

LAWS OF GUYANA

Registration of Births and Deaths

Cap. 44:01

3

CHAPTER 44:01

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.

PART I

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

The Registrar General

3. Appointment of Registrar General and establishment of general register office.
4. Appointment of deputy.
5. Appointment and salaries of clerks.
6. Provision and use of seal.
7. Power to amend Schedules.
8. Regulations for management of office.
9. Notices of acts required to be done under the Act.
10. Receipt and paying over of fees.

Supply of Forms

11. Forms.

PART II

REGISTRATION DISTRICTS AND REGISTRATION CENTRES

12. Registration districts and centres.
13. Appointment of registrars and deputies and designation of public officers to act in execution of Act.
14. Transfer of official property on death or removal of registrar
15. Registration centre in each district.

LAWS OF GUYANA

4

Cap. 44:01

Registration of Births and Deaths

SECTION

16. Exemption from service on jury or inquest.

PART III

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS

17. Ascertaining and registering births and deaths.
18. Obligation on certain persons to give notice of birth of child.
19. Penalty for default under section 18.
20. Giving notice in writing.
21. Informant to sign registration form.
22. Neglect to give notice of birth or death under the Act.
23. Extension of provisions as to notice in writing.
24. Entry of name of person as father of child born out of wedlock.
25. Registration after expiration of three months from birth.
26. Registration of a birth after 12 months.
27. Registration of name given after registration.
28. Obligation on certain persons to give notice of death.
29. Notice on finding new-born child or dead body.
30. Entry of finding of jury upon coroner's inquest.
31. Registration of birth or death on board ship.
32. Report of death on boat in mining district.
33. Signing of register by informant, with specified exceptions.
34. Signing by mark.
35. Correction of erroneous entry in registration form.
36. Saving of registry of baptisms and burials.

PART IV

REGISTRATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH

37. Registration of death.

LAWS OF GUYANA

Registration of Births and Deaths

Cap. 44:01

5

PART V

COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS

Certified Copies of Registers

SECTION

38. Transmission of entries of births and deaths and original registration forms thereof to the Registrar General.
39. Furnishing of abstract of registers.
40. Indices, searches and certified copies.
41. Fee for priority search.
42. Loss of registration form in course of transmission.
43. Quarterly account of fees by registrar.
44. Burial of deceased and still-born children.
45. Production of certificate of medical practitioner by persons presenting body of still-born child for burial.
46. Forging or uttering forged certificate. Misdemeanour.
47. Fee for viewing body of still-born child.
48. Person burying still-born child shall inform registrar.

PART VI

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS ABROAD

49. Registration of births and deaths abroad.

PART VII

OFFENCES AND PROCEDURE

50. Section 6 of Cap. 10:02 not to apply.
51. Wilfully giving false information.
52. Incorporation of sections 252 and 253 of Cap. 8:01.
53. Not duly registering birth or death, or losing or injuring registration form.
54. Neglect to deliver completed registration forms or copies thereof when required.
55. Failure by medical practitioner to comply with section 37.

LAWS OF GUYANA

6

Cap. 44:01

Registration of Births and Deaths

SECTION

- 56. Improperly registering birth.
- 57. Failure to give notice of birth or death.
- 58. Failure to give information personally to registrar respecting birth or death.
- 59. Failure to give notice of finding new-born child or dead body.
- 60. Right to give notice by post.
- 61. Penalty not exigible if notice given.
- 62. Penalty not exigible where failure not wilful.
- 63. Procedure and appeal.

FIRST SCHEDULE—Forms.

SECOND SCHEDULE—Places in respect of which Notices of Births and Deaths may be given in Writing.

1929 Ed.
c. 139
1953 Ed.
c. 162

CHAPTER 44:01

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS ACT

1 of 1868
[14 of 1976]

An Act to make provision for the Registration of Births and Deaths of citizens of Guyana.

[1ST OCTOBER, 1868]

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

Interpretation. **2.** In this Act—

[57 of 1955
21 of 1990]

“Form” means Form in the First Schedule;

“general search” means a search during any number of successive days, not exceeding six, without stating the object of search;

“particular search” means a search over any period not exceeding five years for any given registration form of birth or death;

LAW OF GUYANA

“the Registrar General” means the Registrar General of births and deaths in Guyana for the time being, and, in case of his absence, also means and includes the person appointed by him as his deputy.

PART I

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

The Registrar General

3. (1) There shall be a Registrar General of births and deaths in Guyana

Appointment of Registrar General and establishment of general register office.

(2) The office of the Registrar General shall be called the general register office.

4. (1) There shall be a deputy to the Registrar General who shall act as his deputy in case he is at any time ill, or unavoidably absent.

Appointment of deputy.

(2) The deputy shall have, at all times during the illness or unavoidable absence of the Registrar General, all the powers and be subject to all the duties and liabilities of the Registrar General, save and except that the deputy shall not have power to make, rescind or alter any general order, regulation, or form, or to rescind or vary anything done by the Registrar General or approved by him in writing under his hand.

5. There shall be such and so many clerks as may from time to time be necessary for carrying on the business of the general register office.

Appointment and salaries of clerks.

6. (1) The Registrar General shall cause to be made a seal of the general register office, and all certified extracts from entries given in the office to be sealed or stamped therewith.

