



# Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

## CHAPTER 20

### BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ACT 1953

#### PART I

##### REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS

- 1 Particulars of births to be registered.
- 2 Information concerning birth to be given to registrar within forty-two days.
- 3 Information concerning finding of new-born child to be given to registrar within forty-two days.
- 3A Registration of births of abandoned children.
- 4 Registrar's power to require information concerning birth.
- 5 Registration of births free of charge.
- 6 Registration between three and twelve months from date of birth.
- 7 Registration after twelve months from date of birth.
- 8 Penalty for improper registration after 12 months from date of birth.
- 9 Giving of information to a person other than the registrar.
- 10 Registration of father where parents not married or of second female parent where parents not married or civil partners
- 10ZA Registration of father or second female parent by virtue of certain provisions of Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008
- 10A Re-registration where parents neither married nor civil partners
- 11 Special provision as to registration of still-birth.
- 12 Certificate of registration of birth.
- 13 Registration of name of child or of alteration of name.
- 14 Re-registration of births of legitimated persons.
- 14A Re-registration after declaration of parentage.

*Changes to legislation:* There are outstanding changes not yet made by the [legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk) editorial team to Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

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## PART II

### REGISTRATION OF DEATHS

- 15 Particulars of deaths to be registered.
- 16 Information concerning death in a house.
- 17 Information concerning other deaths.
- 18 Notice preliminary to information of death.
- 19 Registrar's power to require information concerning death.
- 20 Registration of death free of charge.
- 21 Registration of death after twelve months.
- 22 Certificates of cause of death.
- 23 Furnishing of information by coroner.
- 23A Giving of information concerning a death to a person other than the registrar
- 24 Certificates as to registration of death.

## PART III

### GENERAL

#### *Registers, certified copies, etc.*

- 25 Provision of registers, etc., by Registrar General.
- 26 Quarterly returns to be made by registrar to superintendent registrar.
- 27 Quarterly returns by superintendent registrar to Registrar General.
- 28 Custody of registers, etc.
- 29 Correction of errors in registers.
- 29A Alternative procedure for certain corrections.

#### *Searches and Certificates*

- 30 Searches of indexes kept by Registrar General.
- 31 Searches of indexes kept by superintendent registrars.
- 32 Searches in registers kept by registrars.
- 33 Short certificate of birth.
- 34 Entry in register as evidence of birth or death.
- 34A Searches and records of information: additional provision

#### *Offences*

- 35 Offences relating to registers.
- 36 Penalties for failure to give information, etc.
- 37 Penalty for forging certificate, etc.
- 38 Prosecution of offences and application of fines.

#### *Miscellaneous*

- 38A Fees
  - 39 Regulations and approval of electronic forms etc.
- 39A Regulations made by the Minister: further provisions
  - 40 Sending and providing notices, information or other documents
- 40A Original documents may be in an approved electronic form
  - 41 Interpretation.
  - 42 Savings, etc.
  - 43 Repeals and consequential amendments.

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44 Short title, extent and commencement.

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FIRST SCHEDULE — Consequential Amendments of other Enactments

1 .....

*B. The Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1926 (16 & 17 Geo.5. c.88)*

- 2 In subsection (1) of section one, for the reference to...
- 3 In section five, for the reference to a certificate given...

*The Legitimacy Act, 1926 (16 & 17 Geo. 5. c.60)*

4 .....

