

CYPRUS

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

CHAPTER 275 OF THE LAWS

1959 EDITION

PRINTED BY

C. F. ROWORTH LIMITED, 54, GRAFTON WAY, LONDON, W.1.

[Appointed by the Government of Cyprus the Government Printers of this Edition of Laws within the meaning of the Evidence (Colonial Statutes) Act, 1907.]

1959

CHAPTER 275.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

PART I.			
PRELIMINARY.			<i>Page</i>
<i>Section</i>			
1	Short title ...	...	3
2	Interpretation ...	...	3
PART II.			
REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS.			
3	Information concerning birth to be given to Registrar ...	...	3
4	Information concerning new-born child found exposed...	...	3
5	Requisition in default of information ...	...	4
6	General duty of Registrar to ascertain and register births	...	4
7	Registration without name or alteration of name ...	...	4
8	Late registration of birth ...	...	5
9	Illegitimate children ...	...	5
PART III.			
REGISTRATION OF DEATHS.			
10	Certification and registration of death ...	...	5
11	Information concerning death to be given to Registrar	...	5
12	Requisition in default of information ...	...	6
13	General duty of Registrar to ascertain deaths	...	6
14	Registrar to view the body and issue certificate	...	6
15	Decision of Registrar not to issue certificate	...	7
16	No interment without certificate ...	...	7
17	Coroner to furnish information to Registrar	...	8
PART IV.			
MEDICAL CERTIFICATES OF CAUSE OF DEATH.			
18	Certificate of cause of death ...	...	8
PART V.			
MISCELLANEOUS.			
19	Registrar may requisition assistance in registering	...	8
20	Mark in lieu of signature ...	...	9
21	Registers to consist of register sheets	...	9
22	Register sheets to be bound together	...	9
23	Searching registers	...	9
24	Certificates of birth and death	...	9
25	Regulations ...	...	9
26	Fees ...	...	10
27	Offences and penalties	...	10
28	Saving ...	...	11
	SCHEDULE—Fees	...	11

A LAW TO AMEND AND CONSOLIDATE THE LAWS RELATING
TO THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

[1st January, 1948.]

1949 Cap. 49.
23 of 58.

PART I.

PRELIMINARY.

1. This Law may be cited as the Births and Deaths Registration Law. Short title.

2. In this Law—

“register” means the registers of births and deaths as the case may be, kept under the provisions of this Law and includes register sheets;

Interpretation.

“Registrar” means the Commissioner of the District within which the birth or death has occurred and includes his duly authorized representative. 3 of 23/58.

PART II.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS.

3. (1) In the case of every child born in Cyprus, whether born alive or still-born, it shall be the duty of the father or mother of the child or, in default of the father and mother, of the doctor or midwife in attendance upon the mother at the time or within six hours after birth or, in default of such doctor or midwife, of the occupier of the house or premises in which the child is born, to give to the Registrar within fifteen days next after such birth, information of the particulars required to be registered concerning the birth and, in the presence of the Registrar, to sign the register.

Information concerning birth to be given to Registrar.
4 of 23/58.

(2) In this section the expression “still-born” shall 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 expelled completely from its mother, breathe or show any other signs of life.

4. If any new-born child is found exposed, it shall be the duty of any person finding the child, and if any person in whose charge the child may be placed, to give to the best of his knowledge and belief to the Registrar, within seven

Information concerning new-born child found exposed.

days after the finding of the child, such information of the particulars required to be registered concerning the birth of the child as the informant possesses and, in the presence of the Registrar, to sign the register.

Requisition
in default of
information.

5. Where, due to the omission of any person not required to give information as in this Law provided, a birth has not been registered, the Registrar may, at any time after the expiration of fifteen days after the birth, require any such person to give information to the best of his knowledge and belief of the particulars required to be registered concerning the birth and it shall be the duty of such person to comply with the requisition and, in the presence of the Registrar, to sign the register.

General duty
of Registrar
to ascertain
and register
births.

6. It shall be generally the duty of the Registrar to inform himself carefully of every birth which occurs within his village or quarter and, upon receiving proper information thereof, register the birth.

Registration
without
name or
alteration of
name.

7. (1) Where the birth of any child has been registered but such child has been registered without a name, it shall be the duty of the father or mother or guardian of the child, within six months of the date on which a name is given, to notify the necessary particulars thereof in writing to the Registrar.

(2) Where the birth of any child has been registered and the name by which the child was registered has been altered, it shall be the duty of the father or mother or guardian of the child or of any other person procuring the name to be altered (including the child himself, if such alteration is made after he has attained the age of eighteen), within six months of the date on which the name is altered, to notify the necessary particulars thereof in writing to the Registrar.

(3) Upon notification of the particulars of a new name or the alteration of a name in accordance with the preceding subsections, the Registrar shall amend the register by inserting or altering the name of the child, and the insertion or alteration shall be signed by the Registrar. The person procuring the insertion or alteration shall also sign the register or else his written notification shall be annexed to the register.