Provision and use of seal.
[3 of 1965]

(2) All certified extracts from entries purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the office (which seal it shall not be necessary to prove) shall be admissible as evidence of the birth or death to which they relate without any further or other proof of an entry; and no certified extract purporting to be given in the office shall be of any force or effect which is not sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

LAWS OF GUYANA

8

Cap. 44:01

Registration of Births and Deaths

Power to
amend
Schedules.
[21 of 1990]

7. The Minister may, by order, amend the Schedules.

Regulations for
management of
office.
[21 of 1990]

8. The Registrar General, with the approval of the Minister, may from time to time make regulations for the management of the general register office and for the discharge of the duties of the Registrar General, of the clerks of the office, and registrars and their deputies hereinafter mentioned.

Notices of acts
required to be
done under the
Act.
[21 of 1990]

9. The Registrar General shall from time to time cause to be fixed or placed on the outside of public and conspicuous buildings or places, within the respective registration districts, printed notices specifying the several acts required to be done for the purpose of registering a birth or death under this Act.

Receipt and
paying over of
fees.

10. All fees received by or on account of the Registrar General under this Act shall be entered in a cash book to be kept for that purpose, and shall be paid over monthly to the Accountant General.

Supply of Forms

Forms.
[21 of 1990]

11. The Registrar General shall cause to be provided at the public expense a sufficient number of the forms necessary for the execution of this Act.

PART II

REGISTRATION DISTRICTS AND REGISTRATION CENTRES

Registration
districts and
centres.
[21 of 1990]
c. 28:09

12. In each of the regions into which Guyana is divided by order made under the Local Democratic Organs Act, the Minister may by order establish such number of registration districts as he deems necessary and in each such district establish such number of registration centres as may be necessary.

LAWS OF GUYANA

Registration of Births and Deaths

Cap. 44:01

9

13. (1) The Minister may appoint the registrars and their deputies for the registration districts.

Appointment of registrars and deputies and designation of public officers to act in execution of Act.

[21 of 1990]

(2) Every deputy while acting as registrar shall have all the powers and duties and be subject to all the penalties declared in this Act concerning a registrar.

(3) The Minister may designate a public officer to perform the functions of registrar under this Act, for such time as that officer holds his office.

14. Whenever any registrar dies, or is removed from office or ceases to hold office, arrangements shall immediately be made by the Registrar General to have all forms, documents and papers that were in his possession as registrar collected and delivered as soon as conveniently may be to his successor.

Transfer of official property on death or removal of registrar.

[21 of 1990]

15. (1) The Registrar General shall appoint some suitable building to be the registration centre within the district.

Registration centre in each district.

[21 of 1990]

(2) The Registrar General shall publish in the *Gazette*, the address of the registration centre and hours of business of every registrar.

16. Every registrar appointed under this Act shall be free and exempt from service on any jury or inquest.

Exemption from service on jury or inquest.

[21 of 1990]

PART III

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS

17. Subject to the regulations to be made under this Act, every registrar is hereby authorised and required to inform himself carefully, in so far as it is practicable, of every birth and death which happens within his district, and to learn and register, as soon after the event as conveniently may be, without fee or reward save as herein provided, in

Ascertaining and registering births and deaths.

[21 of 1990]

LAWS OF GUYANA

10

Cap. 44:01

Registration of Births and Deaths

one of the registration forms the particulars required to be registered according to Forms 1 and 2, in triplicate, touching that birth or death, as the case may be.

Obligation on certain persons to give notice of birth of child.
[21 of 1990]

18. The parent or parents of any child born in Guyana after the commencement of this Act, or the nurse or anyone present at the birth of the child, shall, at any time within twenty-one days next after the day of the birth, give notice thereof to the registrar at the nearest registration centre of the district within which the child has been born; and the parent or person above specified, whether he or she has given the notice or not, on being required personally or by written requisition of the registrar within three months after the date of the birth, shall attend at the office of the registrar at the nearest registration centre of the district in which the birth has occurred, or otherwise at the residence of the parent or person, and give information to the registrar, according to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, of the several particulars by Form 1 required to be registered touching the birth of the child, and shall sign the registration form in the presence of the registrar.

Penalty for default under section 18.
[21 of 1990
6 of 1997]

19. Everyone in default of doing anything required, or prescribed by the Registrar General, to be done by him under or in pursuance of the preceding section, shall be liable to a fine of nine hundred dollars.

Giving notice in writing.
[21 of 1990]
Second
Schedule.

20. (1) Anyone may give information of a birth or death happening in any part of Guyana within the limits set forth in the Second Schedule by forwarding the particulars of that birth or death, as required by this Act in writing signed by him and stating his name, residence and occupation to the registrar at the nearest registration centre of the district within which the birth or death, as the case may be, occurred, whereupon the registrar shall commence the registration of the birth or death.

Form 1 or 2.
First Schedule.

(2) Upon verification of the particulars submitted under subsection (1) the registrar shall then proceed to complete the registration of the birth or death by filling in Form 1 or 2, as the case may be.

LAWS OF GUYANA

Registration of Births and Deaths

Cap. 44:01

11

21. Nothing in the preceding section shall excuse any informant from signing the registration form when he is present with the registrar.

