



SUPPLEMENT No. 2

TO

THE CYPRUS GAZETTE No. 3300 OF 17TH APRIL, 1947.

LEGISLATION.

THE STATUTE LAWS OF CYPRUS

No. 8 OF 1947.

A LAW TO AMEND AND CONSOLIDATE THE LAWS RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

WINSTER.] [9th April, 1947.

Governor.

BE it enacted by His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Cyprus as follows:—

1. This Law may be cited as the Births and Deaths Registration Law, 1947.

Information concerning birth to be given to Registrar.
Information concerning new born child born exposed.
Information concerning registration in default of intimation.
Short title.

Interpreta-
tion.

2. In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires—
“Registrar” means the mukhtar of the village or quarter within which the birth or death has occurred and includes his duly authorized representative :

Provided that, where in any village or quarter there is a Christian and a Moslem mukhtar, the Christian mukhtar shall be the Registrar in respect of births and deaths of all persons which belong to any community other than Moslem and the Moslem mukhtar shall be the Registrar in respect of births and deaths of all persons which belong to the Moslem community ;

“register” means the registers of births and deaths, as the case may be, kept under the provisions of this Law and includes register sheets.

Registration of Births.

Information
concerning
birth to be
given to
Registrar.

3.—(1) In the case of every child born in Cyprus, whether born alive or still-born, it shall be the duty of the father or mother of the child or, in default of the father and mother, of the midwife in attendance upon the mother at the time or within six hours after birth or, in default of such midwife, of the occupier of the house or premises in which the child is born, to give to the Registrar within fifteen days next after such birth, information of the particulars required to be registered concerning the birth and, in the presence of the Registrar, to sign the register.

(2) In this section the expression “still-born” shall apply to any child which has issued forth from its mother after the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy and which did not, at any time after being completely expelled from its mother, breathe or show any other signs of life.

Information
concerning
new-born
child found
exposed.

4. 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.

Requisition
in default
of informa-
tion.

5. Where, due to the omission of any person required to give information as in this Law provided, a birth has not been registered, the Registrar may, at any time after the expiration of fifteen days after the birth, require any such person to give information to the best of his knowledge and belief of the particulars required to be registered concerning

the birth and it shall be the duty of such person to comply with the requisition and, in the presence of the Registrar, to sign the register.

6. It shall be generally the duty of the Registrar to inform himself carefully of every birth which occurs within his village or quarter and, upon receiving proper information thereof, register the birth.

General duty of Registrar to ascertain and register births.

7.—(1) Where the birth of any child has been registered but such child has been registered without a name, it shall be the duty of the father or mother or guardian of the child, within six months of the date on which a name is given, to notify the necessary particulars thereof in writing to the Registrar.

Registration without name or alteration of name.

(2) Where the birth of any child has been registered and the name by which the child was registered has been altered, it shall be the duty of the father or mother or guardian of the child or of any other person procuring the name to be altered (including the child himself, if such alteration is made after he has attained the age of eighteen), within six months of the date on which the name is altered, to notify the necessary particulars thereof in writing to the Registrar.

(3) Upon notification of the particulars of a new name or the alteration of a name in accordance with the preceding sub-sections, the Registrar shall amend the register by inserting or altering the name of the child, and the insertion or alteration shall be signed by the Registrar. The person procuring the insertion or alteration shall also sign the register or else his written notification shall be annexed to the register.

(4) Upon the amendment of the register, as in sub-section (3) of this section, the Registrar shall, if the register sheets have in the meantime been forwarded to the Commissioner as in section 22 of this Law provided, give notice thereof to the Commissioner and the Commissioner shall cause the amendment to be made on the relevant register sheet.

8.—(1) In any case where a birth has not been notified within three months of its occurrence, the Registrar shall not register the birth except on production of an affidavit containing, to the best of the declarant's knowledge and belief, the particulars required to be registered concerning the birth, and unless the father or mother of the child or the declarant, in the presence of the Registrar, signs the register,

Late registration of birth.

(2) After the expiration of twelve months next after the birth of the child the Registrar shall not register such birth except with the written authority of the Commissioner and, when such authority has been given, the provisions of sub-section (1) of this section shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to this sub-section.

