



Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

1953 CHAPTER 20 1 and 2 Eliz 2

PART III

GENERAL

Searches and Certificates

30 Searches of indexes kept by Registrar General.

(1) The Registrar General shall cause indexes of all certified copies of entries in registers sent to him under this Act or under any enactment repealed by this Act to be made and kept in the General Register Office.

[^{F1}(1A) The Registrar General shall cause an index to be made and kept in the General Register Office of the entries in the register kept by him under section 3A of this Act.]

(2) Any person shall be entitled to search the said indexes at any time when the General Register Office is open for that purpose, and to have a certified copy of any entry in the said certified copies, on payment to the Registrar General or to such other person as may be appointed to act on his behalf of the following fees respectively, that is to say—

- (a)^{F2}
(c) for every certified copy, the sum of [^{F3}£7.00].

(3) The foregoing provisions of this section shall not apply to certified copies of entries in registers of still–births, but the Registrar General may, if he sees fit in any particular case and on payment as aforesaid of the appropriate fee aforesaid, cause a search to be made for, and allow any person to have a certified copy of, any entry in any such certified copies or in any filled register of still–births which has been forwarded to him.

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

F1 S. 30(1A) inserted by [Children Act 1975 \(c. 72\), Sch. 3 para. 13\(4\)](#)

F2 S. 30(2)(a)(b) repealed by [S.I. 1968/1242, Sch. 2](#)

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F3 Fee in s. 30(2)(c) substituted (1.4.2003) by [S.I. 2002/3076, art. 2, Sch.](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 [S. 30\(1\)\(2\)](#) extended with modifications by [S.I. 1982/1526, art. 2, Sch. 1 Pts. I, II](#)

31 Searches of indexes kept by superintendent registrars.

- (1) Every superintendent registrar shall cause indexes of the registers of live–births and registers of deaths in his register office to be made and to be kept with the other records of that office, and the Registrar General shall supply to every superintendent registrar suitable forms for the making of such indexes.
- (2) Any person shall be entitled at any time when the register office is required to be open for the transaction of public business to search the said indexes, and to have a certified copy of any entry in the said registers under the hand of the superintendent registrar, on payment by that person to the superintendent registrar of the following fees respectively, that is to say—
- (a) for every general search, the sum of [^{F4}£18.00];
 - (b)^{F5}
 - (c) for every certified copy, the sum of [^{F6}£7.00].

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

- F4** Fee in s. 31(2)(a) payable (1.4.2003) by virtue of [S.I. 2002/3076, art. 2, Sch.](#)
- F5** [S. 31\(2\)\(b\)](#) repealed by [S.I. 1968/1242, Sch. 2](#)
- F6** Fee in s. 31(2)(c) substituted (1.4.2003) by [S.I. 2002/3076, art. 2, Sch.](#)

32 Searches in registers kept by registrars.

Every registrar shall at any time when his office is required to be open for the transaction of public business allow searches to be made in any register of births or register of deaths in his keeping, and shall give a copy certified under his hand of any entry therein, on payment of the following fees respectively, that is to say—

- (a)^{F7}
- (c) for every certified copy the sum of [^{F8}£3.50]:

Provided that this section shall not apply in relation to a register of still–births except as the registrar may, with the consent of the Registrar General, in any particular case allow.

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

- F7** [S. 32\(a\)\(b\)](#) repealed by [S.I. 1968/1242, Sch. 2](#)
- F8** Fee in s. 32(c) substituted (1.4.1998) by [S.I. 1997/2939, art. 2, Sch.](#) (which S.I. was revoked (1.4.1999) by [S.I. 1998/3171, art. 3](#)) and that same fee payable (1.4.1999) by virtue of [S.I. 1998/3171, art. 2, Sch.](#) (which S.I. was revoked (1.4.2000) by [S.I. 1999/3311, art. 3](#)); (1.4.2000) by virtue of [S.I. 1999/3311, art. 2, Sch.](#) (which S.I. was revoked (1.4.2003) by [S.I. 2002/3076, art. 3](#)); (1.4.2003) by virtue of [S.I. 2002/3076, art. 2, Sch.](#)

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33 Short certificate of birth.

