



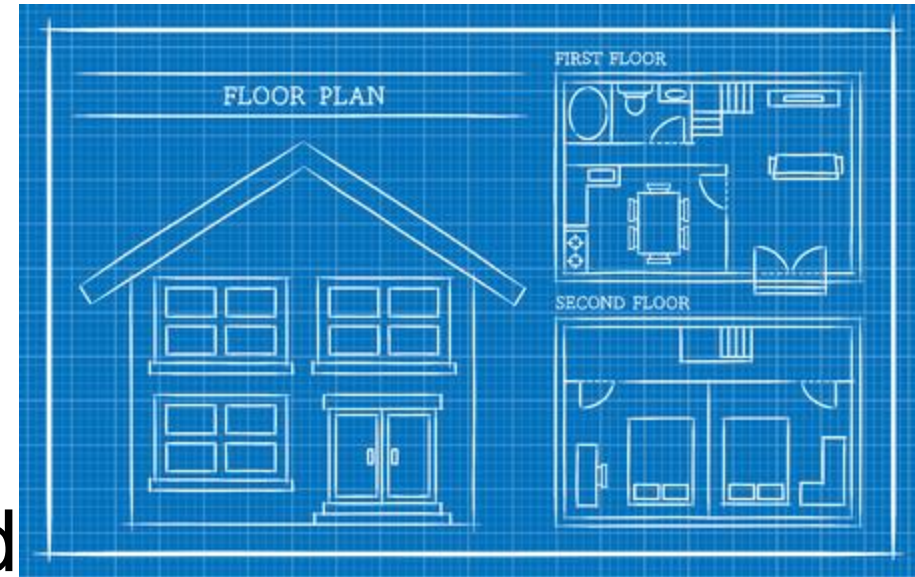
# Model Law Update 2024

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February 12, 2025 – Director of Vital Statistics – South Carolina

# What is the Model Law?

- It has no force of law by itself
- It's not an all or nothing document
- It's not meant to tell you what your law is supposed to be.
- Like a blueprint, you can make changes for your own Jurisdiction

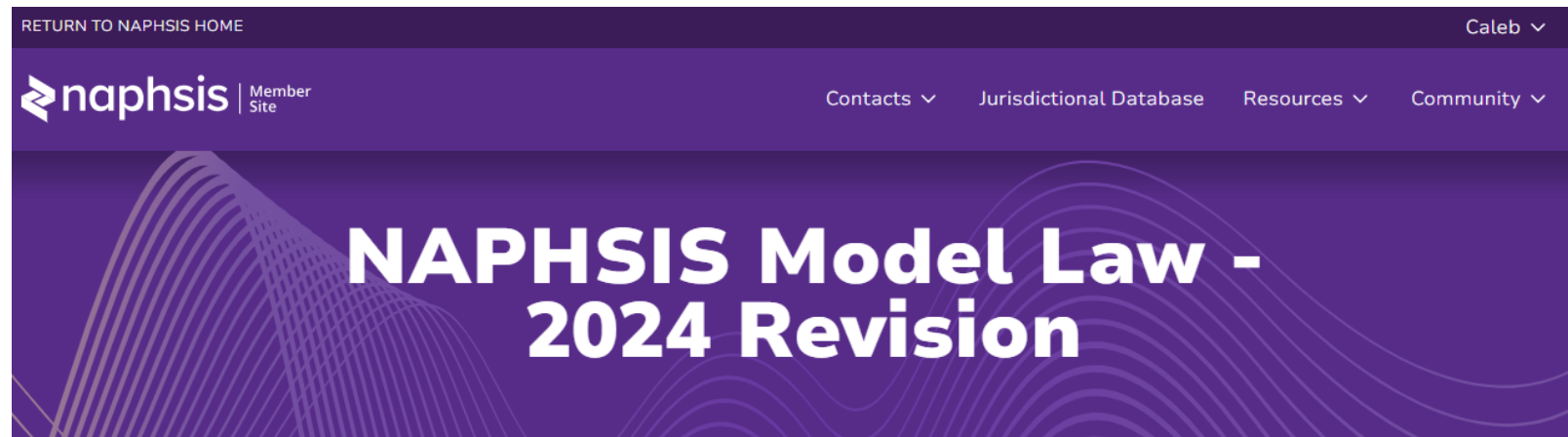


# How can I use the Model Law?

- Full law replacement
- Sample language to address difficult issues
- Can help persuade law makers of a national standard
- Gives an idea of what other states may be doing



