

**1982 No. 1123**
**REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS,  
MARRIAGES, ETC.  
ABROAD**
**The Registration of Overseas Births and Deaths Regulations  
1982**

*Made* - - - - - 26th July 1982

*Laid before Parliament* 9th August 1982

*Coming into Operation* 1st January 1983

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 41(1)(g)(h) and (i) of the British Nationality Act 1981(a), and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

*Citation and entry into force*

**1.** These Regulations may be cited as the Registration of Overseas Births and Deaths Regulations 1982 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1983.

*Interpretation*

**2.—(1)** In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

“consular officer” means any person authorised by the Secretary of State to exercise consular functions,

“registration officer” means

- (a) any consular officer or other officer in the service of Her Majesty’s government in the United Kingdom entrusted with the registration of births and deaths in a foreign country, or
- (b) in any country mentioned in Schedule 3 to the British Nationality Act 1981, the High Commissioner for Her Majesty’s government in the United Kingdom or members of his official staff, or
- (c) in or for any country in which Her Majesty’s government has for the time being no diplomatic or consular representative:
  - (i) any person serving in the diplomatic, consular or other foreign service of any country which, by arrangement with Her Majesty’s government in the United Kingdom, has undertaken to represent that government’s interests in that country, or
  - (ii) the person authorised by the Secretary of State to be in charge of any registers of births or deaths kept at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, or
  - (iii) any other person authorised by the Secretary of State to register births and deaths occurring in a country overseas in any register kept for that country.

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(a) 1981 c. 61.

“ship” includes a hovercraft within the meaning of the Hovercraft Act 1968(a).

(2) “commencement” in these Regulations means the date of coming into force of the British Nationality Act 1981.

#### *Fees*

3. The fees to be charged for services performed in accordance with these Regulations shall be such fees as may from time to time be prescribed under the Consular Fees Act 1980(b).

#### *Registers*

4.—(1) In each country in which the Secretary of State has so authorised, there shall be maintained registers of births and deaths in which may be recorded the birth or death within the country of a person in respect of whom a registration officer has received an application together with the prescribed fee and is satisfied that the birth or death should be properly entered therein.

(2) The registers specified in paragraph (1) may be kept in such consulates, embassies, High Commissions or other places, whether inside or outside the country concerned, as the Secretary of State may from time to time determine.

(3) There may be kept at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office a register of births and a register of deaths in which may be registered births and deaths in any country in which Her Majesty has for the time being no diplomatic or consular representative.

#### *Births which may be registered*

5.—(1) The following births, having occurred outside the United Kingdom, or outside any territory listed in Schedule 6 to the British Nationality Act 1981, may, when reported in writing by an informant having knowledge of the event to the registration officer for the time being in charge of the appropriate register, be registered in the manner prescribed by these Regulations:

- (a) the birth of a person, born after commencement, who was at birth a British citizen under the provisions of section 2 of the British Nationality Act 1981;
- (b) the birth of a person, born before commencement, who acquired at birth citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies and who became a British citizen at commencement;
- (c) the birth of a person, born after commencement, who was at birth a British Dependent Territories citizen under the provisions of section 16 of the British Nationality Act 1981;
- (d) the birth of a person, born before commencement, who acquired at birth citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies and who became a British Dependent Territories citizen at commencement;

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(a) 1968 c. 59.

(b) 1980 c. 23.

(e) the birth of a child, born in a foreign country during the twelve months immediately preceding the date of commencement, whose father was at the time of the child's birth a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by descent only, providing that registration is effected before the child has attained its first birthday.

(2) A registration officer shall not register a birth unless satisfied as to the facts by the production of a locally issued certificate of birth and such evidence as may be necessary to establish the citizenship of the person whose birth is to be registered.

(3) The registration officer may at any time on the authority of the Secretary of State re-register the birth of a child born illegitimate whose birth has previously been registered under paragraph (1)(a), (b), (c) or (d) if he is satisfied by the evidence produced that the person has been legitimated by the subsequent marriage of his parents and the necessary fees have been produced. The registration officer shall then cancel the original entry.

6. Without prejudice to the provisions of section 50(7) of the British Nationality Act 1981, in these Regulations a birth occurring aboard a registered ship or aircraft shall be deemed to have occurred in the place in which the ship or aircraft was registered, or if aboard an unregistered ship or aircraft of the government of any country, in that country.

*Entries of Births*

7.—(1) Entries in registers of birth shall be made and numbered consecutively and each entry shall constitute a record of one birth.