- (1) Any person shall, on payment of a fee of ninepence and on furnishing the prescribed particulars, be entitled to obtain from the Registrar General, a superintendent registrar or a registrar a short certificate of the birth of any person.
- (2) Any such certificate shall be in the prescribed form and shall be compiled in the prescribed manner from the records and registers in the custody of the Registrar General, or from the registers in the custody of the superintendent registrar or registrar, as the case may be, and shall contain such particulars as may be prescribed:

Provided that any particulars prescribed in addition to name, surname, sex and date of birth shall not include any particulars relating to parentage or adoption contained in any such records or registers.

Annotations:

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2 S. 33 excluded by S.I. 1987/2088, [reg. 63\(1\)](#)
- C3 Reference to ninepence to be read as referring to equivalent amount in new currency: [Decimal Currency Act 1969 \(c. 19\), s. 10\(1\)](#)
- C4 S. 33(1) amended by S.I. 1977/1861, [art. 3, Sch.](#); s. 33(1) extended with modifications by S.I. 1982/1526, [art. 2, Sch. 1 Pts. I, II](#)
- C5 S. 33(1): new fees payable (1.4.1990) by virtue of S.I. 1990/65, [art. 2, Sch.](#) as specified therein (which S.I. was revoked (1.4.1991) by S.I. 1990/2515, [art. 3](#)); and those same new fees payable (1.4.1991) by S.I. 1990/2515, [art. 2, Sch.](#) (which S.I. was revoked (1.4.1992) by S.I. 1992/99, [art. 3](#)); s. 33(1): new fees payable (1.4.1992) by virtue of S.I. 1992/99, [art. 2, Sch.](#) as specified therein (which S.I. was revoked (1.4.1993) by S.I. 1992/2982, [art. 3](#)); s. 33(1): new fees payable (1.4.1993) by virtue of S.I. 1992/2982, [art. 2, Sch.](#) as specified therein (which S.I. was revoked (1.4.1994) by S.I. 1993/3116, [art. 2, Sch.](#); s. 33(1): new fees payable (1.4.1994) by virtue of S.I. 1993/3116, [art. 2, Sch.](#) as specified therein (which S.I. was revoked (1.2.1995) by S.I. 1994/3257, [art. 4](#)); s. 33(1): new fees payable (1.2.1995) by virtue of S.I. 1994/3257, [art. 2, Sch. Pt. I](#) as specified therein (which S.I. was revoked (1.4.1996) by S.I. 1995/3162, [art. 3](#)); s. 33(1): new fees payable (1.4.1996) by virtue of S.I. 1995/3162, [art. 2, Sch.](#) as specified therein (which S.I. was revoked (1.4.1997) by S.I. 1996/3152, [art. 3](#)); s. 33(1): new fees payable (1.4.1997) by virtue of S.I. 1996/3152, [art. 2, Sch.](#) as specified therein (which S.I. was revoked (1.4.1998) by S.I. 1997/2939, [art. 3](#)); s. 33(1): new fees payable (1.4.1998) by virtue of S.I. 1997/2939, [art. 2, Sch.](#) as specified therein (which S.I. was revoked (1.4.1999) by S.I. 1998/3171, [art. 3](#)); s. 33(1): new fees payable (1.4.1999) by virtue of S.I. 1998/3171, [art. 2, Sch.](#) as specified therein (which S.I. was revoked (1.4.2000) by S.I. 1999/3311, [art. 3](#)); s. 33(1): new fees payable (1.4.2000) by virtue of S.I. 1999/3311, [art. 2, Sch.](#) as specified therein (which S.I. was revoked (1.4.2003) by S.I. 2002/3076, [art. 3](#)); s. 33(1): new fees payable (1.4.2003) by S.I. 2002/3076, [art. 2, Sch.](#) as specified therein
- C6 S. 33(2) extended with modifications by S.I. 1982/1526, [art. 2, Sch. 1 Pt. I](#)

34 Entry in register as evidence of birth or death.

- (1) The following provisions of this section shall have effect in relation to entries in registers under this Act or any enactment repealed by this Act.
- (2) An entry or a certified copy of an entry of a birth or death in a register, or in a certified copy of a register, shall not be evidence of the birth or death unless the entry purports to be signed by some person professing to be the informant and to be such a person as