# Where can I locate the new 2024 Model Law?



## Model Law

This revision replaces the 2011 revision of the Model State Vital Statistics Act and Model State Regulations. The Model Law is a living document, and we encourage members to review it and submit their suggestions for changes for the Model Law Committee to consider. To submit your suggestions, complete the form by clicking the "Additional Link" button below.

[Primary Resource](#)

[Additional Link](#)

<https://www.naphsis.org/resources/naphsis-model-law---2024-revision>



# What's changed in the 2024 Model Law?

- Layout of Law vs Regulation
  - Regulations are numbered with the laws to which they pertain
- Added definitions for: Authentication, Authorization, Conveyance, Death, Gender, Healthcare Provider, Informant, Jurisdiction, Medical Certification, Medical Certifier, Midwife, Next of Kin, Presumptive Death, Public Health Purpose, Research, Role-based access, Sex, Standard Certificate



# What's changed in the 2024 Model Law?

- References to fluctuating terms such as “State” were put in parenthesis to help other types of jurisdictions easily identify places they needed to update.
- Added a version 1 and 2 in places where states were doing things differently. (e.g. Section 6 Legislative authority vs State Registrar authority)

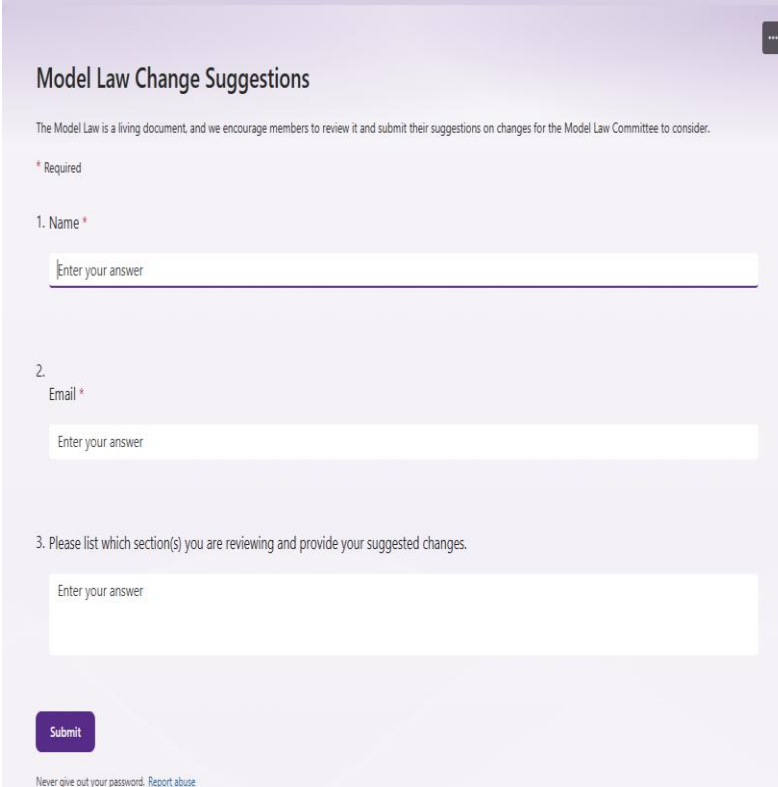


# What's changed in the 2024 Model Law?

- New Sections:
  - Regulation 10 – Content of Vital Records and Vital Reports
  - Regulation 11.3 – Surrogacy
  - Regulation 23 – Report of Adoption or Foreign/International Adoption
- Significant updates
  - Gender neutral language regarding parentage
  - Language to address amending the sex/gender on birth certificates
  - Rules around data sharing agreements
  - Death Certificate filing timeline requirements
  - Updates to foundling and delayed requirements

# What if I have a suggestion for an update to the Model Law?

- Model Law will now be more of a living document
- Submit suggestions on NAPHSIS website and will be reviewed every 6 months
- Membership will vote on entire Model Law every Third Year



