

**Registration of Births and Deaths Act
(CHAPTER 267)**

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REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS ACT

(CHAPTER 267)

(Original Enactment: Ordinance 34 of 1937)

REVISED EDITION 1985

(30th March 1987)

An Act for the registration of births and deaths.

[1st July 1938]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Registration of Births and Deaths Act.

Interpretation

2. In this Act —

“house” includes a public institution;

“medical practitioner” means a person registered under the Medical Registration Act [Cap. 174];

“occupier” includes the keeper, master, matron, superintendent or other chief resident officer of every public institution, and, where a house is let in separate apartments or lodgings, includes any person residing in such house who is the person under whom such lodgings or separate apartments are immediately held or his agent;

“public institution” includes prison, lock-up, mental hospital, hospital, and any other public or charitable institution;

“register” includes all register books in existence upon the commencement of this Act as well as any registers provided under section 5;

“still-born” and “still birth” apply to any child which has issued forth from its mother after the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy and which did not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother breathe or show any other signs of life;

words referring to burial of bodies shall be held to include burning of bodies.

Appointment of officers

- 3.—(1) The President may appoint, by name or office, a Registrar-General of Births and Deaths who shall be responsible for carrying out the provisions of this Act and shall

have general charge and supervision of all registers kept and of all matters done or performed under this Act.

(2) The President may appoint, by name or office, a registrar for each local registration area with such supervising deputy registrars, deputy registrars, clerks and subordinate officers as he may think necessary for the purpose of performing the several duties prescribed by this Act.

(3) The limits of each local registration area shall be such as may be from time to time declared by notification in the *Gazette* and shall, unless otherwise provided, be deemed to include the territorial waters of Singapore adjacent thereto.

Annual reports

4.—(1) The Registrar-General shall, within such period after the expiration of every year as may be prescribed, and in any case not later than 31st March in each year, compile a summary of the births and deaths of the past year in the prescribed form.

(2) The Registrar-General shall also at the same time compile a general report on the increase or decrease of the population, and on any special causes appearing to affect the same as far as the same can be assumed from the registrars' returns.

Registers

5.—(1) The Registrar-General shall cause to be provided a sufficient number of registers for the registration of all births and deaths, and shall furnish to every registrar such registers as he requires.

(2) Such registers shall be in the prescribed form.

Custody of registers

6.—(1) The registers of each local registration area shall be kept at the office of the registrar, whose duty it shall be carefully to preserve the same, and the custody thereof shall be handed down to succeeding registrars of that area in such manner as the Minister may direct.

(2) On the application of the Registrar-General the Minister shall cause to be furnished, at the expense of the Government, for the use of the registrars, sufficient fireproof receptacles, strong-rooms and other equipment to hold and preserve the registers to be kept by such registrars.

(3) Every such receptacle or strong-room shall be furnished with a lock and two keys and no more, and one of such keys shall be kept by the registrar and the other key shall be kept by the Registrar-General.

(4) The registers of each local registration area while in the custody of a registrar and

not in use shall always be kept in the aforesaid receptacles or strong-rooms, which shall always be kept locked.

Registers not open to public inspection

7. Registers shall not be open to inspection by the public.

Information as to births and deaths

8.—(1) Every deputy registrar shall inform himself carefully of every birth, still birth and death occurring in his district and shall forward particulars of the same in the prescribed form through the supervising deputy registrar (if any) to the registrar of the local registration area, who shall register the same without delay in the prescribed register.

(2) In cases of death the deputy registrar or some other officer authorised by a registrar or supervising deputy registrar for the purpose of this subsection shall if practicable personally inspect the corpse and make enquiries among the persons present at the death, unless the fact and cause of death are certified by a medical practitioner in the prescribed form.

(3) Every deputy registrar shall forward through the supervising deputy registrar (if any) to the registrar at intervals of not more than one week reports of births and deaths registered within his area, setting forth when possible the name, residence, age, sex, nationality, race, and occupation of each deceased person, period of continuous residence in Singapore and last place of residence before arrival in Singapore, as well as the duration of illness, the date and cause of death, the name and qualification of the medical practitioner certifying the same and such other particulars as may be prescribed.

Occupier and relatives to register live births

9. In the case of every child born alive, the father and mother of the child, and the occupier of the house in which to his knowledge the child is born, and each person present at the birth and the person having charge of the child and, if the birth occurs in a ship or vessel, the master or other person having charge of the ship or vessel shall, within 14 days after the birth has taken place, furnish to any deputy registrar of the local registration area within which the birth has occurred, the particulars of the same in the prescribed form, and shall certify to the correctness of such information by signing his name in the prescribed place on the form.

Surname of child

10.—(1) Any surname of a child to be entered in respect of the registration of the birth of the child shall be that of the father of the child; but where the child is illegitimate and the father is not an informant of the birth, the surname, if any, shall be that of the