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might be [^{F9}required or permitted by law] at the date of the entry to give to the registrar information concerning that birth or death:

Provided that this subsection shall not apply—

- (a) in relation to an entry of a birth which, not being an entry signed by a person professing to be a superintendent registrar, purports to have been made with the authority of the Registrar General; or
- (b) in relation to an entry of a death which purports to have been made upon a certificate from a coroner; or
- (c) in relation to an entry of a birth or death which purports to have been made in pursuance of the enactments with respect to the registration of births and deaths at sea.

[^{F10}(d) in relation to the re-registration of a birth under section 9(5) of this Act].

(3) Where more than three months have intervened between the date of the birth of any child or the date when any living new-born child [^{F11}or still-born child] was found exposed and the date of the registration of the birth of that child, the entry or a certified copy of the entry of the birth of the child in the register, or in a certified copy of the register, shall not be evidence of the birth unless—

- (a) if it appears that not more than twelve months have so intervened, the entry purports either to be signed by the superintendent registrar as well as by the registrar or to have been made with the authority of the Registrar General;
- (b) if more than twelve months have so intervened, the entry purports to have been made with the authority of the Registrar General:

Provided that this subsection shall not apply in any case where the original entry in the register was made before the first day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

(4) Where more than twelve months have intervened between the date of the death or of the finding of the dead body of any person and the date of the registration of that person's death, the entry or a certified copy of the entry of the death in the register, or in a certified copy of the register, shall not be evidence of the death unless the entry purports to have been made with the authority of the Registrar General:

Provided that this subsection shall not apply in any case where the original entry in the register was made before the first day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

(5) A certified copy of an entry in a register or in a certified copy of a register shall be deemed to be a true copy notwithstanding that it is made on a form different from that on which the original entry was made if any differences in the column headings under which the particulars appear in the original entry and the copy respectively are differences of form only and not of substance.

(6) The Registrar General shall cause any certified copy of an entry given in the General Register Office to be sealed or stamped with the seal of that Office; and, subject to the foregoing provisions of this section, any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the said seal shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

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Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

- F9** Words substituted by [Family Law Reform Act 1987 \(c. 42, SIF 49:7\)](#), s. 33(1), **Sch. 2 para. 17**
- F10** [S. 34\(2\)\(d\)](#) added by [Children Act 1975 \(c. 72\)](#), **Sch. 3 para. 13(5)(a)**
- F11** Words inserted by [Children Act 1975 \(c. 72\)](#), **Sch. 3 para. 13(5)(b)**
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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C7** [S. 34\(5\)\(6\)](#) extended with modifications by [S.I. 1982/1526](#), art. 2, Sch. 1 Pts. I, II, **III**