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Model Law Change Suggestions" on a light purple background. At the top right is a small menu icon. Below the title is a subtitle: "The Model Law is a living document, and we encourage members to review it and submit their suggestions on changes for the Model Law Committee to consider." A red asterisk indicates required fields. The form contains three numbered sections: 1. Name, 2. Email, and 3. Please list which section(s) you are reviewing and provide your suggested changes. Each section has a text input field with the placeholder "Enter your answer". At the bottom left is a purple "Submit" button. At the bottom right is a small link: "Never give out your password. [Report abuse](#)".

Model Law Change Suggestions

The Model Law is a living document, and we encourage members to review it and submit their suggestions on changes for the Model Law Committee to consider.

\* Required

1. Name \*

Enter your answer

2. Email \*

Enter your answer

3. Please list which section(s) you are reviewing and provide your suggested changes.

Enter your answer

Submit

Never give out your password. [Report abuse](#)





**Thank  
You!**

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# From Model to Mandate

Advocating for Model Law

May 13, 2025

# Advocacy 101

- The constitution grants us the right to petition the federal government for a redress of grievances
- The same is true at the state level: you can ask your legislators to make changes or improvements to state law, including how vital statistics are governed



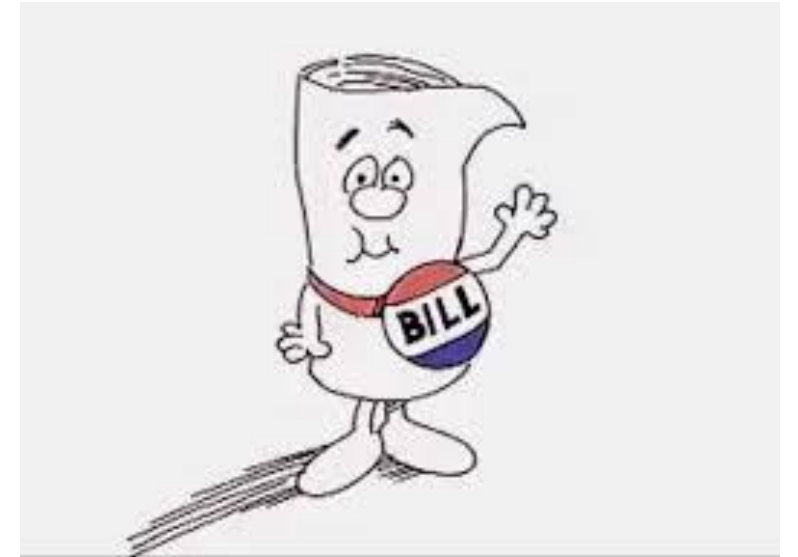
# Advocacy 101

Lobbying	Education
Asking legislators to take specific action related to a policy or funding request	Sharing your personal story
Government officials and employees may be restricted	Communicating the importance of a policy or funding issue to people in a position of influence, including lawmakers
You can do it in an individual capacity	Anybody can do this!
NAPHSIS does this on your behalf	Not governed by lobbying rules



# Model Law Advocacy

- Universal advocacy principles apply at the state level
- Is your state vital records law out of date?
- Educate state officials and policymakers on the importance of vital statistics and the work that you do
- Understand the new model law and what changes are necessary in your jurisdiction
- Internal advocacy is an important first step
- Work within the appropriate hierarchy in your jurisdiction



# Highlighting Vital Records

- Demonstrate the importance of vital records to public health
- Help officials understand why vital records are important to individuals, the community, and the government
- Describe the work and value of your Vital Records Office
- Engage public health colleagues and organizations who use vital records



# Telling A Story

**Data makes you credible, stories make you memorable**

- Frame your message to set the stage
- Keep it local
- Make it about the people in your community
- Convey how vital statistics help policymakers serve their constituents
- Use data to back up your story



# Make Your Case Stand Out

- Legislators...
  - must rank competing priorities—why should they pick yours?
  - are driven to help their constituents
  - influenced by stories from their communities, and
  - can be overwhelmed by a high volume of requests