(2) Each entry in the register shall contain the following:

Concerning the child

1. date and place of birth; with time of birth in the case of twins or multiple births
2. full names and surname
3. sex
4. claim to British citizenship or British Dependent Territories citizenship

Concerning the father

5. full names and surname
6. date and place of birth
7. occupation at time of child's birth
8. claim to citizenship

Concerning the mother

9. full names and surname
10. maiden surname
11. surname at marriage if different from maiden surname.
12. date and place of birth
13. occupation at time of child's birth
14. claim to citizenship

Concerning the informant

15. full names and surname
16. relationship to child or other qualifications
17. postal address

Concerning registration

18. date of registration
19. signature of registration officer.

(3) Where an entry in the register records the birth of a child of a father or mother born in Scotland or Northern Ireland the registration officer shall mark the entry with the letter "S" or "NI" as appropriate, in the margin of the register. The Registrar General for England and Wales in London shall transmit a certified copy of such an entry to the Registrar General in Edinburgh or the Registrar General in Belfast as the case may be.

(4) Where doubt exists as to the date of an event, the approximate date may be entered preceded by the word "about".

*Deaths which may be registered*

8.—(1) The following deaths, having occurred outside the United Kingdom, or outside any territory listed in Schedule 6 of the British Nationality Act 1981, may, when reported in writing by an informant having knowledge of the event and of the identity of the deceased to the registration officer for the time being in official charge of the appropriate register, be registered in the manner prescribed by these Regulations:

- (a) the death of any person who, at the time of his death, was a British citizen, British Dependent Territories citizen or British Overseas citizen;
- (b) the death, before commencement, of any person who, but for his death would have become a British citizen, British Dependent Territories citizen or British Overseas citizen at commencement.

(2) Subject to Regulation 9, a registration officer shall not register a death unless satisfied as to the facts of the case by the production of a locally issued certificate of death. Details of the evidence submitted shall be recorded in the entry by the registration officer.

(3) In a country where certificates of death are not issued by local authorities, the registration officer may require that there be produced to him a medical practitioner's certificate of death or such other documentary evidence as may be sufficient to satisfy the officer as to the occurrence of the death and the identity of the deceased person. Details of the evidence of death produced shall be shown in the entry in the register.

*Deaths on ships, aircraft and oil rigs and in territorial waters*

9.—(1) A death occurring on a registered ship, aircraft or oil rig, shall be deemed to have occurred in the place in which the ship, aircraft or oil rig was registered, or if on an unregistered ship, aircraft or oil rig of the government of any country, in that country.

(2) A person found dead in the territorial waters of another country shall be deemed to have died in its territorial waters if it is not established that he died elsewhere.

(3) Where a death occurs outside territorial waters, that death may be entered in the register of deaths kept by the registration officer in the country or district where a local certificate of death has been issued in respect of that death.

(4) Where evidence of death is shown only by a certified copy of an extract from the official log of the ship, or aircraft on or from which the death occurred, or by a certified copy of an extract from the official log of an oil rig, the death may be entered in the Register of Deaths kept at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

*Entries of Deaths*

**10.**—(1) Entries in registers of death shall be made and numbered consecutively and each entry shall constitute a record of one death.

(2) Each entry in the register shall contain the following:—

Concerning the deceased

1. date and place of death
2. name and surname
3. sex
4. maiden surname of a woman who has married
5. date and place of birth
6. occupation
7. address of usual residence
8. claim to citizenship
9. evidence of death seen by registration officer

Concerning the informant

10. name and surname
11. relationship to the deceased or other qualification
12. postal address

Concerning the registration

13. date of registration
14. signature of registration officer.

(3) Where an entry in the register records the death of a person born in Scotland or Northern Ireland, or who is a British citizen by descent from a father or mother so born, a registration officer shall mark the entry with the letter “S” or “NI” as appropriate, in the margin of the register. The Registrar General for England and Wales in London shall transmit a certified copy of such an entry to the Registrar General in Edinburgh or the Registrar General in Belfast as the case may be.

(4) Where doubt exists as to the date of an event, the approximate date may be entered preceded by the word “about”.

*Registration*

**11.** On receiving from an informant an application and the prescribed fee for the registration of a birth or a death and on seeing evidence to show that the birth or death properly falls to be registered under Regulation 5 or Regulation 8, the registration officer for the time being in charge of the appropriate register shall record, as precisely as possible, those particulars required under Regulation 7 or Regulation 10.

*Corrections of errors or omissions*

**12.**—(1) An entry in a register shall be deemed to have been completed by the signature of a registration officer.

(2) If a registration officer discovers any error or omission before completing an entry in a register he shall either:—

- (a) correct it by ruling through the incorrect particulars and inserting above them the correct particulars, or by inserting the particulars omitted, and by adding his initials in the margin; or
- (b) draw a line diagonally through the uncompleted entry, write against it in the margin the words “For correct entry see No. . . .” and make the correct entry in the next unused number in the register.