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act extended by [2002 c. 38 s. 78\(4\)](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 1(2)(a) (aa) substituted for s. 1(2)(a) by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 2\(2\)](#)
- s. 1(3) inserted by [2008 c. 22 Sch. 6 para. 2](#)
- s. 1(3) substituted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 2\(3\)](#)
- s. 1(4) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 2\(4\)](#)
- s. 2(1) s. 2 renumbered as s. 2(1) by [2008 c. 22 Sch. 6 para. 3](#)
- s. 2(1) words inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 3\(2\)](#)
- s. 2(2) inserted by [2008 c. 22 Sch. 6 para. 3](#)
- s. 2(2) words substituted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 3\(3\)](#)
- s. 2A-2E inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 4](#)
- s. 9(3A) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 10\(2\)](#)
- s. 9(4A) inserted by [2003 c. 24 Sch. para. 1](#)
- s. 9(6) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 10\(3\)](#)
- s. 10(1)(h) and word inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11\(2\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 10(1B) inserted by [2008 c. 22 Sch. 6 para. 5\(3\)](#)
- s. 10(1B) words substituted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 10(1B)(b)(ii) substituted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 10(1B)(c)(ii) substituted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 10(1B)(g) and word inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11\(3\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 10(1C) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11\(4\)](#)
- s. 10(1C) s. 10(2)(b) words substituted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11\(5\)](#)
- s. 10(1C) s. 10(2A)(b) words substituted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 11\(5\)](#)
- s. 10(2A) inserted by [2008 c. 22 Sch. 6 para. 5\(4\)](#)
- s. 10A(1)(ff) inserted by [2003 c. 24 Sch. para. 4](#)
- s. 10A(1)(ff) substituted by [2008 c. 22 Sch. 6 para. 7\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 10A(1B) inserted by [2008 c. 22 Sch. 6 para. 7\(4\)](#)
- s. 10A(1B)(b)(ii) substituted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 12\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 10A(1B)(c)(ii) substituted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 12\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 10A(2)(b)-(cc) substituted for s. 10A(2)(b)(c) by [2008 c. 22 Sch. 6 para. 7\(5\)](#)
- s. 10A(2)(bb) inserted by [2003 c. 24 Sch. para. 5](#)
- s. 10B 10C inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 13](#)
- s. 10ZA inserted by [2003 c. 24 Sch. para. 3](#)
- s. 10ZA substituted by [2008 c. 22 Sch. 6 para. 6](#)
- s. 10ZA(3)(a) modified by [2003 c. 24 s. 3\(6\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 13(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2006/2809 art. 2\(3\)](#)
- s. 13(1ZA) inserted by [2008 c. 22 Sch. 6 para. 8](#)
- s. 16(2)(ba) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 8\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 16(4) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 8\(5\)](#)
- s. 17(2)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 9\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 17(4) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 9\(4\)](#)
- s. 18(1) s. 18 renumbered as s. 18(1) by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 10\(5\)](#)
- s. 18(2) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 10\(5\)](#)
- s. 23(2) (2ZA) substituted for s. 23(2) by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 15\(2\)](#)
- s. 23(2A)-(2C) substituted for s. 23(2A) by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 15\(3\)](#)
- s. 26(1B) s. 26(2) renumbered as s. 26(1B) by [S.I. 2009/2821 art. 15](#)
- s. 26(1B) words substituted by [S.I. 2009/2821 art. 15](#)
- s. 26(3)(4) inserted by [S.I. 2006/2809 art. 3\(4\)](#)
- s. 27(1) s. 27 renumbered as s. 27(1) by [S.I. 2006/2809 art. 4\(2\)](#)

- s. 27(1) words substituted by S.I. 2006/2809 art. 4(3)
- s. 27(2) inserted by S.I. 2006/2809 art. 4(4)
- s. 29(3A) (3B) inserted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 18(2)
- s. 30(4) inserted by S.I. 2006/2809 art. 6
- s. 33A inserted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 19
- s. 33A(1) words substituted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 15 para. 27(a)
- s. 33A(3) omitted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 15 para. 27(b)
- s. 34A inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 98(2)
- s. 34A(2) omitted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 15 para. 28
- s. 36(aa) inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 15
- s. 38A inserted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 15 para. 2
- s. 39A inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 17
- s. 39A(1)(c) word inserted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 15 para. 30(a)
- s. 39A(2) words inserted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 15 para. 30(b)
- s. 39A(5) words substituted by 2015 c. 20 s. 98(4)
- s. 39A(5) words substituted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 15 para. 30(c)
- s. 41(1) s. 41 renumbered as s. 41(1) by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 21(2)
- s. 41(1) words substituted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 15 para. 31
- s. 41(2) (3) inserted by 2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 21(2)

Commencement Orders yet to be applied to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

Commencement Orders bringing legislation that affects this Act into force:

- S.I. 2003/3079 art. 2 commences (2002 c. 38)
- S.I. 2003/3095 art. 2 commences (2003 c. 24)
- S.I. 2005/54 art. 2 commences (2004 c. 7)
- S.I. 2005/2213 art. 2 3 commences (2002 c. 38)
- S.I. 2005/2897 art. 2 commences (2002 c. 38)
- S.I. 2005/3175 art. 2 3 Sch. 1 2 commences (2004 c. 33)
- S.I. 2009/479 art. 2-6 commences (2008 c. 22)
- S.I. 2012/1256 art. 2(2)(b) commences (2009 c. 24)