Informant to sign registration form.
[21 of 1990]

22. If anyone who resides in any part of Guyana within the limits set forth in the Second Schedule, and who is bound to give information of a birth or death, does not, within nine months from that birth or death, give the information in either of the ways prescribed by this Act, he shall be liable to a fine of fifteen hundred dollars.

Neglect to give notice of birth or death under the Act.
[18 of 1947
21 of 1990
6 of 1997]
Second Schedule.

23. The Minister, from time to time, by order to be published in the *Gazette* and one newspaper of Guyana, may extend the last three preceding sections to other places than those mentioned in the Second Schedule, and, at the expiration of three weeks from the time of the first publication of the order, those sections shall apply to any place mentioned in the order, in the same manner as if it had been included in that Schedule.

Extension of provisions as to notice in writing.
[21 of 1990]

24. No registrar who receives information of the birth of a child born out of wedlock shall enter in Form 1 the name of anyone as the father of that child except at the joint request of the mother, and of the person who acknowledges himself to be the father, and the person shall in that case sign Form 1 together with the mother.

Entry of name of person as father of child born out of wedlock.
[21 of 1990]

25. (1) After the expiration of three months following the birth of a child or nine months in the case of a birth in any part of Guyana within the limits set forth in the Second Schedule, no registrar may register the birth, save as hereinafter provided, that is to say, if the birth of the child has not been registered according to the provisions hereinbefore contained, anyone present at the birth of the child, or the father or mother or guardian thereof, at any time within twelve months next after its birth may make before the registrar a declaration in writing of the particulars required to be known touching the birth according to the best of his or her knowledge and belief (which declaration the registrar is hereby authorised to take), and the registrar may, then and there, register the birth of the child, according to the information of the person making that declaration.

Registration after expiration of three months from birth.
[18 of 1947
57 of 1955
21 of 1990]

LAWS OF GUYANA

12

Cap. 44:01

Registration of Births and Deaths

(2) For every registration under subsection (1) the registrar shall be entitled to receive such fees as may be prescribed by the Minister by order.

Registration of
a birth after 12
months.
[15 of 1936
57 of 1955
21 of 1990]

26. (1) After the expiration of twelve months following the birth of a child, that birth shall not be registered except with the written authority of the Registrar General for registering the same, and except in accordance with the regulations, and the fact of such authority having been given shall be recorded.

(2) For every registration under subsection (1) the registrar shall be entitled to receive such fees as may be prescribed by the Minister by order.

Registration of
name given
after registra-
tion.
[21 of 1990]

Form 3.
First Schedule.

27. (1) When any name has been given to the child by its parents or guardians other than that by which it may have been registered, or where on registration no name has been given, the parents or guardians, within twelve months after its birth has been registered, or, if after twelve months, then only with the written authority of the magistrate of the district in which the parents or guardians reside (which authority, upon a statement of the circumstances of the case submitted to him, it shall be lawful for the magistrate to give) may deliver to the Registrar General a certificate in Form 3, or to the like effect, signed by the parents or guardians; and thereupon, and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed by the Minister by order, the Registrar General shall appropriately record the name of the child by completing a new registration form showing the original particulars with the name of the child as corrected or with the name given for the first time, as the case may be.

(2) The newly completed form shall be stapled to the previous form and together shall comprise part of the record of the General Register Office.

Obligation on
certain persons
to give notice
of death.
[21 of 1990]

28. Someone present at the death, or in attendance during the last illness, of anyone dying in Guyana shall, within seven days next after the day of the death, give notice thereof to the registrar at the nearest registration centre of the district in which it has occurred; and everyone aforesaid shall, whether he has given notice or not, on being required

LAW OF GUYANA

personally or by written requisition of the registrar, within fourteen days after the date of the death, attend personally at the office of the registrar at the nearest registration centre of the district in which the death has occurred, or otherwise at the place of residence of that person, and give information to the registrar, according to the best of his knowledge and belief, of the several particulars required by Form 2, to be registered touching the death, and shall sign the registration form in the presence of the registrar.

29. If anyone finds exposed a new-born child or a dead body, the person first having charge of the child in the case of the new-born child, and the coroner in the case of the dead body, shall forthwith give notice of the discovery and of the place where it was found to the registrar of the district in which it has been found; and the registrar, after proper inquiry, shall register all the several particulars required to be known and registered touching that birth or death, or so much and so many of the particulars as have been ascertained.

Notice on finding new-born child or dead body.

30. Whenever an inquest is held on a dead body, the jury shall inquire of the particulars by this Act required to be registered concerning the death and the coroner shall, without signing Form 2 as informant, communicate in writing under his hand the finding of the jury to the Registrar General who shall record that the information relating to the death was received from the coroner, and preserve the information with the records of his office.

Entry of finding of jury upon coroner's inquest.
[21 of 1990]
Form 2.
First Schedule.

31. (1) In the event of a birth or death on board a ship moored in any river in Guyana, the master or chief officer shall be bound to report that birth or death in like manner and subject to the like penalties in case of disobedience as is required of a person on shore.

Registration of birth or death on board ship.
[21 of 1990]

(2) The master or chief officer of any Government craft shall also, in like manner and subject to the like penalties as aforesaid, report every birth or death on board the craft, whether moored or on any coasting or other voyage within Guyana.