SECOND —  
SCHEDULE

**Changes to legislation:**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- s. 1(3) substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 2(3)
- s. 2 title words substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 3(4) (This S.I. is amended by S.I. 2019/1458, reg. 19(3)(b))
- s. 2(1) words inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 3(2) (This S.I. is amended by S.I. 2019/1458, reg. 19(3)(a))
- s. 2(2) words substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 3(3)
- s. 10(1) words substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11(2)(a) (This S.I. is amended by S.I. 2019/1458, reg. 19(6))
- s. 10(1)(b)(ii) substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11(2)(b)
- s. 10(1)(c)(ii) substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11(2)(c)
- s. 10(1B) words substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11(3)(a)
- s. 10(1B)(b)(ii) substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11(3)(b)
- s. 10(1B)(c)(ii) substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11(3)(c)
- s. 10(3) repealed by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11(6)Sch. 7 Pt. 5
- s. 10A(1)(b)(ii) substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 12(2)(a)
- s. 10A(1)(c)(ii) substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 12(2)(b)
- s. 10A(1B)(b)(ii) substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 12(3)(a)
- s. 10A(1B)(c)(ii) substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 12(3)(b)
- s. 16(2)(a) words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 8(2)(a)
- s. 16(2)(b) words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 8(2)(b)
- s. 16(3) words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 8(3)(e)
- s. 16(3)(a) words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 8(3)(a)
- s. 16(3)(b) words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 8(3)(b)(i)
- s. 16(3)(b) words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 8(3)(b)(ii)
- s. 16(3)(c) words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 8(3)(c)(i)
- s. 16(3)(c) words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 8(3)(c)(ii)
- s. 16(3)(d) words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 8(3)(d)
- s. 17(2)(a) words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 9(2)(a)
- s. 17(3) words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 9(3)(c)
- s. 17(3)(a) word substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 9(3)(a)
- s. 17(3)(b) word substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 9(3)(b)
- s. 18 words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 10(2)
- s. 18 words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 10(3)
- s. 18 words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 10(4)
- s. 19(1) amendment to earlier affecting provision 2009 c. 25, Sch. 21 para. 11(2) by 2022 c. 35 s. 39(6)(b) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The amendment to s. 19(1) by 2009 c. 25, Sch. 21 para. 11(3) remains prospective.)
- s. 19(1) words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 11(2)
- s. 20 words repealed by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 12Sch. 23 Pt. 1
- s. 21 repealed by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 13Sch. 23 Pt. 1
- s. 22 substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 14
- s. 23A(2)(a)(b) amendment to earlier affecting provision 2009 c. 25, Sch. 21 para. 16(2) by 2022 c. 35 s. 39(6)(c) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The amendment to s. 23A(2) by 2009 c. 25, Sch. 21 para. 16(2) remains prospective.)
- s. 23A(2)(a)(b) substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 16(2)
- s. 23A(5) words inserted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 16(3)
- s. 23A(6) repealed by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 16(4)Sch. 23 Pt. 1
- s. 24(1) words substituted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 17
- s. 34(4) repealed by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 20Sch. 23 Pt. 1

- s. 39(a) words substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 16
- s. 39(a) words substituted by 2015 c. 20 s. 98(3)
- s. 39(a) words substituted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 15 para. 29
- s. 41 words inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 18
- s. 41(1) words substituted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 15 para. 31
- s. 41(1) words substituted by 2022 c. 31 s. 169(5)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**  
Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 1(2)(a)(aa) substituted for s. 1(2)(a) by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 2(2) (This S.I. is amended by S.I. 2014/560, Sch. 1 para. 34 and S.I. 2019/1458, reg. 19(2)(a))
- s. 1(4) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 2(4) (This S.I. is amended by S.I. 2019/1458, reg. 19(2)(b))
- s. 2A-2E inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 4 (This S.I. is amended by S.I. 2019/1458, reg. 19(4))
- s. 9(3A) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 10(2) (This S.I. is amended by S.I. 2019/1458, reg. 19(5))
- s. 9(6) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 10(3)
- s. 10(1)(h) and word inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11(2)(d)
- s. 10(1B)(g) and word inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11(3)(d)
- s. 10(1C) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11(4)
- s. 10(1C)s. 10(2)(b) words substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11(5)
- s. 10(1C)s. 10(2A)(b) words substituted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11(5)
- s. 10B10C inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 13 (This S.I. is amended by S.I. 2019/1458, reg. 19(7))
- s. 16(2)(ba) inserted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 8(2)(c)
- s. 16(4) inserted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 8(5)
- s. 17(2)(aa) inserted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 9(2)(b)
- s. 17(4) inserted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 9(4)
- s. 18(1) s. 18 renumbered as s. 18(1) by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 10(5)
- s. 18(2) amendment to earlier affecting provision 2009 c. 25, Sch. 21 para. 10(5) by 2022 c. 35 s. 39(6)(a) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertion of s. 18(2) by 2009 c. 25, Sch. 21 para. 10(5) remains prospective.)
- s. 18(2) inserted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 10(5)
- s. 23(4) inserted by 2022 c. 35 s. 44
- s. 33A inserted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 19
- s. 33A(1) words substituted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 15 para. 27(a)
- s. 33A(3) omitted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 15 para. 27(b)
- s. 36(aa) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 15