(3) If any omission, discrepancy between facts recorded, or other error is discovered in an entry which has been completed by the registration officer, the same or any other registration officer may, provided he is satisfied as to the correctness of any amendment proposed to be made, correct the entry in accordance with the following directions:—

- (a) If the error appears to him to be accidental or of a clerical nature the officer may correct it by ruling through any incorrect particulars and by inserting and underlining the correct particulars or the particulars omitted. He shall then insert in the margin of the entry a note to the following effect:—  
“Entry (No.) . . . . Space (No.) . . . . corrected on . . . . .  
. . . . . (date) by me . . . . . (signature) Registration Officer”.
- (b) If the officer is not satisfied that the error is one which he might treat as falling within (a) he shall require the original informant or some other person cognisant of the facts to furnish such documentary or other evidence as may be necessary to establish the facts. Any corrections which the officer thinks it proper to make shall be made by underlining (but not altering) any erroneous particulars and inserting in the margin of the entry a note to the following effect:—  
“In entry No. . . . . Space No. . . . . for ‘(the erroneous particulars)’ read ‘(corrected particulars)’ or ‘insert the words’ ‘ . . . . . ’” or as the case may require,  
followed by the date, his signature and official description.
- (c) If a registration officer considers that the corrections to an entry relating to a birth are too numerous or are likely to cause difficulty in later years, he may re-register the birth and draw a diagonal line through the original entry adding to the margin “Re-registered at No. . . . . on . . . (date)” followed by his signature.

(4) Before correcting an entry in accordance with paragraph (3), the registration officer shall, unless the correction is made in the presence of the original informant, take such action as may be reasonable to ensure that notice in writing of the precise correction to be made is given to the original informant or, in the case of a registration of birth, to the person whose birth entry is being corrected or, if that person is a minor, his parent or guardian or, in the case of a registration of death, to the relatives or personal representatives of the deceased.

(5) Where, after completion of an entry in the register of births, the person to whom the entry relates is given Christian or forenames in baptism or otherwise, which differ from the Christian or forenames (if any) recorded therein, the name so given may, subject to the production of satisfactory

evidence that the new or additional name is one by which the child has been known since its earliest years, be recorded in the margin of the entry in the register without alteration of the previous name.

(6) Where an entry relates to a birth or death which should not have been registered, a registration officer may cancel the entry by drawing a diagonal line through the entry and showing in the margin the reason for the cancellation followed by his signature and the date.

*Procedure in doubtful cases*

**13.** If such documentary evidence as may have been furnished to the registration officer in accordance with these Regulations does not satisfy the registration officer of the accuracy of the statements made to him or if the officer is not fully satisfied that the national status of the person whose birth or death he is requested to register is such that the registration could properly be effected under these Regulations, the officer should refer the matter, with a full report of the circumstances, to the Secretary of State.

*Power to waive conditions*

**14.—**(1) Where the Secretary of State is satisfied that a birth or death is one which should be registered in a register of births or deaths or that an amendment or correction of an entry is one that should be made and that these Regulations cannot reasonably be complied with, he may authorise the registration, re-registration, amendment or correction subject to such conditions as he considers appropriate.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Secretary of State may impose the requirement of a statutory declaration.

*Adoptions*

**15.—**(1) A registration officer shall, upon receipt of information from the Registrar General for England and Wales in London as to the making, quashing or revoking of an adoption order made in the United Kingdom in respect of a person whose birth overseas has been recorded in a register of births, make such marginal additions as may be specified by the Registrar General to the entry relating to that person. Such additions shall be recorded in the manner and form directed in instructions issued under Regulation 17.

(2) Having complied with the provisions of the foregoing paragraphs, a registration officer shall forthwith transmit to the Registrar General, a copy, duly certified and sealed, of the entry showing the additions.

*Certified copies*

**16.—**(1) A certified copy of an entry in a register, other than an entry which has been invalidated, shall be provided upon request and on payment of the prescribed fee.

(2) Every certified copy shall be a copy of the whole entry and shall show any deletion, insertion, underlining or marginal inscription. The copy may be certified by any registration officer, under his hand, official description and official seal, to be a true copy of the entry.

(3) The registration officer for the time being in charge of any register of births or deaths shall, before the first day of February each year, send certified copies of all entries made therein during the previous year to the Registrar General for England and Wales in London.

(4) If no entry has been made during the previous year the registration officer shall submit to the Registrar General a certificate to that effect.

(5) Where an entry is cancelled, amended or annotated in any way after a certified copy thereof has been sent to the Registrar General, the registration officer shall immediately send to the Registrar General a further certified copy of that entry.

17. The Secretary of State may from time to time give such instructions as to the functions or duties of registration officers as he considers necessary.

26th July 1982.

*Francis Pym,*  
Her Majesty's Principal  
Secretary of State for  
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)*

The Regulations, which are necessary because of the coming into force of the British Nationality Act 1981, make provision for the registration of births and deaths of certain persons in foreign and Commonwealth countries.

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