CHIP:** Cobertura medica gratuita o a bajo costo para niños
- Matriculación de automóvil, títulos y registros, marbetes especiales.
- Información sobre ayuda financiera para la educación universitaria.
- Problemas de compensación por desempleo.
- Solicitudes de certificados de nacimiento o defunción.
- Reglamentos de tráfico y problemas con el Departamento de Transportación.
- Ayuda con las solicitudes para programas de Reembolso de Impuestos de propiedad, LIHEAP (asistencia de energía) y PACE (asistencia de rectas médicas para los ancianos).
- Problemas con el Departamento de Asistencia Pública o "Welfare"
- Literatura oficial del estado sobre: leyes, regulaciones, estatutos y la constitución, etc.
- Información y ayuda para ponerse en contacto con las agencias estatales y locales para resolver problemas, podemos ayudar a agilizar aplicaciones de programas estatales.
- Proveemos reconocimiento oficial y conmemorativo de la Cámara de Representantes de Pensilvania para aquéllas personas destacadas en la comunidad o en su familia.

### THESE BROCHURES ARE AVAILABLE IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH IN REPRESENTATIVE COHEN'S PHILADELPHIA OFFICES:

### ESTOS FOLLETOS ESTÁN DISPONIBLES EN ESPAÑOL Y INGLÉS EN LAS OFICINAS DE PHILADELPHIA DE REPRESENTANTE COHEN:

- CHIP / programa del seguro médico de niños
- Constituent Service Guide - Spanish
- Guide to Philadelphia Services 2008 / Guia de servicios en Philadelphia
- Help America Vote Act / ¿Podria usted ser considerado un votante nuevo?
- Kids & Gangs / Bandas
- Landlord Tenant Rights / Una versión española de lo que usted debe saber antes de comenzar a buscar un apartamento
- Living Will and Guardianship - Spanish
- PACE Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for Elderly / Contrato de Ayuda Farmacéutica para Envejecientes
- PennDOT 1 / Ministerio de Transporte de Pennsylvania - 1
- PennDOT 2 / Ministerio de Transporte de Pennsylvania - 2
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate / Progammade reembolso de impuesto a la propiedad y renta
- Protecting Your Children / Protegiendo a sus ninos
- School Bus Safety / Reglas del Autobús Escolar
- Senior Citizen Services / los servicios disponibles para los jubilados en Pennsylvania



Rep. Cohen joins a community youth group during the groundbreaking of the Capitol Hunger Garden in Harrisburg. The Hunger Garden will rely on volunteers to grow fresh vegetables to be donated to local food banks. It was started by the Legislative Hunger Caucus, of which Rep. Cohen is a member. The group's goal is to bring together government at the state, federal and local levels and work with community partners to effectively address hunger and the underlying causes contributing to it.



## EL PROGRAMA DE REEMBOLSO DE IMPUESTOS DE PROPIEDAD Y RENTA

### PROPERTY TAX/ RENT REBATE

Pennsylvania's Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Program is open to seniors 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and disabled Pennsylvanians 18 or older with an annual household income of \$35,000 or less for homeowners, and \$15,000 or less for renters. Applicants can exclude 50 percent of Social Security or federal railroad retirement benefits in determining income eligibility.

The rebate of up to \$650 is based on the property tax or rent paid in the previous year. An additional \$325 is available to some homeowners. **The deadline to apply has been extended to Dec. 31.** My offices can help with Property Tax/Rent Rebate questions and filing forms. You may also call the state Department of Revenue toll-free at 1-888-222-9190.

Rep. Mark Cohen is also working on issues that affect you, including raising the minimum wage, protecting voting rights, expanding the availability of health care for all Pennsylvanians, and more.

## APPLYING FOR A NEW BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Citizens born in Puerto Rico but residing elsewhere may obtain a copy of the new birth certificate by filling out a Birth Certificate Application form from the Puerto Rico Vital Statistics Record Office. Applications are attached to this newsletter.

Once applicants complete and sign the form, they should follow these steps:

1) Applicants residing outside of Puerto Rico may mail the completed application to:

**Puerto Rico Vital Statistics Record Office (Registro Demográfico)**  
**P.O. Box 11854**  
**San Juan, PR 00910**

2) Include a photocopy of a valid government issued photo identification document. A passport or drivers license may be used; all other forms of government-issued photo I.D. will be subject to approval.

3) Include a \$5 money order payable to the Secretary of the Treasury of Puerto Rico.

4) Include a self-addressed envelope with paid postage.