LAWS OF GUYANA

14

Cap. 44:01

Registration of Births and Deaths

Report of
death on boat
in mining
district.
[21 of 1990]

32. The captain, or in case of his death the bowman, or in case of the bowman's death or absence at the time of a death occurring someone in the boat at the time shall be bound, in the case of a boat going to or returning from any mining district of Guyana, to report the occurrence of that death on or from the boat to the nearest registrar of the district in the same manner as other deaths are reported, and subject to the like penalties in case of disobedience, as is required of a person on shore.

Signing of
register by
informant,
with specified
exceptions.
[21 of 1990]

33. Everyone by whom the information contained in any form of birth or death under this Act has been given, except in cases where that information has been given by the coroner or under the provisions hereinbefore contained as to giving notice in writing, shall sign his name, description, and place of abode in the form; and except as aforesaid no form of birth or death according to this Act shall be given in evidence which is not signed by someone professing to be the informant, and to be the party hereby required to give that information to the registrar.

Signing by
mark.

34. (1) In case of the inability to write of anyone whose signature is required or necessary under this Act, that person may adhibit, in the presence of the registrar, a cross or other mark, and the registrar shall annex the designation of that person to the cross or other mark.

(2) The cross or other mark shall be in all respects as binding and effectual as the signature of the person would have been if he had been able to write.

Correction of
erroneous
entry in
registration
form.
[14 of 1954
4 of 1972
21 of 1990]

35. (1) (a) The Registrar General may of his own motion correct any minor clerical error in a registration form, if satisfied that the error in question is genuine.

(b) The Minister may by order specify the errors or classes of error which shall be deemed to be minor clerical errors for the purposes of this subsection.

(2) Subject to subsection (1), if any error is discovered to have been committed in the entry of a birth or death in a registration form, the person discovering the error shall forthwith give information thereof to the magistrate of the district

LAWS OF GUYANA

(3) The magistrate thereupon, or upon otherwise coming to the knowledge of the error, shall summon before him the person who made, and anyone concerned in making, the erroneous entry, or having any knowledge concerning it, and also anyone interested in the effect of it, and shall examine those persons upon oath; and if the magistrate is satisfied that any error has been committed in the entry, he shall, by authority under his hand, direct the Registrar General to correct the error.

(4) The Registrar General shall thereupon as directed by the magistrate correct the error according to the truth of the case by completing a new registration form containing the correct particulars; the newly completed form together with the previous form being stapled together and forming part of the record of the General Register Office.

(5) (a) Any person who is born in the Leprosy Hospital, Mahaica, or any parent or guardian of any such person may apply to the Registrar General to alter the particulars in the form with respect to the birth of such person so as to substitute for any reference therein to the "Leprosy Hospital" or "Mahaica Hospital" as the case may be a reference to "Mahaica."

(b) The said substitution shall be made by striking out the words "Leprosy Hospital" or "Mahaica Hospital" as the case may be and substituting therefor the word "Mahaica."

(c) Anything in this or in any other Act to the contrary notwithstanding, as from the date of the coming into force of this Act, where an application has been made as aforesaid, the certified extract referred to in section 40(2) of this Act shall, in respect of the entry with which the application was concerned, contain the substitutions aforesaid and shall be in all respects as if the words "Leprosy Hospital" or "Mahaica Hospital" had never been included in the original entry.

36. Nothing in this Act shall affect the registry of baptisms or burials as now by law established, or the right of any officiating minister to receive any fee now usually paid to him for the performance or registration of a baptism or burial.

*Saving of
registry of
baptisms and
burials.*

PART IV

REGISTRATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH

Registration of
death.
[21 of 1990]
Form 2.
First Schedule.

37. (1) A death occurring in a public or private hospital shall be registered at that hospital after the medical practitioner who may have been in attendance during the last illness until the death of the person completes in triplicate paragraphs 2.0 and 4.0 in Form 2.

(2) Where a death does not occur in a hospital paragraphs 2.0 and 4.0 in Form 2 shall be completed in triplicate by the medical practitioner who may have been in attendance during the last illness until the death of the person and handed to the informant to be taken by him to the registrar at the nearest registration centre of the district, who shall use the particulars in the said form to complete the registration of the death.

(3) Paragraphs 2.0 and 4.0 in Form 2 shall be completed in legible writing and signed by the medical practitioner so that both the cause of death and the name of the medical practitioner issuing the certificate may be easily read.

(4) A registration of death after a post mortem shall be done at the registration centre of the hospital, where the post mortem was performed, by the Hospital Administrator or other officer in charge of administration of the hospital.

(5) When the registration of death is completed the registrar shall send the original completed registration form to the General Register Office, give the first copy to the informant and retain the second copy as part of his record.

(6) No fee shall be charged for the registration of a death at any public hospital or institution.

LAWS OF GUYANA

PART V

COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS

Certified Copies of Registers

38. (1) During the first week in every month every registrar shall send to the Registrar General a monthly return with the entries of all births and deaths made during the month together with all the original registration forms of births and deaths in his possession.

(2) If there has been no birth or death registered in the preceding month aforesaid a nil return shall be sent to the Registrar General.

(3) The registrar shall keep safely the duplicate copy of the monthly return sent to the Registrar General.

39. The Registrar General shall once in every year furnish to the Minister a general abstract of the number of births and deaths registered during the preceding year, in the form and at the date from time to time prescribed by the Minister.