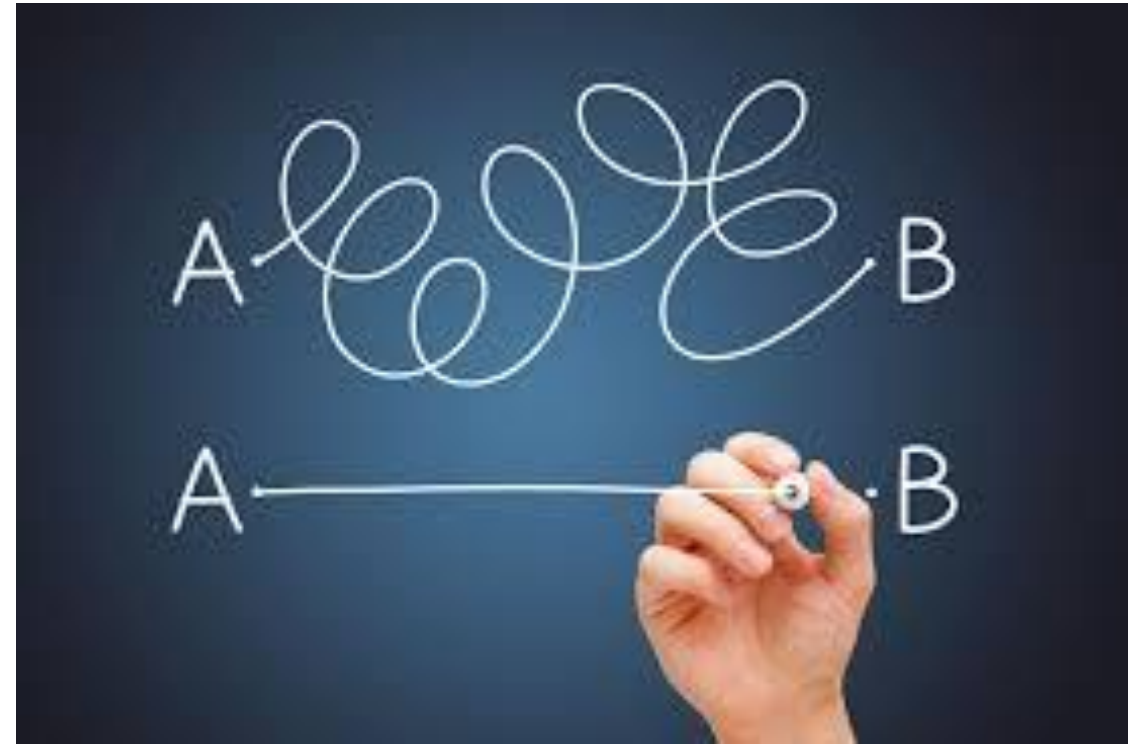
# Understand Your Audience

- What committees do your legislators serve on?
- What issues do they care about and highlight on their website? Newsletters? Social media?
- What relevant actions have they taken? What policies do they support?



# Keep it Simple

- Focus on people and experiences more than policies and procedures; illustrate the policy you want to employ
- Use simple language; avoid jargon, technical terms, and acronyms
- Stick to your agenda
- Make your ask!



# Successful Meetings

- Invite questions: make it a conversation
- Provide opportunities for follow up: If you don't know an answer, say you'll find out
- Employ active listening and ask your own questions
- Be respectful, but challenge positions if necessary
- Keep the conversation going!



# Build Lasting Relationships

- Advocacy is a long-term commitment
- Ask for contact information
- Follow up and say THANK YOU
- Stay in touch with relevant information and news



# Support from NAPHSIS

- Do you know when your state vital statistics law was last updated?
  - Yes
  - No
- What is the biggest barrier to fully implementing the Vital Statistics Model Law in your state?
- How could NAPHSIS support your Model Law advocacy?
- What resources do you need to engage in education and advocacy activities for Model Law?



**Do you know when your state vital statistics law was last updated?**



**What is the biggest barrier to fully implementing the Vital Statistics Model Law in your state?**



## How could NAPHSIS support your Model Law advocacy?





## **What resources do you need to engage in education and advocacy activities for Model Law?**