To send applications through premium mail services (such as: FedEx, Express Mail, Registered Mail, UPS, etc.), correspondence should be directed to the following street address:

**Puerto Rico Vital Statistics Record Office (Registro Demográfico)**  
**171 Quisqueya Street**  
**Hato Rey, PR 00917**

For additional information, please call (787) 767-9120. The Puerto Rico Vital Statistics Record Office's hours of operation for Monday through Thursday are from 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Puerto Rico time); Fridays from 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Puerto Rico time); and Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Puerto Rico time).

**APPLY ONLINE.** If you have the ability to scan required documents and have VISA or Master Card you may apply at [www.pr.gov](http://www.pr.gov) then click "Certificado de Nacimiento."

**NO NEED TO RUSH!** The government of Puerto Rico recommends that only people who have a specific need for their birth certificate related to the usage of this document for official purposes (such as passport application, etc.) request a new birth certificate. Those people who want to obtain a copy of the new birth certificate for their records are encouraged to do so at a later date to prevent an unnecessary rush of applications and to ensure that those individuals who have a specific need for the birth certificates are able to obtain them in a timely fashion.

# LEY DE CERTIFICADOS DE NACIMIENTO DE PUERTO RICO (LEY 191 DE 2009)

## Hoja de Información

En diciembre del 2009, el Gobierno de Puerto Rico aprobó una nueva ley (Ley 191 de 2009) con el fin de fortalecer la expedición y uso de certificados de nacimiento, para combatir prácticas fraudulentas y proteger la identidad y el crédito de todos aquellos nacidos en Puerto Rico. La nueva ley responde a un llamado del Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos, así como del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS, por sus siglas en inglés) para atender el uso fraudulento de certificados de nacimiento otorgados en Puerto Rico, que frecuentemente se utilizan para obtener de manera ilegal pasaportes de Estados Unidos, beneficios de Seguro Social, y otros servicios federales.

En el pasado, muchas transacciones oficiales y no oficiales en Puerto Rico establecían el requisito innecesario de presentar, retener y guardar los certificados de nacimiento en original. Como resultado, cientos de miles de certificados de nacimiento eran guardados sin la debida protección, lo que provocó que este documento de vital importancia fuera un blanco fácil para el hurto del mismo. Esto provocó que muchos certificados fueran robados en escuelas y otras instituciones, para luego ser vendidos en el mercado negro por hasta \$10 mil cada uno. Consecuentemente se utilizaron para obtener ilegalmente, pasaportes, licencias de conducir y otros documentos o beneficios otorgados por el gobierno y empresas privadas. Los nombres hispanos comunes de la mayoría de las personas nacidas en Puerto Rico hicieron que estos certificados se convirtieran en un atractivo en el mercado negro.

Como resultado, una investigación de casos de fraude de pasaportes realizada por el Servicio de Seguridad Diplomática del Departamento de Estado federal se concluyó que aproximadamente el 40 por ciento de estos casos que se reportaron en años recientes correspondían a certificados de personas nacidas en Puerto Rico. Ello provocó que los ciudadanos americanos nacidos en la Isla fueran más susceptibles a robo de identidad, se les afectara el crédito, se convirtieran en víctimas de robo de beneficios del Seguro Social y se aumentaran los registros al azar en los aeropuertos, entre otros.

Concientes de los enormes riesgos para las personas víctimas de estas prácticas ilícitas y las preocupaciones significativas que esta situación ha desencadenado en términos de seguridad nacional, el Gobierno de Puerto Rico tomó las acciones inmediatas para mejorar la seguridad de los certificados de nacimiento y proteger así al público de fraude y robo de identidad.

# PUERTO RICO BIRTH CERTIFICATE LAW 191 OF 2009

## Fact Sheet

In December, the government of Puerto Rico enacted a new law (Law 191 of 2009) aimed at strengthening the issuance and usage of birth certificates to combat fraud and protect the identity and credit of all people born in Puerto Rico. The new law was based in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to address the fraudulent use of Puerto Rico-issued birth certificates to unlawfully obtain U.S. passports, Social Security benefits, and other federal services.

In the past, many common official and unofficial transactions in Puerto Rico unnecessarily required the submission, retention, and storage of birth certificates. As a result, hundreds of thousands of original birth certificates were stored without adequate protection, making them easy targets for theft. Subsequently, many birth certificates have been stolen from schools and other institutions, sold on the black market for prices up to \$10,000 each, and used to illegally obtain passports, licenses, and other government and private sector documentation and benefits. The common Hispanic names of most individuals born in Puerto Rico made the birth certificates highly desirable on the black market.