40. (1) The Registrar General shall cause indices of all duly completed registration forms in his possession herein mentioned to be made and kept in the general register office.

(2) Everyone shall be entitled, on payment of the fees prescribed by the Minister by order, to search the indices between the hours of ten o'clock in the morning and four o'clock in the afternoon of every day, except public holidays and Saturdays, and to have extracted therefrom a sealed certificate of birth in Form 4 or a sealed certificate of death in Form 5, as the case may be.

41. (1) The fee payable in respect of each priority search shall be such fee as the Minister may by order prescribe.

Transmission of entries of births and deaths and original registration forms thereof to the Registrar General.
[21 of 1990]

Furnishing of abstract of registers.

Indices, searches and certified copies.
[3 of 1965
9 of 1980
21 of 1990]

Fee for priority search.
[57 of 1955
3 of 1965
4 of 1972
21 of 1990]

(2) In this section, the expression “priority search” means a search, whether general or particular, in respect of which the Registrar General has received a written application requesting that such search be undertaken immediately, that is to say, in priority either to a general or particular search.

Loss of
registration
form in course
of transmiss-
ion.
[21 of 1990]

42. If a duly completed registration form of birth or death is lost in course of transmission to the Registrar General, the registrar by whom it has been sent shall forthwith prepare a copy of the lost form from the second copy of the lost form retained by him and forward the said prepared copy to the Registrar General.

Quarterly
account of fees
by registrar.
[27 of 1950
21 of 1990]

43. (1) Every registrar, each month, shall make out an account of the number of births and deaths which he has registered during that month.

(2) When the account has been rendered to and certified by the Registrar General, there shall be paid to the registrar from moneys provided by Parliament, or out of any funds available for that purpose as hereinafter provided (but not otherwise), as the case may be, such sums as he may be entitled to receive on the said account at such rate as the Minister may by order prescribe for every duly completed registration form of birth or death, mentioned in the account:

Provided that no fee shall be paid for any entry appearing to the Registrar General to have been made in a careless manner or in an illegible handwriting.

Burial of
deceased and
still-born
children.
[6 of 1930]

44. (1) No one shall wilfully bury or cause to be buried the body of a deceased child as if it were still-born, except as hereinafter provided.

(2) No one who has the control over, or ordinarily buries bodies in, any burial ground shall bury or permit to be buried therein the body of a deceased child as if it were still-born, or shall bury or permit to be buried therein any still-born child, before there is delivered to him either—

(a) a written certificate that the child was not born alive, signed by a licensed medical practitioner who was in attendance at its birth, or, in the event of no licensed medical

LAWS OF GUYANA

practitioner having been in attendance at its birth, then a certificate of a licensed medical practitioner who has been called in subsequent to its birth or, in the event of no licensed medical practitioner being readily available, then a certificate of a Government dispenser, duly authorised for the purpose by the Chief Medical Officer to the effect that he has examined the body of the child and that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, it was not born alive; or

(b) if there has been an inquest, an order of the coroner who presided at the inquest.

45. (1) Everyone who, on presenting the body of a still-born child for burial, then, or within such time as may be allowed by the person to whom the body is so presented, fails to produce to that person one of the certificates referred to in the last preceding section, or an order of the coroner if an inquest has been held, shall be liable to a fine of not less than nine hundred and seventy-five dollars and not more than nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Production of
certificate of
medical
practitioner by
persons
presenting
body of still-
born child for
burial.
[6 of 1930
6 of 1997]

(2) Everyone who acts contrary to the provisions of the last preceding section with respect to the burying of the body of a stillborn child shall be liable to a similar fine.

46. Everyone who forges, or utters knowing it to be forged, any such certificate or order as is referred to in section 44 shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and, on conviction thereof before the High Court in its criminal jurisdiction, shall be liable to imprisonment for two years.

Forging or
uttering forged
certificate.
Misdemeanour.

47. (1) Where a registered medical practitioner is applied to by any person to view the body of any child alleged to have been still-born and to give a certificate under this Act and such person is unable to pay any fee, the medical practitioner may, with the sanction of the Minister, receive from any money granted for the contingent expenses of justice a fee of sixty-five dollar for viewing the body.

Fee for
viewing body
of still-born
child.
[6 of 1930
6 of 1997]

(2) Where such a certificate as is referred to in section 44 can be properly given by the medical practitioner, such fee shall include the granting of such certificate.

LAWS OF GUYANA

20

Cap. 44:01

Registration of Births and Deaths

Person burying
still-born child
shall inform
registrar.
[6 of 1997]

48. Everyone who buries or causes to be buried the body of any still-born child shall inform the registrar of the district in which the burial has taken place of the fact within seven days after the burial, and if the person fails to do so he shall be liable to a fine of not less than nine hundred and seventy-five dollars and not more than nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars.

PART VI

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS ABROAD

Registration of
births and
deaths abroad
[14 of 1976]

49. (1) The Minister may by regulations make provision generally for the carrying into effect the purposes of this Act, and in particular—

(a) for the registration of the births and deaths of citizens of Guyana born or dying in a place outside Guyana by the Registrar General or by consular officers or other officers in the foreign service of Guyana as may be designated by notice published in the *Gazette* by the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs;

(b) for enabling the births and deaths of citizens of Guyana born or dying in any country in which the government of Guyana has for the time being no diplomatic or consular representatives to be registered by the Registrar General or by persons serving in the diplomatic, consular or other foreign service of any country which, by arrangement with the Government of Guyana, has undertaken to represent that Government's interest in that country, or by a person authorised in that behalf by the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs, notice of which has been published in the *Gazette*;

(c) for requiring the payment of such fees as the Minister sees fit for the carrying out of the duties imposed by regulations made for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b).

