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## PERSONAL NAMES ACT

NO. 45 OF 17TH MAY 1996

### Section I. Full Names. The Giving of Names.

Article 1. A person' s full name consists of his forename or forenames, his family name, where such exists, and his surname.

The total number of a person' s forenames, plus his family name, may never be greater than three.

Article 2. A child must be given a name within six months of its birth.

A child may acquire a name through baptism in the National Church of Iceland or a registered religious denomination, or through notification of the giving of a name made to the [National Registry] 1), a minister of

religion or the head of a registered religious denomination.

1)Act No. 50/2006, Article 13.

Article 3. If a child is to be named at a baptism which is to be performed by a minister of the National Church of Iceland or the head or minister of a registered religious denomination, the child's custodian shall inform that person at the time of the request for baptism of the name or names which the child is to be given. If a forename or family name which the child is to be given is not on the Personal Names Register (cf. Article 22), then the minister or head of the religious denomination may neither approve it provisionally nor give it to the child at baptism; instead, the matter shall be referred to the Personal Names Committee (cf., however, paragraph 3 of Article 6 and Articles 7 and 10).

If the National Registry receives notification of a forename or family name which is not on the Personal Names Register, the name shall not be registered on a provisional basis; instead, the matter shall be referred to the Personal

Names Committee.

Section II. Forenames.

Article 4. Every child shall be given one or more forenames, but not more than three.

The guardians of a child shall have both the right and the duty to give it a forename in accordance with this Act.

Article 5. Forenames shall be capable of having Icelandic genitive endings or shall have become established by tradition in the Icelandic language. Names may not conflict with the linguistic structure of Icelandic. They shall be written in accordance with the ordinary rules of Icelandic orthography unless another orthography is established by tradition.

Girls shall be given women' s names and boys shall be given men' s names.

A forename may not be such as to cause its bearer embarrassment.

Section III. Family Names.

Article 6. A child may be given one family name in addition to its forename or forenames. A family name can be given to either a boy or a girl.

Family names shall be derived from Icelandic roots or shall have become established in the Icelandic language by tradition, but may not have genitive endings. Names that are established by tradition solely as men' s forenames or women' s forenames may not be used as family names.

The name of one of the child' s parents, in the genitive case, may, however, be given as a family name. Family names formed in the same way as patronymics or metronymics (cf. paragraph 3 of Article 8) shall not be permitted.

A family name that deviates from the provisions of paragraph 2 shall be permitted when one of the full siblings of the person who is to bear it, or one of the person' s parents, grandfathers or grandmothers, bears, or bore, the name, either as a forename or a family name.

Family names shall be written in accordance with the ordinary rules of Icelandic orthography unless another

orthography is established by tradition.

A family name may not be such as to cause its bearer embarrassment.

Article 7. A family surname may only be used as a family name in the cases covered by this Article.

Any person who bears a family surname according to the National Registry may change it into a family name (cf. Article 15).

Any person who does not bear a family surname, but has the right to do so, may bear it as a family name.

A person may bear a family surname as a family name if one of his or her full siblings, parents, grandfathers or grandmothers bore it as a forename, family name or family surname.

A person shall also have the right to take his or her spouse' s family surname as a family name. He or she shall also have the right to take the name as a family name if the spouse bears it as a family name under paragraph 2 or 3.

Section IV. Surnames.