(3) Where registration is effected under the provisions of this section, every affidavit produced and every written authority given shall be annexed to the register and the fact shall also be recorded therein.

Illegitimate children.

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

Registration of Deaths.

Certification and registration of death.

10. The death of every person dying in Cyprus and the cause of death shall be certified and registered by the Registrar in the manner in this Law provided.

Information concerning death to be given to Registrar.

11. 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:

Provided that—

(a) where the death occurs in a hospital, prison, public or religious or charitable institution, hotel or khan, the director, manager, or head of such hospital, prison or institution and the owner or manager of such hotel or khan shall be responsible for the notification of such death to the Registrar within twenty-four hours of its occurrence;

(b) where the death occurs in a public conveyance, the driver and conductor of such conveyance, or in their default any other person present at the death, shall be responsible for the notification of such death to the Registrar within twenty-four hours of its occurrence;

(c) subject to the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) hereof, 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 relative, 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.

12. Where, due to the omission of any person required to give information as in section 11 of this Law provided, a death has not been reported to the Registrar, the Registrar 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, call upon any person required by this Law to give information concerning the death 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
in default of
information.

13. It shall be generally the duty of the Registrar to inform himself carefully of every death which occurs within his village or quarter.

General
duty of
Registrar to
ascertain
deaths.

14. Upon notice of a death being given to the Registrar or upon the Registrar obtaining any information regarding a death under section 12 or 13 of this Law, he shall proceed forthwith to view the body and to acquaint himself with the circumstances of the death and, if 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 and that the body may be buried forthwith.

Registrar to
view the
body and
issue
certificate.

After issuing such certificate the Registrar shall proceed forthwith to register the particulars required to be registered concerning the death in the prescribed form.

15. If the Registrar considers that no certificate should be issued under section 14 of this Law, he shall at once report the matter to the nearest police station and await instructions :

Decision of
Registrar not
to issue
certificate.

Provided always that when the coroner or an officer of police not below the rank of sergeant shall have authorized an immediate interment the Registrar may, thereupon, issue his certificate without further enquiry on his part ; in such a case the Registrar shall note both on the certificate and the appropriate register sheet the authority under which he issued his certificate.

No interment without certificate.

16.—(1) All certificates of death issued under section 14 or 15 of this Law shall be delivered to, and retained by, the person or persons in charge of the body and shall be produced for inspection to the person who is to perform the burial rites and to the person in charge of the interment.

(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 if for some reason other than the decision of the Registrar not 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 upon the production of a certificate of one of the ministers of religion of the village of the same religion as the person deceased or of the officer of police in charge of the police at the nearest police station and the Registrar shall, in due course, register the death in accordance with the particulars contained in the said certificate noting upon the register the authority under which the interment was allowed to take place.

(3) Any person who performs the burial rites or, being in charge of the interment, interrs or permits the interment of a deceased person without a certificate, as provided in this section, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds.

Coroner to furnish information to Registrar.

17.—(1) 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 also be entered in the register without any alteration or obliteration of the original entry.

(2) Upon entering the particulars contained in the coroner's certificate as in sub-section (1) of this section, the Registrar shall, if the register sheets have in the meantime been forwarded to the Commissioner as in section 22 of this Law provided, give notice thereof to the Commissioner and the Commissioner shall cause the entries to be made on the appropriate register sheet.

Medical Certificates of Cause of Death.

18.—(1) Upon the death of any person, it shall be the duty of every medical practitioner who has attended such a person during his last illness to sign and deliver to the Registrar, immediately after the death, a certificate in the prescribed form in duplicate stating what in his opinion was the cause of death.

Certificate
of cause of
death.

(2) The Registrar shall forthwith enter in the register the cause of death as set out in the certificate together with the name of the medical practitioner who had delivered the same and shall annex the certificate to the register sheet; he may then issue his own certificate without further enquiry.

(3) Any medical practitioner who acts in contravention of, or fails to observe, the requirements of this section shall be guilty of an offence under this Law.

Miscellaneous.

19. 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.

20. 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 such entry shall be sealed by the Registrar with the Mukhtar's seal.

Mark in lieu
of signature.

21. The registers of births and deaths kept by the Registrar shall be in such form as may be prescribed and shall consist of register sheets of durable paper supplied for that purpose by the Commissioner.

