



Registration Service Act 1953

1953 CHAPTER 37

General provisions as to officers

15 Delivery up of books, etc., on ceasing to hold office

- (1) When any person ceases to hold the office of superintendent registrar, registrar of births and deaths or registrar of marriages for any district or sub-district, all register boxes, keys, books and documents in his possession as holder of that office for that district or sub-district shall be delivered up to his successor in office or, if there is no successor, to such person as the Registrar General may designate.
- (2) If any person who has in his custody or power any such article as aforementioned wilfully fails to deliver it up to, or account for it to the satisfaction of, the person in whose custody it should be, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of twenty pounds; and if the failure continues after he is convicted thereof he shall be guilty of a further offence and be liable on summary conviction to a fine of five pounds for every day on which the failure has so continued.
- (3) If a justice of the peace is satisfied by information on oath that there is reasonable cause to believe that any article withheld in contravention of this section is in any specified house or place, he may grant a search warrant authorising any constable named therein to enter and search that house or place at any time and seize any such article so found, and any article so seized shall be delivered to the person in whose custody it should be.

16 General provision as to fees

Subject as may be prescribed, a superintendent registrar, registrar of births and deaths or registrar of marriages may refuse to comply with any application voluntarily made to him under the Registration Acts until the appropriate fee, if any, provided for by those Acts is paid to him; and any such fee shall be recoverable by the officer to whom it is payable as a debt due to him.

17 Privileges of registrars

Every registrar of births and deaths and every registrar of marriages shall be exempt from serving in any parochial or corporate office whatsoever.

18 Temporary provisions as to non-salaried officers

- (1) This section shall apply to any superintendent registrar or registrar of births and deaths who holds that office at the commencement of this Act and is not then a salaried officer in respect of that office, unless and until he becomes a salaried officer in respect of that office.

- (2) Subsection (3) of section six of this Act shall not apply in relation to any officer to whom this section applies but he shall be entitled to retain any fees received by or payable to him in respect of the execution of his duties under the Registration Acts:

Provided that he shall at such times and in such manner as may be prescribed account to the Registrar General for and pay to the council of the county or county borough in which his district or sub-district is situated so much of the aggregate sum received by or payable to him by way of those fees as the Registrar General may certify to represent an amount equal to—

- (a) one third part of any fees under the Marriage Act, 1949; plus
- (b) one third part of any fees under the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1953, other than under subsection (3) of section eleven, section twelve, section fourteen or section twenty-four thereof; plus
- (c) one fourth part of any fees under the said section twelve,

less such deduction as the Registrar General may allow as remuneration to him for the trouble and expense of collecting and accounting for those parts of those fees.

- (3) Any superintendent registrar to whom this section applies shall four times in every year make up an account of the number of entries in the certified copies of entries in registers of live-births, still-births, deaths and marriages sent by him to the Registrar General during the preceding three months under section fifty-eight of the Marriage Act, 1949, or section twenty-seven of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1953, and shall be entitled to receive from the Registrar General the sum of twopence for each entry in those certified copies.

- (4) Any registrar of births and deaths to whom this section applies shall four times in every year make out an account of the number of births and deaths which he has registered since the last quarterly account and the superintendent registrar for the district in which the registrar's sub-district is situated shall verify and sign the account; and the council of the county or county borough in which the registrar's sub-district is situated shall pay to the registrar—

- (a) for each of the first twenty entries in the account, whether of live-births, still-births or deaths, the sum of two shillings and sixpence; and
- (b) for each such entry after the first twenty, the sum of one shilling:

Provided that during the continuance in force of the Population (Statistics) Act, 1938, paragraph (b) of this subsection shall have effect as if for the sum of one shilling there were substituted the sum of one shilling and fivepence.

- (5) Upon an application for the purpose being made, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, by any officer to whom this section applies, he shall, as from such date (not being later than the beginning of the next financial year) as may

be fixed by the council of the county or county borough in which his district or sub-district is situated, become a salaried officer.