(2) The foregoing provisions of this Act (including those of any other enactment which applies to anything done under this Act) shall apply to births and deaths registered in accordance with regulations made under paragraph (a) and (b) of subsection (1), subject to such adaptations and modifications as the Minister may by order provide.

LAWS OF GUYANA

Registration of Births and Deaths

Cap. 44:01

21

PART VII

OFFENCES AND PROCEDURE

50. Section 6 of the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act shall not apply to any complaint for an offence under this Act, and that complaint may be made and proceedings taken thereon notwithstanding that more than six months have elapsed since the matter of the complaint arose.

Section 6 of
Cap. 10:02 not
to apply.

51. Everyone who wilfully makes or causes to be made, for the purpose of being inserted in any registration forms of births or deaths, any false statement touching any of the particulars herein required to be known and registered shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of forty-eight thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars or to imprisonment for six months.

Wilfully giving
false information.
[21 of 1990
6 of 1997]

52. Sections 252 and 253 of the Criminal Law (Offences) Act shall be deemed to be incorporated in and to form part of this Act.

Incorporation
of sections 252
and 253 of
c. 8:01

53. Every registrar who refuses, or without reasonable cause omits, to register any birth or death of which he has had due notice, or to make any addition to or alteration in a completed registration form in accordance with this Act, and everyone having the custody of any completed registration form, or certified copy thereof, who carelessly loses or injures it, or carelessly allows it to be injured whilst in his keeping, shall for each offence be liable to a fine of nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Not duly
registering
birth or death,
or losing or
injuring
registration
form.
[21 of 1990
6 of 1997]

54. Everyone who under the provisions of this Act is required to deliver completed registration forms of births and deaths, or copies thereof, to the Registrar General and who, after being duly required to deliver the completed registration forms or copies aforesaid, refuses, or during one month neglects, to do so, shall for each offence be liable to a fine of nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Neglect to
deliver
completed
registration
forms or
copies thereof
when required
[21 of 1990
6 of 1997]

LAWS OF GUYANA

22

Cap. 44:01

Registration of Births and Deaths

Failure by
medical
practitioner to
comply with
section 37.
[21 of 1990
6 of 1997]

55. Every medical practitioner who fails to comply with section 45, or without reasonable cause refuses or neglects to do so shall for each offence be liable to a fine of nine hundred dollars.

Improperly
registering
birth.
[15 of 1936
18 of 1947
6 of 1997]

56. Everyone who—

(a) knowingly registers or causes to be registered the birth of a child otherwise than is by this Act required after the expiration of three months following the day of the birth of that child, or in the case of a birth in any part of Guyana within the limits set forth in the Second Schedule after the expiration of nine months following the day of that birth; or

(b) knowingly registers or causes to be registered the birth of a child after the expiration of twelve months following the day of the birth of that child, except as provided in section 26

shall for each offence be liable to a fine of four thousand eight hundred and seventy-five dollars.

Failure to give
notice of birth
or death.
[21 of 1990
6 of 1997]

57. Everyone hereby required who, within the period herein specified, fails to give notice of any birth or death to the registrar of the registration district within which the birth or death has occurred shall be liable to a fine of three hundred dollars.

Failure to give
information
personally to
registrar
respecting
birth or death.
[21 of 1990
6 of 1997]

58. Subject to the provisions hereinbefore contained as to giving notice in writing, everyone hereby required who within the period herein specified, fails to attend personally at the registration centre of the district within which a birth or death has occurred, and to give information to the registrar of the particulars hereby required to be registered touching that birth or death, or refuses to sign the registration form in the presence of the registrar, shall be liable to a fine of three hundred dollars.

LAW OF GUYANA

Registration of Births and Deaths

Cap. 44:01

23

59. In the case of finding exposed any new-born child or any dead body, everyone who is hereby required to give notice and does not give notice forthwith of finding it, and of the place where it was found, to the registrar of the district in which it has been found shall be liable to a fine of nine hundred and seventy-five dollars.

Failure to give notice of finding new-born child or dead body.
[21 of 1990
6 of 1997]

60. Whenever notice is hereby required to be given, the person required to give the notice shall be held to have sufficiently discharged himself if he proves upon oath that he put into a post office, before the expiration of the period within which the notice is required to be given, a letter addressed to the person to whom and containing the particulars of which the notice is required to be given.

Right to give notice by post.

61. No penalty hereby imposed on persons failing to give any notice hereby required shall be exacted if any of the persons so required have or has given that notice.

Penalty not exigible if notice given.

62. No penalty hereby imposed shall be exacted in any case where it appears to the satisfaction of the magistrate that the person failing to comply with the provisions hereof in relation to the giving notice or information under them has not wilfully been guilty of the failure, but that the failure has been occasioned by unavoidable accident, or by circumstances over which he had no control, and that he used every reasonable endeavour towards compliance with those provisions.