8. (1) In any case where a birth has not been notified within three months of its occurrence, the Registrar shall not register the birth except on production of an affidavit containing to the best of the declarant's knowledge and belief, the particulars required to be registered concerning the birth, and unless the father or mother of the child or the declarant, in the presence of the Registrar, signs the register. Late registration of birth.

(2) After the expiration of twelve months next after the birth of the child the Registrar shall not register such birth except with the written authority of the Registrar and, when such authority has been given, the provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to this subsection. 2 of 23/58.

(3) Where registration is effected under the provisions of this section, every affidavit produced and every written authority given shall be annexed to the register and the fact shall also be recorded therein.

9. In the case of an illegitimate child no person shall be required, as its father, to give information under this Law concerning its birth, unless at the joint request of the mother and of the person acknowledging himself to be the father of the child; and in that case such person shall sign the register together with the mother in the presence of the Registrar. Illegitimate children.

PART III.

REGISTRATION OF DEATHS.

10. The death of every person dying in Cyprus and the cause of death shall be certified and registered by the Registrar in the manner in this Law provided. Certification and registration of death.

11. When a person dies it shall be the duty of the relatives present at the death or in attendance during the last illness of the deceased and, in default of such relatives, of each person present at the death and of the occupier of the house in which to his knowledge the death occurred, forthwith to inform the Registrar of the death and to give him to the best of their or his knowledge and belief information of the particulars of such death: Information concerning death to be given to Registrar.

Provided that—

(a) where the death occurs in a hospital, prison, public

or religious or charitable institution, hotel or khan, the director, manager, or head of such hospital, prison or institution and the owner or manager of such hotel or khan shall be responsible for the notification of such death to the Registrar within twenty-four hours of its occurrence ;

(b) where the death occurs in a public conveyance, the driver and conductor of such conveyance, or in their default any other person present at the death, shall be responsible for the notification of such death to the Registrar within twenty-four hours of its occurrence;

(c) subject to the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) hereof, where a person dies in a place other than a house, or a dead body is found elsewhere than in a house, it shall be the duty of every relative of the deceased having knowledge of the death and, in default of such relative, of every person present at the death and of any person finding or taking charge of the body or otherwise having knowledge of the death, forthwith to inform the Registrar and to give him to the best of their or his knowledge and belief information of the particulars of such death.

Requisition
in default of
information.

12. Where due to the omission of any person required to give information as in section 11 of this Law provided, a death has not been reported to the Registrar, the Registrar shall, immediately after the fact of such death or such finding of the body elsewhere than in a house has come to his knowledge, by notice in writing, call upon any person required by this Law to give information concerning the death to attend personally at the Registrar's house or office, within twenty-four hours after the receipt of the notice, and to give the said information to the best of the informant's knowledge and belief.

General
duty of
Registrar to
ascertain
deaths.

13. It shall be generally the duty of the Registrar to inform himself carefully of every death which occurs within his village or quarter.

Registrar to
view the
body and
issue
certificate.

14. Upon notice of a death being given to the Registrar or upon the Registrar obtaining any information regarding a

death under section 12 or 13 of this Law, he shall proceed forthwith to view the body and to acquaint himself with the circumstances of the death and, if satisfied that there are no unnatural or suspicious circumstances connected with the death, issue a certificate to the effect that to the best of his knowledge and belief the death was due to natural causes and that the body may be buried forthwith.

After issuing such certificate the Registrar shall proceed forthwith to register the particulars required to be registered concerning the death in the prescribed form.

15. If the Registrar considers that no certificate should be issued under section 14 of this Law, he shall at once report the matter to the nearest police station and await instructions:

Decision of Registrar not to issue certificate.

Provided always that when the coroner or an officer of police not below the rank of sergeant shall have authorized an immediate interment the Register may, thereupon, issue his certificate without further inquiry on his part; in such a case the Registrar shall note both on the certificate and the appropriate register sheet the authority under which he issued his certificate.

16. (1) All certificates of death issued under section 14 or 15 of this Law shall be delivered to, and retained by, the person or persons in charge of the body and shall be produced for inspection to the person who is to perform the burial rites and to the person in charge of the interment.

No interment without certificate.

(2) No interment shall take place unless the certificate of the Registrar shall be produced to the person in charge of the interment:

Provided that if the Registrar shall be absent or if for some reason other than the decision of the Registrar not to issue a certificate it shall be impossible to obtain the certificate of the Registrar within ten hours of the death, the interment may take place upon the production of a certificate of one of the ministers of religion of the village of the same religion as the person deceased or of the officer of police in charge of the police at the nearest police station and the Registrar shall, in due course, register the death in accordance with the particulars contained in the said certificate noting upon the register the authority under which the interment was allowed to take place.

(3) Any person who performs the burial rites or, being in

charge of the interment, inters or permits the interment of a deceased person without a certificate, as provided in this section, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds.

Coroner
to furnish
information
to Registrar.
5 of 23/58.

