

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION.

16 OF 1895.⁽¹⁾

TO REGULATE THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

WALTER J. SENDALL.]

[June 3, 1895.

1. In this Law the word "Registrar," where the registration of a birth or death has reference to the birth or death of an Ottoman subject, means the Mukhtar of the village or quarter within which the birth or death has occurred, or the representative of the Mukhtar for the time being;⁽²⁾ and, where the registration of a birth or death has reference to the birth or death of a non-Ottoman subject, means the Commissioner of the District within which the birth or death has occurred.

Definition.

Registration of Births.

2. In the case of every child born alive in Cyprus, it shall be the duty of the father or mother of the child, and in default of the father or mother, of the occupier of the house or premises in which the child is born, to give to the Registrar, within thirty-one days next after the 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.

3.—(1.) If any new-born child is found exposed, it shall be the duty of any person finding the child, and of 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 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.

As to foundlings.

(2.) In any such case the exposed child shall be deemed, in the absence of proof to the contrary, to be an Ottoman subject.

4. Where a birth has, from the default of the parents or other persons required to give information concerning it, not been duly registered, the Registrar may, at any time after the expiration of thirty-one days after the birth, require any of the persons required

Requisition by Registrar in default of information

(1) See Statute Laws Application Law, 2 of 1915, s. 2, p. 873.

(2) Where more than one Mukhtar, see p. 924.

by this Law to give information concerning the birth to give information to the best of their knowledge and belief, of the particulars required to be registered concerning the birth, and to sign the register; and it shall be their duty to comply with the requisition.

Duty of Registrar to ascertain and register births.

5. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to inform himself carefully of every birth which happens within his jurisdiction as Registrar, and, upon receiving from the informant information of the particulars required to be registered, to register the birth in the form prescribed by Schedule A

Sec. 7 of Law 16 of 1895 (at p. 58) has been repealed and the following substituted therefor:-

7. Where the birth of any child has been registered and the name, if any, by which it was registered is altered, or if it was registered without a name, when a name is given to it, the father or mother or guardian of the child or other person procuring the name to be altered or given, shall, within twelve months of the date of birth if the name is altered or given within the period or within six months of the date on which the name is altered or given if altered or given after the aforesaid period of twelve months, give to the Registrar the necessary particulars thereof and shall require the Registrar to amend the registration by altering or adding the name of the child, and the Register shall be amended accordingly, and the alteration or addition shall be initialled by the person procuring the amendment.

Vide Law 31 of 1928

Certificate and registration.

14. 1913, 2.

Information to be given to Registrar.

14. 1913, 3.

9. The death of every person dying in Cyprus and the cause of death shall be certified and registered by the Registrar in the manner hereinafter described.

10.—(1.) 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

by this Law to give information concerning the birth to give information to the best of their knowledge and belief, of the particulars required to be registered concerning the birth, and to sign the register; and it shall be their duty to comply with the requisition.

Duty of Registrar to ascertain and register births.

5. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to inform himself carefully of every birth which happens within his jurisdiction as Registrar, and, upon receiving from the informant information of the particulars required to be registered, to register the birth in the form prescribed by Schedule A.

Fees for registration of births.

6. Where the information required by Law to be given concerning a birth is given to the Registrar before the expiration of thirty-one days after the birth, a fee of $1\frac{1}{2}$ c.p. shall be paid by the informant to the Registrar for the registration; and where the information is given after the expiration of thirty-one days after the birth a fee of 4 c.p. shall be paid by the informant for the registration.

Where the informant is some person other than one of the parents of the child, any fees paid by him to the Registrar for the registration may be recovered by the informant from the parents of the child or either of them.

Registration of name of child, or of alteration of name.

7. Where the birth of any child has been registered and the name, if any, by which it was registered is altered, or if it was registered without a name, when a name is given to it, the parent or guardian of the child, or other person procuring the name to be altered or given, may require the Registrar to amend the registration by altering or adding the name of the child, and the register shall be amended accordingly, and the alteration or addition shall be initialled by the person procuring the amendment.

Saving for father of illegitimate child.

8. In the case of an illegitimate child, no person shall as its father be required 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 such person shall in that case sign the register together with the mother.

Registration of Deaths.

Certificate and registration.

14. 1913, 2.

9. The death of every person dying in Cyprus and the cause of death shall be certified and registered by the Registrar in the manner hereinafter described.

Information to be given to Registrar.

14. 1913, 3.

