

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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This response was prepared by the Research & Information Services Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. This research response may not, under any circumstance, be cited in a decision or any other document. Anyone wishing to use this information may only cite the primary source material contained herein.

Questions

- 1. What is the procedure for obtaining a Sri Lankan birth certificate?**
- 2. Would a person in Australia, or their mother (in Australia), be able to obtain a copy of their birth certificate directly from the Sri Lankan authorities? If so, what would be the procedure for this?**
- 3. Would an adoption certificate with a case number be sufficient to identify the person in respect of whom a birth certificate is being sought, or would some further information be required?**

RESPONSE

1. What is the procedure for obtaining a Sri Lankan birth certificate?

Sri Lanka's Registrar General's Department website includes the following information on how a person could obtain an original copy of their birth certificate:

Question: I want my original copy of birth certificate? (September 14, 2006)

Answer: Please report the Birth Certificate application from our website and sent it to the relevant divisional secretariat where you born in Sri Lanka by post with stamp order or postal order ('FAQ – Question: I want my original copy of birth certificate?' 2006, Registrar General's Department of Sri Lanka website, 14 September
<http://www.rgd.gov.lk/faqquesanswereng.php?id=52&screen=1> – Accessed 31 July 2009 – Attachment 1).

The Registrar General's Department website also provides further information in an answer to a question on how to obtain a copy of a misplaced birth certificate:

Question: My Birth Certificate has been misplaced. How can I obtain a copy of the same?
(May 22, 2009)

Answer:

You can obtain a certified copy of your birth certificate from the Additional District Registrar at the Divisional Secretariat Office relevant to the place of birth.

Fee for obtaining certified copies of birth certificates are,

(i) If the registered number and the date of birth is known - 25 Rupees

(ii) If do not know the registered number, but the date of birth is known, for 3 month search of registry - 50 Rupees

(iii) If you know only the year of birth, for 2 year search of registry - 100 Rupees ('FAQ – Question: My Birth Certificate has been misplaced. How can I obtain a copy of the same?' 2009, Registrar General's Department of Sri Lanka website, 22 May <http://www.rgd.gov.lk/faqquesanswereng.php?id=89&screen=0> – Accessed 30 May 2006 – Attachment 2).

A DFAT report dated 1 May 2009, which refers to a request to DFAT to obtain a copy of an adopted child's birth certificate in Sri Lanka, indicates that the Colombo District Secretariat had "advised that copies of birth certificates can only be obtained by the adoptee, or the adoptee's guardian." It is stated in the DFAT report that:

B. If possible, please obtain a copy of the birth certificate of the child named on the Certificate of Adoption.

The Colombo District Secretariat advised that copies of birth certificates can only be obtained by the adoptee, or the adoptee's guardian (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2009, *DFAT Report No. 996 – Sri Lanka: RRT Information Request: LKA34625*, 1 May – Attachment 3).

An Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada response to information request dated 15 December 2005 includes the following information from the first secretary of the High Commission of Sri Lanka in Ottawa at that time in relation to the procedure for obtaining a copy of a birth certificate:

According to information provided by the first secretary on 5 December 2005, the procedure for obtaining a copy of a birth certificate is as follows: Persons may apply for a copy of a birth certificate at the District Registrar's office. The normal processing time is two weeks, though an urgent request may be made and a certificate issued on the same day. No specific identity document is necessary to complete the application, but applicants must provide the full names of the mother and father, the number and date of registration of the birth certificate, and an envelope with a return address. If the applicant does not have the number or date of registration, nor his birth date, then the District Registrar's office can, for a specified fee, undertake the necessary research to locate this information. The first secretary pointed out that, in cases where the information provided by the applicant is incomplete, the issuing procedure could take up to three months. According to the first secretary, copies of birth certificates are deposited with the Divisional Secretariats. If the Divisional Secretariats do not have a copy of the birth certificate, then the Central Registration Office under the authority of the Registrar General will issue a copy (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *LKA100502.E – Sri Lanka: Issuance procedures for birth certificates and*

copies thereof; the language that appears on the certificates; circumstances under which a Ministry of Foreign Affairs stamp would appear on the certificate (2005), 15 December – Attachment 4).