As a result of this growing problem, approximately 40 percent of the passport fraud cases investigated by the DOS Diplomatic Security Services in recent years involved birth certificates of people born in Puerto Rico. This left Puerto Rico-born citizens vulnerable to identity theft, ruined credit, stolen Social Security benefits, and increased "random" security checks at airports, among others.

Understanding the enormous risks to all individuals as well as the very significant homeland and national security concerns, the government of Puerto Rico took action to improve the security of all birth certificates and to better protect the public from fraud and identity theft.

*Source: Puerto Rico Vital Statistics Record Office*



## MARK B. COHEN

128 Main Capitol  
P.O. Box 202202  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2202

## ¡SU VOTO ES SU VOZ!

*Formularios de inscripción de votante  
están disponibles en las bibliotecas,  
tiendas de licores de Estado y oficinas de  
philadelphia de representante Cohen.*

lpo • jc • 0710

## NATIVE PUERTO RICANS' BIRTH CERTIFICATES WILL NO LONGER BE VALID AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

The office of Rep. Mark Cohen is trying to inform all Americans born in Puerto Rico about the upcoming changes to the birth certificate law in Puerto Rico. Native Puerto Rican birth certificates, according to a law enacted by the Puerto Rican Commonwealth, will no longer be valid after September 30, 2010. That means more than one-third of the 4.1 million people of Puerto Rican descent living in the 50 states must arrange to get new birth certificates. The law was enacted in December mainly to combat identity theft.

Puerto Rico is a U.S. commonwealth. People born in Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens at birth. Anyone using a stolen Puerto Rican birth certificate could enter and move about the United State more easily, which also could pose national security problems.

There is no deadline for getting a new birth certificate. This newsletter contains information on how to apply for a new valid certificate.



**Rep. Mark  
Cohen visits  
Finletter  
Elementary  
schoolchildren  
in Olney.**

## CINCO DE MAYO

Cinco de Mayo is not the Mexican Independence Day as is sometimes assumed in America. Mexico declared its independence from Spain on Sept. 15, 1810. Cinco de Mayo — the 5<sup>th</sup> of May — is the day that Mexican troops delivered the first major defeat to French troops since Waterloo. The French began their occupation of Mexico in 1862 on the pretence of collecting loans that the Mexican government had refused to honor. In reality, French Emperor Napoleon III wanted to re-establish a French empire and weaken the United States by supporting the Confederacy in America's Civil War.

On the morning of May 5, 1862, 4,000 Mexican soldiers fought 6,000 French at Puebla, located 100 miles east of Mexico City. The battle against the French army was lead by Texas-

born Gen. Zaragoza and Col. Porfirio Diaz, who later became the Mexican president. The battle convinced the world that the French army was not invincible and invigorated Mexican resistance. The Mexican victory and the subsequent battles for control of Mexico kept the French from effectively supporting the Confederacy. After the American Civil War ended, the United States sent naval support, guns, ammunition and volunteers to support Mexican forces in driving out the French. The French were finally defeated in 1867.

That's why Cinco de Mayo celebrates Mexican heritage, freedom and liberty in Mexico and the U.S.

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DEMOGRAPHIC REGISTRY

BIRTH CERTIFICATE APPLICATION BY MAIL

**PART I: REGISTRANT'S INFORMATION**

<b>1. Name at birth:</b>			
_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Father's Last Name</b>	<b>Mother's Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Middle Name</b>
<b>2. Date of birth: (month/date/year)</b>		<b>3. Place of birth: (town and hospital)</b>	
<b>4. Father's Name:</b>		<b>5. Mother's Name:</b>	
<b>6. The certificate will be used for:</b>			<b>7. Number of copies:</b>

**Part II: APPLICANT'S INFORMATION\***

<b>1. Applicant's Name:</b>				<b>2. Relationship:**</b>	
_____	_____	_____	_____		
<b>Father's Last Name</b>	<b>Mother's Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Middle Name</b>		
<b>3. Applicant's address:</b>			<b>4. Address where you want the certificate to be sent:</b>		
<b>5. Applicant's identification included: __ Other</b> ____ Driver's Lic, ____ State ID, ____ Passport, ____ Public Assistance, ____ Other			<b>6. Applicant's signature and date:</b>		

