

Civil Registration Timeline

With additional dates specific to Manchester Registration District

Date	Event
1 Jul 1837	Civil Registration in England and Wales begins
1 Jul 1837	Manchester and Chorlton-on-Medlock Registration Districts created
1850	Barton-on-Irwell and Stretford Sub-Districts transferred from Chorlton-on-Medlock Registration District to a new Barton-on-Irwell Registration District
1852	GRO References change from Roman Numerals (XVI) to Arabic numbers and letters (6d)
1866	GRO indexes include age at death
1875	Birth and Death Act 1874: a) Compulsory registration of births (parents/guardians responsible for registration), b) Fines for non-registration of births/penalties for late registration (42 days to register), c) For illegitimate births, father must be present at the birth registration for his name to appear on a birth entry in the register, d) Deaths to be registered within 5 days, instead of 8 as previous, e) Medical certification in respect of cause of death required.
1 Jan 1875	Manchester Registration District split into separate Manchester and Prestwich Registration Districts
1 Nov 1880	London Road Sub-District absorbed into Market Street Sub-District
1 Dec 1881	Market Street and Deansgate Sub-Districts combined to form Central Sub-District
1 Jul 1895	Clayton transferred to Ashton-under-Lyne Registration District
1898	Nonconformist and Catholic Churches can appoint an "Authorised Person" to register marriages, removing the need for a Registrar to be present.
1 Jul 1908	Newton Sub-District split to create Newton Heath and Bradford Sub-Districts
Sep Qtr. 1911	GRO Indexes include Mothers Maiden Name
1 Nov 1911	Ardwick Sub-District sub-divided to form Ardwick, Openshaw, Gorton and Rusholme Sub-Districts
Mar Qtr. 1912	GRO Marriage Indexes include Spouses Surname
1 Apr 1917	Manchester Registration District reorganised to form West Manchester and East Manchester Sub-Districts
1 Nov 1924	West Manchester and East Manchester Sub-Districts combined to create a single Manchester Registration District

1 Jan 1925	Manchester and Prestwich Registration Districts merged to create Manchester North Registration District; Chorlton-on-Medlock Sub-District re-named as Manchester South Sub-District
1 Aug 1925	Failsworth Sub-District merged into Newton Heath Sub-District
1 Apr 1927	Gorton Sub-District merged into Openshaw Sub-District
1st Jul 1927	Introduction of the Register of Still Births
1927	a) Introduction of the Adopted Children's Register, b) Re-registration of illegitimate births allowed if parents subsequently marry each other, c) Registrars certificate/coroners order required before the burial/cremation of a body.
1929	a) Legal age for marriage increased from 14 (males) and 12 (females) to 16 for both (parental consent still required up to age 21), b) Functions of civil registration transferred to Local Authorities, c) Newly appointed Registration Officers paid salaries.
1 Apr 1936	Creation of Manchester North and Manchester South Registration Districts. Wythenshawe incorporated into Manchester South Registration District. Changes to Sub-Districts in both Manchester North and Manchester South Registration Districts.
1 Apr 1939	Amalgamation of Manchester North and Manchester South to create a single Manchester registration District. Sub-District boundaries revised.
1946	GRO Volume Numbers re-organised (6d became 9c).
1947	Short Birth Certificates introduced.
1969	a) Format of Birth and Death Certificates changed, to portrait instead of landscape, b) Age of majority reduced from 21 to 18, c) Re-registration of births of illegitimate children to include name of father allowed, irrespective of whether the parents marry.
1 Apr 1969	All sub-districts combined and all registration transferred to a single Manchester Register Office.
Jun Qtr. 1969	Death Indexes show date of Birth instead of age at Death
1974	GRO Volume Numbers re-organised
1975	Adult adopted people allowed access to information on original birth entry.
1984	GRO Indexes changed to annual compilations

Acknowledgement

The timeline above is based upon an original created by Birmingham City Council.