Sri Lanka's Registrar General's Department website also provides information on how to register the birth of a child in Sri Lanka ('FAQ – Question: How to register a birth of a child?' 2005, Registrar General's Department of Sri Lanka website, 22 August <http://www.rgd.gov.lk/faqquesanswereng.php?id=17&screen=1> – Accessed 30 July 2009 – Attachment 5).

2. Would a person in Australia, or their mother (in Australia), be able to obtain a copy of their birth certificate directly from the Sri Lankan authorities? If so, what would be the procedure for this?

Sri Lanka's Registrar General's Department website includes the following information on how a Sri Lankan citizen living in Australia can obtain his or her birth certificate:

Question: I am a Sri Lankan citizen living in Australia. I need to obtain my Birth Certificate. Please Advise me. (May 6, 2009)

Answer:

Report the application for **Birth Certificate** from http://www.rgd.gov.lk/report_file/application_for_birth_certificate_b63.pdf

Fill the form and send it to the below mentioned address.

Fee for certified copies of Birth Certificates are ,

- (i) If the registered number and the date of Birth is known - 25 SL Rupees per each copy
- (ii) If don't know the registered number, but the date of Birth is known, for 3 month search of registry - 50 SL Rupees per each copy
- (iii) if you know only the year of birth, for 2 year search of registry, 100 SL Rupees per each copy

* You may pay the fee for a copy of the certificate together with the returning stamp fee in favor of the Registrar General by an international money order.

Address:

Assistant Registrar General
Central Record Room
Maligawatta
Colombo 10

Sri Lanka ('FAQ – Question: I am a Sri lankan citizen living in Australia. I need to obtain my Birth Certificate. Please Advise me.' 2009, Registrar General's Department of Sri Lanka website, 6 May <http://www.rgd.gov.lk/faqquesanswereng.php?id=80&screen=0> – Accessed 29 July 2009 – Attachment 6).

As previously mentioned, the DFAT report dated 1 May 2009 which refers to a request to DFAT to obtain a copy of an adopted child's birth certificate in Sri Lanka, indicates that the Colombo District Secretariat had "advised that copies of birth certificates can only be obtained by the adoptee, or the adoptee's guardian" (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2009, *DFAT Report No. 996 – Sri Lanka: RRT Information Request: LKA34625*, 1 May – Attachment 3).

3. Would an adoption certificate with a case number be sufficient to identify the person in respect of whom a birth certificate is being sought, or would some further information be required?

A search of the sources consulted did not locate information on whether an adoption certificate with a case number would be sufficient to identify a person in respect of whom a birth certificate is being sought.

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Government Information & Reports

Registrar General's Department of Sri Lanka <http://www.rgd.gov.lk/>

Immigration & Refugee Board of Canada <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/>

UK Home Office <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

US Department of State <http://www.state.gov/>

United Nations (UN)

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Refworld

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain>

Search Engines

Copernic <http://www.copernic.com/>

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Research & Information database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

MRT-RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. 'FAQ – Question: I want my original copy of birth certificate?' 2006, Registrar General's Department of Sri Lanka website, 14 September

<http://www.rgd.gov.lk/faqquesanswereng.php?id=52&screen=1> – Accessed 31 July 2009.

2. 'FAQ – Question: My Birth Certificate has been misplaced. How can I obtain a copy of the same?' 2009, Registrar General's Department of Sri Lanka website, 22 May

<http://www.rgd.gov.lk/faqquesanswereng.php?id=89&screen=0> – Accessed 30 July 2009.

3. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2009, *DFAT Report No. 996 – Sri Lanka: RRT Information Request: LKA34625*, 1 May.

4. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *LKA100502.E – Sri Lanka: Issuance procedures for birth certificates and copies thereof; the language that appears on the certificates; circumstances under which a Ministry of Foreign Affairs stamp would appear on the certificate* (2005), 15 December. (REFINFO)

5. 'FAQ – Question: How to register a birth of a child?' 2005, Registrar General's Department of Sri Lanka website, 22 August
<http://www.rgd.gov.lk/faqquesanswereng.php?id=17&screen=1> – Accessed 30 July 2009.

6. 'FAQ – Question: I am a Sri lankan citizen living in Australia. I need to obtain my Birth Certificate. Please Advise me.' 2009, Registrar General's Department of Sri Lanka website, 6 May <http://www.rgd.gov.lk/faqquesanswereng.php?id=80&screen=0> – Accessed 29 July 2009.