Registers
to consist
of register
sheets.

22. Not later than the seventh day in each month, the Registrar shall forward to the Commissioner the register sheets in respect of births and deaths registered during the month immediately preceding, together with all annexures and with a copy of each such sheet, and it shall be the duty of the Commissioner to enter upon each such sheet the date upon which it was received and to cause the original to be filed in his office and to forward the copy and any copies of any certificates of cause of death annexed thereto to the Director of Medical and Health Services;

Registrar to
forward
register
sheets to the
Commis-
sioner.

Provided that, if no birth or death has been registered during the month, the Registrar shall forward a register sheet with a statement thereon that no birth or death, as the case may be, had occurred in his village or quarter during the month :

Provided further that failure of the Registrar to forward the register sheets, as in this section provided, shall not affect the validity of any registration which is otherwise valid.

Certificate of birth to be supplied free of charge.

23. The Commissioner shall, at all convenient speed after the receipt of the register sheets as in section 22 of this Law provided, issue a certificate in the prescribed form in respect of every birth appearing in such sheets and shall forward such certificate to the Registrar from whom the register sheets were received and the Registrar shall hand the certificate free of any charge to the father or mother of the child or, in default of the father and mother, to the person who is then in charge of the child.

Register sheets to be bound together.

24. The Commissioner shall cause the register sheets received from every Registrar to be adequately bound together at the end of each year.

Searching registers.

25. Any interested person who desires to obtain any information with regard to any entry of a birth or death in any register, made or kept under the provisions of this Law, may, upon payment of the appropriate fee, search the register sheets kept in the office of the Commissioner and, if he so desires, take a copy of the entry.

Certificates of birth and death.

26. The Commissioner may, upon the application of any interested person and upon payment of the appropriate fee, issue to such person a certificate of birth or death in the prescribed form.

Regulations.

27. The Governor in Council may, from time to time, make regulations for the better carrying of this Law into effect and, in particular and without prejudice to the generality of this power, may make regulations in respect of all matters stated or required in this Law to be prescribed.

Fees.

28.—(1) The fees set out in the Schedule to this Law shall be paid in respect of the several matters therein set out.

Schedule.

(2) The fee paid to the Registrar under item 1 of the Schedule to this Law shall be retained by him :

Provided that out of the fee received in respect of every registration of birth the Registrar shall pay three piastres to the Commissioner.

(3) The fees paid to the Commissioner shall be paid in such manner as the Commissioner may direct and shall form part of the revenues of the Colony.

29—(1) Any person who—

- (a) is guilty of an offence under this Law ;
- (b) being required by this Law to give any information or notification concerning any matter as in this Law provided, fails to give such information or notification or wilfully refuses to answer any question put to him by the Registrar relating to the particulars or circumstances concerning any such matter ;
- (c) fails to comply with any requisition of the Registrar made in pursuance of this Law ; or
- (d) being a Registrar, fails to carry out his duties in accordance with the provisions of this Law,

shall be guilty of an offence under this Law and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds.

(2) Any person who—

- (a) 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
- (b) makes any false statement with intent to have it entered in any register of births or deaths,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

(3) Any person who wilfully gives any false certificate or makes a false declaration or entry in a register under or for the purposes of this Law or falsifies any such certificate or declaration or entry or, knowing that any such certificate or declaration or entry is false or falsified, uses it as true or gives or sends it as true to any person, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

30. This Law shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Governor by notice in the *Gazette* and thereupon the Births and Deaths Registrations Laws, 1895 to 1937, shall be repealed :

Repeal and
saving.

16 of 1895
31 of 1928
10 of 1937

Provided that every register or register sheet made or kept under the Laws repealed by this Law and every registration or entry made thereunder shall be deemed to have been made or kept under the provisions of this Law.

SCHEDULE (Section 28).

FEES.

1. To be paid to the Registrar by the informant concerning the registration of a birth 1s.
2. To be paid to the Commissioner in respect of a search for a birth or death under section 25 1s.
3. To be paid to the Commissioner in respect of any certificate of birth or death issued under section 26 (not being a certificate of birth issued under section 23) 2s.

R. E. TURNBULL,

Colonial Secretary.

9th April, 1947.