10.—(1.) 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.

(2.) 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 relatives, 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.

Information where deceased dies not in a house.

(3.) Upon notice of a death being given to the Registrar he shall proceed forthwith to view the body and to acquaint himself with the circumstances of the death.

Action by Registrar.

11. Where any death, from the default of the persons required to give information concerning it, has not been reported to the Registrar, he 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 require any person required by this Law to give information concerning the death, as he may think fit, 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.

Requisition by Registrar of information.

14. 1913, 4..

12. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to inform himself carefully of every death which occurs within his jurisdiction as Registrar, and after complying with the necessary formalities in accordance with the preceding sections of this Law, he may, if he is 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.

Duty of Registrar to ascertain deaths.

14. 1913, 5.

After issuing such certificate the Registrar shall proceed forthwith to register the particulars required to be registered concerning the death in the form prescribed by Schedule B of this Law.

13. When the Registrar refuses to issue such certificate he shall at once report the matter to the nearest Police Station and await instructions before issuing his certificate. Provided always that when the coroner or an officer of Police shall have authorized an immediate interment the Registrar may thereupon issue his certificate without further enquiry on his part; in such cases the Registrar shall note both upon the certificate and upon the register sheet, against such entry, the authority under which he issued his certificate.

Refusal of Registrar to issue a certificate.

14. 1913, 6.

Certificate to be produced before interment.

14. 1913, 7.

14.—(1.) All certificates of death issued under the preceding section shall be retained by the person or persons having charge of the body and shall be by him or them produced for inspection by the person who is to perform the burial rites and to the person in charge of the interment.

No interment without certificate.

14. 1913, 8

(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 for some reason, other than the refusal of the Registrar 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 on the certificate of one of the ministers of religion of the village of the same religion as the person deceased or of the member of the police in charge of the police at the nearest police station being produced, and the Registrar shall register the death in accordance with the particulars contained in the said certificate noting upon the register, against such entry, the authority under which the interment was allowed to take place.

Coroner to furnish information to Registrar

14. 1913, 9.

15. 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 be entered in the register without any alteration or obliteration of the original entry.

Medical Certificates of cause of Death.

Regulations as to medical certificates of cause of death.

14. 1913, 10.

16. With respect to certificates given by Medical Practitioners of the cause of death the following provisions shall have effect:—

- (1.) The Chief Medical Officer shall, from time to time, furnish to every licensed Medical Practitioner printed forms of certificates by licensed Medical Practitioners of cause of death;
- (2.) In case of the death of any person who has been attended during his last illness by a licensed Medical Practitioner, that Practitioner shall sign and deliver to the Registrar immediately after the death a certificate stating what in his opinion is the cause of death; and the cause of death shall be entered in the

register, together with the name of the certifying Medical Practitioner; and the Registrar may thereupon without further enquiry on his part issue his own certificate.

If any Medical Practitioner fails to sign and deliver a certificate of the cause of death to the Registrar, in pursuance of this section, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

Miscellaneous.

17. 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.

Registrar may requisition assistance in registering.

18. 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 entry in the register made by a Registrar who is a Mukhtar shall be sealed by him with the Mukhtar's seal.

Signing the register.

19. Every person required by this Law to give information concerning any birth, death, living new-born child, or any dead body, who fails to give such information or wilfully refuses to answer any question put to him by the Registrar relating to the particulars or circumstances concerning the birth or death, or fails to comply with any requisition of the Registrar made in pursuance of this Law shall be liable to a fine not exceeding two pounds.

Penalty for not giving information.

14. 1913, 11.

20. Any person who,—

(1.) 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

Penalty for false statements, etc.

The following section has been inserted in Law 16 of 1895 (at p. 61) as section 20 (a):—

20(a). If any person required or directed by this Law to give information to the Registrar of any of the particulars required to be known and registered touching any child born alive or any person dead, or touching the name of any child when the birth of such child has been registered, shall omit or neglect or refuse so to do, every person so offending shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

Vide Law 31 of 1928

register, together with the name of the certifying Medical Practitioner; and the Registrar may thereupon without further enquiry on his part issue his own certificate.

If any Medical Practitioner fails to sign and deliver a certificate of the cause of death to the Registrar, in pursuance of this section, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

Miscellaneous.

17. 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.

Registrar may requisition assistance in registering.

18. 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 entry in the register made by a Registrar who is a Mukhtar shall be sealed by him with the Mukhtar's seal.

