



# **Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 2021**

Public Act    2021 No 57  
Date of assent    15 December 2021  
Commencement    see section 2

## **Contents**

	Page
1    Title	9
2    Commencement	9
<b>Part 1</b>	
<b>Preliminary provisions</b>	
3    Purpose of this Act	10
4    Interpretation	10
5    Transitional, savings, and related provisions	17
6    Act binds the Crown	17
<b>Part 2</b>	
<b>Registration of information</b>	
Subpart 1—General provisions	
7    Definitions used in this Part	17
<i>Notification of information</i>	
8    Notifications, applications, and requests must include information required by this Act and regulations	18
<i>Registration of information</i>	
9    Registrar-General may register information only if requirements met	18

Subpart 2—Births

*Notification of births*

10	Birth in New Zealand must be notified	18
11	Preliminary notice of birth in New Zealand must be provided	18
12	Parents must notify birth in New Zealand	19
13	Notification of birth in New Zealand must include name information	20
14	Who must notify birth of child found abandoned in New Zealand	20
15	Any person may notify birth that occurs outside New Zealand on New Zealand ship or New Zealand aircraft	21

*Registration of births*

16	Registrar-General must register birth in New Zealand if notified within 2 years	21
17	When Registrar-General may register birth that occurs outside New Zealand	21
18	Registrar-General may decline to register certain names	21
19	Birth record must indicate if person is New Zealand citizen by birth	22
20	Birth record must include parents' details	23

*Registration of information relating to parents' subsequent marriage or civil union*

21	Parents may request that birth record include information relating to parents' marriage or civil union after child's birth	23
22	Registration of information relating to parents' marriage or civil union after birth	24

*Registration of nominated sex*

23	Eligibility to apply for registration of nominated sex	24
24	Application by eligible person for registration of their nominated sex	24
25	Application by guardian of eligible child for registration of child's nominated sex	25
26	Registrar-General must register nominated sex if requirements met	25
27	Effect of registration of nominated sex	26
28	Registrar-General must give effect to decisions under Care of Children Act 2004	26
29	Other correction powers not affected	27

*Appeals against Registrar-General's decisions*

30	Appeals against Registrar-General's decisions	27
----	---	----

Subpart 3—Adoptions

*Notification of adoption*

31	Court must notify Registrar-General of New Zealand adoptions	28
----	--	----

	<i>Registration of adoption information in birth record</i>	
32	Registration of New Zealand adoptions	28
33	Registration of overseas adoptions	29
	<i>Changes to adoption information in birth record</i>	
34	Adopted person or adoptive parent may apply to include additional information	29
35	Registrar-General must register additional information requested by adopted person or adoptive parents	30
36	Variation or discharge of adoption order to be recorded	30
	<i>Sharing of adoption information with overseas authorities</i>	
37	Registrar-General may supply adoption information to overseas registration authority	30
	Subpart 4—Deaths	
	<i>Notification of deaths in New Zealand</i>	
38	Deaths in New Zealand must be notified	30
39	Preliminary notice of death must be provided to Registrar-General	31
40	Registrar-General must be notified when body disposed of or removed	31
41	High Court must notify Registrar-General if giving leave to swear to person's death	31
42	Coroner must notify Registrar-General of death reported to coroner	31
43	Other person may be authorised to notify	32
44	Person who disposes of, removes, or takes disinterred body must notify Registrar-General	32
	<i>Notification of death outside New Zealand</i>	
45	When death that occurs outside New Zealand may be notified	33
	<i>Registration of deaths</i>	
46	Registrar-General must register death that occurs in New Zealand if notified in accordance with this subpart	33
47	Registrar-General may register death that occurs outside New Zealand only in limited circumstances	33
48	Registrar-General must register deaths of certain service personnel	34
	<i>Overseas death certificates</i>	
49	Overseas death certificate may be provided to Registrar-General	35
50	Registrar-General may record receipt of overseas death information	35
51	Registrar-General may issue written statement about overseas death on request	36

Subpart 5—Marriages and civil unions

*Notification of marriage or civil union in New Zealand*

52	Marriage or civil union in New Zealand must be notified	36
53	Celebrant must provide marriage or civil union form to Registrar-General	36
54	Registering officer of Society of Friends or exempt religious body must provide marriage form to Registrar-General	37

*Notification of marriage outside New Zealand*

55	Person who solemnises service marriage must notify marriage to Registrar-General	37
56	Party to service marriage (or descendant) may notify service marriage to Registrar-General	38
57	Overseas ceremony attended by New Zealand representative may be notified	38

*Registration of marriage or civil union*

58	Registrar-General must register marriage or civil union if requirements met	38
----	---	----

*Change of form of relationship*

59	Registrar-General to note change of form of relationship	39
----	--	----

*Dissolution of marriage or civil union*

60	Notification of dissolution of marriage or civil union in New Zealand	39
61	Registration of dissolution of marriage or civil union	40

*Overseas divorce or dissolution certificate*

62	Overseas divorce or dissolution certificate may be provided to Registrar-General	40
63	Registrar-General may record receipt of overseas divorce or dissolution information	40
64	Registrar-General may issue written statement about overseas divorce or dissolution on request	41

*Convictions for bigamy*

65	Notification of conviction for bigamy or coerced marriage or civil union	41
66	Registrar-General must register conviction for bigamy or coerced marriage or civil union	42

Subpart 6—Name changes

*Request for name change within 2 years of child's birth*

67	Guardian may request name change within 2 years of child's birth	42
----	--	----

<i>Application for name change</i>		
68	Eligibility to apply for name change	42
69	Application for name change by eligible person	43
70	Application for name change by guardian of eligible child	43
<i>Registration of name change in birth record or name-change record</i>		
71	When Registrar-General may register name change	44
<i>Guardianship disputes and refusal of consent</i>		
72	Registrar-General must give effect to decisions under Care of Children Act 2004	45
<i>Registration of name change in marriage and civil union record</i>		
73	Person may request name change be included in marriage or civil union record	45
74	Registration of new names in marriage or civil union information	45
Subpart 7—Creation of records for security-related purposes		
<i>Requests for new identity information</i>		
75	Minister of Police may request new identity information for certain witnesses and undercover Police officers	46
76	Director-General of intelligence and security agency may request new identity information for employee	46
<i>Creation of new identity information</i>		
77	Minister may direct that new identity information be created for witness or undercover Police officer	46
<b>Part 3</b>		
<b>Certificates</b>		
<i>General provisions</i>		
78	Request for certificate	47
79	Certificates as evidence	47
<i>Birth certificates</i>		
80	Contents of birth certificates generally	48
81	Contents of birth certificate issued after correction of information in birth record	48
82	Request for adopted person’s birth certificate must specify most recent names	49
83	Contents of adopted person’s birth certificate	49
<i>Other certificates</i>		
84	Contents of death certificate	50
85	Contents of marriage or civil union certificate	50
86	Contents of name-change certificate	51