**IMPORTANT: FIRST COPY \$5.00 EACH / ADDITIONAL COPY \$4.00 OF SAME PERSON**

1. Applicants living out of Puerto Rico send the application to the following address: Demographic Registry PO Box 11854, San Juan Puerto Rico 00910
2. If the applicant lives in Puerto Rico can visit any Local Registry near his/her house to complete an application.
3. Applicant must send a photocopy of a recent valid photo-identification card.
4. Applicant in Puerto Rico: Please send \$5:00 internal Revenue Stamp for the first copy requested and \$4.00 for each additional copy for the same person.
5. Applicant out of Puerto Rico: Please send \$5.00 Money Order payable to Secretary of the Treasury.
6. Please send a self-addressed-stamped-envelope to mail in your certificate.
7. For rush mail as Fedex, Exp. Mail, Registered, UPS, etc. our address is: 171 Quisqueya Street, Hato Rey, PR 00917

**WRITE CLEARLY YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS**

\*Applicant – means registrant, their children over 18 years of age, legal representative.

\*\*Relationship – relation between the applicant and the registrant. This blank will be filled out if applicant and Registrant is not the same person.



## SOLICITUD DE CERTIFICADO NACIMIENTO POR CORREO

### PARTE I: INFORMACIÓN SOBRE EL INSCRITO:

1. NOMBRE DE INSCRITO		
_____	_____	_____
APELLIDO PATERNO	APELLIDO MATERNO	NOMBRE
2. FECHA DE NACIMIENTO (DÍA/MES/AÑO)		3. LUGAR DE NACIMIENTO (PUEBLO Y HOSPITAL)
4. NOMBRE DEL PADRE:		5. NOMBRE DE LA MADRE:
6. USO QUE SE DARÁ AL CERTIFICADO:		7. NÚMERO COPIAS SOLICITADAS:

### PARTE II: INFORMACIÓN SOBRE EL SOLICITANTE\*

1. NOMBRE DEL SOLICITANTE:			2. PARENTESCO: **
_____	_____	_____	
APELLIDO PATERNO	APELLIDO MATERNO	NOMBRE	
3. DIRECCIÓN DEL SOLICITANTE:		4. DIRECCIÓN POSTAL:	
5. COPIA DE IDENTIFICACIÓN ENVIADA		6. FIRMA DEL SOLICITANTE Y FECHA DE SOLICITUD:	
___ LIC. CONDUCIR ___ ID ESTADO ___ PASAPORTE ___ OTRO			

### Importante:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>SI EL NACIMIENTO OCURRIÓ DESPUÉS DEL 21 DE JUNIO DE 1931, DEBE SOLICITAR SU CERTIFICADO A: DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD REGISTRO DEMOGRÁFICO PO BOX 11854, SAN JUAN PUERTO RICO 00910 DIRECCIÓN FÍSICA: CALLE QUISQUEYA #171, HATO REY, PUERTO RICO 00918</li><li>SI EL NACIMIENTO OCURRIÓ ANTES DEL 21 DE JUNIO DE 1931, DEBE SOLICITARLO AL REGISTRO LOCAL DEL PUEBLO DONDE OCURRIÓ EL NACIMIENTO.</li><li>ACOMPÑE LA SOLICITUD CON UNA COPIA DE UNA IDENTIFICACIÓN RECIENTE (CON RETRATO) DEL SOLICITANTE.</li><li>RESIDENTES FUERA DE PUERTO RICO: ENVIAR GIRO POSTAL A NOMBRE DEL SECRETARIO DE HACIENDA. EL COSTO DEL CERTIFICADO ES \$5.00 LA PRIMERA COPIA Y \$4.00 LA COPIA ADICIONAL SOLICITADA AL MISMO TIEMPO.</li><li>SI RESIDE EN PUERTO RICO: ENVÍE SELLO DE RENTAS INTERNAS DE \$5.00 POR LA PRIMER COPIA Y \$4.00 POR LA COPIA ADICIONAL ORDENADA AL MISMO TIEMPO.</li><li>DEBE ENVIAR UN SOBRE CON SELLO Y PRE-DIRIGIDO CON LA DIRECCIÓN BIEN CLARA DONDE RECIBIRÁ EL CERTIFICADO</li></ol>
--

\* SOLICITANTE- SIGNIFICARA EL INSCRITO; SI ES MAYOR DE EDAD, SU PADRE, MADRE, HIJOS O REPRESENTANTE LEGAL.

\*\* PARENTESCO- SIGNIFICARÁ LA RELACIÓN ENTRE EL SOLICITANTE Y EL INSCRITO. ESTE ESPACIO SERÁ LLENADO POR SI EL INSCRITO Y EL SOLICITANTE NO SON LA MISMA PERSONA.