Penalty not exigible where failure not wilful.

63. Every penalty imposed by or under this Act shall be recoverable, and be subject to appeal, in the manner provided by the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.

Procedure and appeal.

LAWS OF GUYANA

24

Cap. 44:01

Registration of Births and Deaths

ss. 17 and 18
[21 of 1990]

FORM 1

REGISTRATION NUMBER	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> B <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> </div>		
		D D M M Y Y					
GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA REGISTRATION OF BIRTH GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE ONLY LIVE BIRTHS TO BE FILED WITH GRO		A REC	SECTION BELOW FOR GRO USE ONLY				
			D	M	Y	E SYST	NS <input type="checkbox"/> OS <input type="checkbox"/>
		B STATUS	CR •	IR •		F DPF	
		C TYPE	<input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> RR	G CERT	
		D HCF				H RD	

1.0 PARTICULARS OF CHILD

1.1 LAST NAME (SURNAME)				1.4 TYPE OF BIRTH	LIVE <input type="checkbox"/> STILL <input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 FIRST NAME				1.5 DATE OF BIRTH	DAY <input type="text"/> MONTH <input type="text"/> YEAR <input type="text"/>
1.3 OTHER NAMES				1.6 TIME OF BIRTH	AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/>
1.7 RACE	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> AI <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> EI <input type="checkbox"/> EU <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> O			1.8 SEX	MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>
1.9 GESTATION IN WEEKS	<input type="text"/>	1.10 WEIGHT AT BIRTH	<input type="text"/> LBS. <input type="text"/> KGS.	1.11 LENGTH AT BIRTH	<input type="text"/> INCHES <input type="text"/> CENTIMETRES
1.12 HOSPITAL PLACE OF BIRTH	<input type="checkbox"/> NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION			LOCATION	REGION
OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>	NUMBER	STREET OR DAM	WARD OR VILLAGE	TOWN OR COUNTY	REGION

2.0 PARTICULARS OF MOTHER

2.1 LAST NAME AT THIS BIRTH				2.6 MARITAL STATUS AT THIS BIRTH	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> D
2.2 MAIDEN NAME				2.7 AGE AT THIS BIRTH	<input type="text"/>
2.3 OTHER NAMES				2.8 OCCUPATION	<input type="text"/>
2.4 RACE	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> AI <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> EI <input type="checkbox"/> EU <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> O			2.9 EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> O
2.5 USUAL ADDRESS	NUMBER	STREET OR DAM	WARD OR VILLAGE	TOWN OR COUNTY	REGION

3.0 PARTICULARS OF FATHER

3.1 LAST NAME				3.5 AGE AT THIS BIRTH	<input type="text"/>
3.2 FIRST NAME			3.3 MIDDLE INITIAL	3.6 OCCUPATION	<input type="text"/>
3.4 RACE	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> AI <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> EI <input type="checkbox"/> EU <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> O			3.7 EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> O
FATHER'S NAME WILL APPEAR ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE IF PARENTS ARE MARRIED TO EACH OTHER AT THE TIME OF THIS BIRTH OR FATHER OTHERWISE CONSENTS BY SIGNING THIS REGISTRATION.				3.8 SIGNATURE	<input type="text"/>

LAWS OF GUYANA

26

Cap. 44:01

Registration of Births and Deaths

2.0 PARTICULARS OF DEATH (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)						
2.1 DATE OF DEATH				2.2 APPROXIMATE TIME OF DEATH	AM [] PM []	
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR		2.3 INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET & DEATH	NO.
2.4 DISEASE, INJURY OR COMPLICATION LEADING DIRECTLY TO DEATH	1 (a) due to (or as a consequence of)					
2.5 ANTECEDENT CAUSES GIVING RISE TO DEATH	(b) due to (or as a consequence of)					
	(c) due to (or as a consequence of)					
	(d)					
2.6 OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH						
2.7 EXTERNAL CAUSES (HOW INJURY OCCURRED)				2.8 DATE OF INJURY		
2.9 PLACE OF INJURY	HOME [] STREET [] FARM [] WORKPLACE [] OTHER []				DAY	MONTH
2.10 PLACE OF DEATH	HOSPITAL					
	NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION			LOCATION	DISTRICT	
OTHER						
	NUMBER, STREET			LOCATION	DISTRICT	
THIS DOES NOT MEAN THE MODE OF DYING, E.G. HEART FAILURE, ASTHENIS, ETC. IT MEANS THE DISEASE, INJURY OR COMPLICATION WHICH CAUSED THE DEATH.				2.11 POST MORTEM PERFORMED/ INSPECTION	YES [] NO []	

3.0 PARTICULARS OF INFORMANT			
3.1 NAME			3.3 RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED
3.2 ADDRESS			3.4 SIGNATURE

4.0 PARTICULARS OF OFFICER CERTIFYING DEATH						
4.1 NAME				4.4 DATE DECEASED LAST SEEN BY ME		
4.2 ADDRESS					DAY	MONTH
4.3 OCCUPATION	<input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL PRACTITIONER <input type="checkbox"/> PATHOLOGIST <input type="checkbox"/> MEDEX <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER			4.5 DATE THIS CERTIFICATE PREPARED		
					DAY	MONTH
DECLARATION: I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE-NAMED PERSON DIED ON THE DATE AND OF THE CAUSES SPECIFIED ABOVE				SIGNATURE		