Signing the register.

19. Every person required by this Law to give information concerning any birth, death, living new-born child, or any dead body, who fails to give such information or wilfully refuses to answer any question put to him by the Registrar relating to the particulars or circumstances concerning the birth or death, or fails to comply with any requisition of the Registrar made in pursuance of this Law shall be liable to a fine not exceeding two pounds.

Penalty for not giving information.

14, 1913, 11.

20. Any person who,—

Penalty for false statements, etc.

(1.) 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

(2.) Wilfully makes any false certificate, or declaration, or entry in a register, under or for the purposes of this Law, or forges or falsifies any such certificate, declaration or entry, or, knowing any such certificate, declaration or entry to be false or forged, uses it as true, or gives or sends it as true to any person; or

(3.) Makes any false statement with intent to have it entered in any register of births or deaths;

shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds, or to be imprisoned for a term not exceeding one year, or to both such punishments.

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Registers
how to be
kept, etc.

14. 1918, 13.

21. It shall be the duty of every Registrar to keep the registers of births and deaths upon register sheets supplied for that purpose, and to forward at the end of each month to the Commissioner the register sheets, noting on the register of deaths in each case the circumstances under which he issued a certificate; and it shall be the duty of the Commissioner to enter upon each sheet the date upon which it was received by him, and to cause it to be filed in his office; and the Commissioner shall pay to each Registrar the sum of K^3 c.p. in respect of each entry of a birth and $4\frac{1}{2}$ c.p. in respect of each entry of a death which appears upon the register sheets.

Searching
registers,

22. Any person who desires to obtain any information with regard to any entry of a birth or death in any register made under the provisions of this Law may, upon payment of a fee of K^4 c.p. to the Commissioner, search the file of register sheets, and, if he so desires, take a copy of the entry.

Offences and
penalties.

14. 1913, 12.

23. Any person who—

- (1.) Performs the burial rites over a deceased person or, being in charge of the interment, inters or allows to be interred such deceased person without the production of a proper certificate, as provided by sub-section (2) of section 14 of this Law; or
- (2.) Being a Registrar, fails to carry out his duties in accordance with sections 9 10 (3) 11 12 13 and 15 of this Law

shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Short title.

24. This Law may be cited as the Registration

New section added to Law 16 of 1895 (at p. 62).

Where the birth of any child born alive in the Colony of Cyprus between the 5th day of November, 1914, and the date of the passing of this Law has been registered and the name, if any, by which it was registered has been altered, or if it was registered without a name, when a name has been given to it, the father or mother or guardian of the child, or other person who has procured the name to be altered or given, shall, within twelve months of the passing of this Law, give to the Registrar the necessary particulars thereof and shall require the Registrar to amend the registration by altering or adding the name of the child, and the Register shall be amended accordingly, and the alteration or addition shall be initialled by the person procuring the amendment.

(2) Any person offending against any of the provisions of this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

Vide Law 31 of 1928.

Registers
how to be
kept, etc.

14. 1913, 13.

*Law 31 of 1928
sec. 4*

21. It shall be the duty of every Registrar to keep the registers of births and deaths upon register sheets supplied for that purpose, and to forward at the end of each month to the Commissioner the register sheets, noting on the register of deaths in each case the circumstances under which he issued a certificate; and it shall be the duty of the Commissioner to enter upon each sheet the date upon which it was received by him, and to cause it to be filed in his office; and the Commissioner shall pay to each Registrar the sum of $\text{£}3$ c.p. in respect of each entry of a birth and $4\frac{1}{2}$ c.p. in respect of each entry of a death which appears upon the register sheets.

Searching
registers.

*Law 51 of 1928
sec. 5*

22. Any person who desires to obtain any information with regard to any entry of a birth or death in any register made under the provisions of this Law may, upon payment of a fee of $\text{£}4$ c.p. to the Commissioner, search the file of register sheets, and, if he so desires, take a copy of the entry.

Offences and
penalties.

14. 1913, 12.

23. Any person who—

- (1.) Performs the burial rites over a deceased person or, being in charge of the interment, inters or allows to be interred such deceased person without the production of a proper certificate, as provided by sub-section (2) of section 14 of this Law; or
 - (2.) Being a Registrar, fails to carry out his duties in accordance with sections 9, 10 (3), 11, 12, 13 and 15 of this Law;
- shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Short title.

24. This Law may be cited as the Births and Deaths Registration Law, 1895.
