



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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08 April 2004

CHN42391.E

China: Information contained in birth and notarial certificates; reason why a person might obtain a notarial certificate rather than a notarised copy of the original birth records
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

According to a representative of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ottawa, birth certificates contain the following information: the person's name, sex, date of birth, place of birth, health status at birth, type of birth place, number of the certificate, name and stamp of the issuing office, date of issue, names [of the individual's mother and father], race of the mother and father, identification number and nationality (18 Feb. 2004). A certificate issued by a notary public includes the person's name, date of birth, place of birth and the names of the individual's mother and father (18 Feb. 2004).

The Ministry of Health, or its authorized offices, is responsible for issuing birth certificates and the Household Registration Office retains records of birth certificates (Embassy 18 Feb. 2004). The representative added that "generally speaking, a birth certificate issued by the notary public is always authentic, but after January 1, 1996 the original birth certificate can be considered as authentic as well" (ibid.). No information on the reason why one might obtain a notarial certificate rather than a notarised copy of the original birth records was provided by the Embassy representative.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

Reference

Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Ottawa. 18 February 2004. Correspondence sent by a Consular Affairs representative.

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