<p>NOTICE TO MEDICAL OFFICER CERTIFYING DEATH</p> <p>You are required under law to file the original of this registration of death with the General Register Office not later than 14 days after the date on which you have certified the death.</p>	<p>NOT A LEGAL RECORD</p> <p>This is not an official death certificate and cannot be used as one. Death certificates can be obtained from the General Register Office by applying through your local post office 30 days after the date of this registration.</p>
--	---

LAWS OF GUYANA

Registration of Births and Deaths

Cap. 44:01

27

FORM 3

s. 27
[21 of 1990]

Certificate to be delivered under section 27

I do hereby certify that—

- (a) at in the county of
..... on the
day of 19
a child whose parents are
..... and
was born;
- (b) on Registration of the birth of the child *it was given the
name/* no
name was given to it;
- (c) in respect of the child the *new name of
/* the name of is now being
given.

Dated this day of 19

Signed
Parent/guardian

Signed
Magistrate

*Delete words not applicable.

LAWS OF GUYANA

28

Cap. 44:01

Registration of Births and Deaths

s. 40

[21 of 1990]

FORM 4

CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA					
CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH					
NAME OF CHILD					
DATE OF BIRTH	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	SEX	
PLACE OF BIRTH					
MOTHER'S FULL NAME AT THIS BIRTH					
MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME					
FATHER'S NAME					
DATE OF REGISTRATION OF BIRTH	DAY	MONTH	YEAR		
<p>THE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE ABOVE-NAMED REGISTRANT IS TRUE AND CORRECT AS CONTAINED IN THE ORIGINAL RECORD ON FILE IN THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE</p>					
<div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 150px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 150px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 150px;"></div>					
<p><i>TRANSCRIPTION CLERK</i></p> <p>REGISTRAR GENERAL</p>					
<div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 150px;"></div> <p><i>DATE ISSUED</i></p>					
<p>NOT VALID UNLESS SEAL IS AFFIXED</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin: 5px auto;"></div>					
<p>CERTIFICATE NUMBR</p> <p>DIVISION/CENTRE</p>					

LAW OF GUYANA

Registration of Births and Deaths

Cap. 44:01

29

FORM 5

s. 40
[21 of 1990]

CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA			
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH			
FULL NAME OF DECEASED	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>		
DATE OF DEATH	DAY	MONTH	YEAR
AGE AT DEATH	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></div>	SEX	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 20px;"></div>
PLACE OF DEATH	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>		
CAUSE OF DEATH	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>		
NAME OF OFFICER CERTIFYING DEATH	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>	OCCUPATION	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 20px;"></div>
DATE OF REGISTRATION OF DEATH	DAY	MONTH	YEAR
<p>THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE DECEASED PERSON NAMED ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF A RECORD ON FILE IN THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE</p>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="width: 40%;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">NOT VALID UNLESS SEAL IS AFFIXED</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px; margin: 5px auto;"></div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">CERTIFICATE NUMBER</p> </div> <div style="width: 55%;"> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;">TRANSCRIPTION CLERK</p> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;">REGISTRAR GENERAL</p> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;">DATE ISSUED</p> </div> </div>			

LAWS OF GUYANA

30

Cap. 44:01

Registration of Births and Deaths

ss. 20 and 56
[Gaz.
28/4/1917
O. in C.
177/1917]

SECOND SCHEDULE

PLACES IN RESPECT OF WHICH NOTICES OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS
MAY BE GIVEN IN WRITING

County of Berbice

The river Corentyne and its tributaries on the west bank and islands, from plantation *Skeldon* upwards.

The Corentyne coast, from Ulverston upwards to Anamoronusi, or No. 66 creek.

The Canje creek and its tributaries, from plantation *Goldstone Hall* on the east bank, and Sandvoort on the west bank, upwards.

The river Berbice and its tributaries and islands, from plantation *Highbury* on the east bank, and Ithaca on the west bank, upwards.

County of Demerara

The Abary creek and its tributaries, above the bridge.

The Mahaicony creek and its tributaries, above Relief village on the east bank, and Felicity on the west bank.

The Mahaica creek and its tributaries, above plantation *Cane Grove* on the west bank, and the bridge on the east bank.

The right bank of the Boerasirie creek, beyond where it adjoins any cane plantation.

The river Demerara and its tributaries and islands, from plantations *Vriesland* on the west bank, and plantation *Golden Grove* on the east bank upwards.

LAWS OF GUYANA

Registration of Births and Deaths

Cap. 44:01

31

County of Essequibo

The left bank of the Boerasirie creek, beyond where it adjoins any cane plantation.

The Supenaam creek and its tributaries; the river Essequibo and its tributaries and islands, from the Supenaam creek on the one bank, and plantation *Philadelphia* on the other bank upwards, excepting the penal settlement and the town of Bartica; and the islands of Essequibo, exclusive of Lguan, Wakenaam, and Tiger islands.

From and exclusive of plantation *Devonshire Castle* to the river Pomeroon and its tributaries and islands, and the Tapacooma Lake, and the other lakes on the Essequibo coast, except such parts as belong to cane plantations in cultivation.

The North Western District, except Morawhanna and Baramanni.