17. Where an inquest is held on any dead body, the coroner shall send to the Registrar, as soon as possible after the finding is given, a certificate under his hand, giving information concerning the death, specifying the particulars and the cause of death and the time and place at which the inquest was held; and the Registrar shall, thereupon, register the death in accordance with the particulars contained in the said certificate of the coroner. If the death has been previously registered, the particulars contained in the coroner's certificate shall also be entered in the register without any alteration or obliteration of the original entry.

PART IV.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES OF CAUSE OF DEATH.

Certificate
of cause of
death.

18. (1) Upon the death of any person, it shall be the duty of every medical practitioner who has attended such a person during his last illness to sign and deliver to the Registrar, immediately after the death, a certificate in the prescribed form in duplicate stating what in his opinion was the cause of death.

(2) The Registrar shall forthwith enter in the register the cause of death as set out in the certificate together with the name of the medical practitioner who had delivered the same and shall annex the certificate to the register sheet; he may then issue his own certificate without further inquiry.

(3) Any medical practitioner who acts in contravention of, or fails to observe, the requirements of this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds.

PART V.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Registrar
may
requisition
assistance in
registering.

19. A Registrar may requisition the assistance of any person who can write for the purpose of registering any birth or death in accordance with the provisions of this

Law; and any person who, on the requisition of a Registrar, shall make any entry in the register shall read it over to the Registrar and shall sign the register.

20. Where any informant or other person required by this Law to sign the register is unable to sign it, it shall be sufficient for him to make his mark in lieu of signature; and every such entry shall be sealed by the Registrar.

Mark in lieu
of signature.
6 of 23/58.

21. (1) The registers of births and deaths kept by the Registrar shall be in such form as may be prescribed and shall consist of register sheets of durable paper.

Registers to
consist of
register
sheets.
7 of 23/58.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Registrar to cause the original of each register sheet to be filed in his office and to forward a copy of each register sheet and copies of any certificates of cause of death annexed thereto to the Director of Medical Services:

Provided that failure of the Registrar to forward copies of the register sheets and of any certificates of cause of death, as in this section provided, shall not affect the validity of any registration which is otherwise valid.

22. The Registrar shall cause the register sheets to be adequately bound together at the end of each year.

Register
sheets to be
bound
together.
9 of 23/58.

23. Any interested person who desires to obtain any information with regard to any entry of a birth or death in any register, made or kept under the provisions of this Law, may, upon payment of the appropriate fee, search the register sheets kept in the office of the Registrar and, if he so desires, take a copy of the entry.

Searching
registers.
2 of 23/54.

24. The Registrar may, upon the application of any interested person and upon payment of the appropriate fee, issue to such person a certificate of birth or death in the prescribed form.

Certificates
of birth and
death.
2 of 23/58.

25. The Governor in Council may from time to time, make Regulations for the better carrying of this Law into effect and, in particular and without prejudice to the generality of this power, may make regulations in respect of all matters stated or required in this Law to be prescribed.

Regulations.

Fees
Schedule.
10 of 23/58.

26. The fees set out in the Schedule to this Law shall be paid, in such manner as the Registrar may direct, in respect of the several matters therein set out and shall form part of the revenues of the Colony.

Offences and
penalties.

27. (1) Any person who—

- (a) being required by this Law to give any information or notification concerning any matter as in this Law provided, fails to give such information or notification or wilfully refuses to answer any question put to him by the Registrar relating to the particulars or circumstances concerning any such matter;
- (b) fails to comply with any requisition of the Registrar made in pursuance of this Law; or
- (c) being a Registrar, fails to carry out his duties in accordance with the provisions of this Law,

shall be guilty of an offence under this Law and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds.

(2) Any person who—

- (a) wilfully makes any false answer to any question put to him by the Registrar relating to the particulars required to be registered concerning any birth or death, or wilfully gives to a Registrar any false information concerning any birth or death or the cause of any death; or
- (b) makes any false statement with intent to have it entered in any register of births or deaths,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

(3) Any person who wilfully gives any false certificate or makes a false declaration or entry in a register under or for the purposes of this Law or falsifies any such certificate or declaration or entry or, knowing that any such certificate or declaration or entry is false or falsified, uses it as true or gives or sends it as true to any person, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

28. Every register or register sheet made or kept under the Laws repealed by this Law* and every registration or entry made thereunder shall be deemed to have been made or kept under the provisions of this Law. ^{Saving.}

SCHEDULE.
(Section 26.)

FEES.

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1. To be paid to the Registrar by the informant concerning the registration of a birth | ... | ... | 50 mils. |
| 2. To be paid to the Registrar in respect of a search for a birth or death under section 23 | ... | ... | 50 mils. |
| 3. To be paid to the Registrar in respect of any certificate of birth or death issued under section 24 | ... | ... | 100 mils. |

* The Births and Deaths Registration Laws, 1895 to 1937, were repealed by this Law.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

PHYSICS 354

LECTURE 1

1.1

1.2

1.3