

**TITLE 26 – FAMILY**  
**CHAPTER 4 - BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION**



Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

**BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION**  
**ACT 1988**

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**ACT 1988**

AN ACT to make provision for registration of births, and deaths and marriages and for matters connected therewith.

<i>Commencement:</i>	<i>March 21, 1988</i>
<i>Source:</i>	<i>P.L. 1988-10</i>
<i>Amended By:</i>	<i>P.L. 1992-4    P.L. 1994-99    P.L. 2002-49</i>
	<i>P.L. 2009-17    P.L. 2009-26    P.L. 2016-13</i>

**PART I -PRELIMINARY**

**§401. Short title.**

This Chapter may be cited as the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1988. [P.L. 1988-10, §1.]

**§402. Interpretation.**

In this Chapter unless context otherwise requires the words:

- (a) “**birth**” includes live-birth and still-birth;
- (b) “**disposal**” in relation to a dead body means disposal by burial, cremation or by any other means;
- (c) “**live birth**” means the birth of a child born alive;
- (d) “**Minister**” means Minister in charge of the Ministry of Internal Affairs;

- (e) “**occupier**” in relation to a public institution means the officer responsible for the superintendence of that institution, and in relation to a house means any person residing in that house;
- (f) “**public institution**” means prison, hospital or other public institution as may, be prescribed;
- (g) “**qualified informant**” in relation to birth or death means a person who is qualified to give information by this Chapter, and in relation to a marriage means a person on whom a duty is imposed to give information by this Chapter;
- (h) “**Registrar-General**” means the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages appointed under this Chapter;
- (i) “**relative**” includes a relative by marriage; and
- (j) “**still born child**” means a child issued from its mother after at least seven (7) months of pregnancy and at any time after being expelled from its mother which does not breath or show any other signs of life. [P.L. 1988-10, §2; reference to Ministry updated by Reviser to reflect name change to “**Internal Affairs**”]

#### §403. Appointment of Registrar -General.

- (1) The Secretary of Internal Affairs shall be ex officio the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages. The Registrar-General shall exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred or imposed by or under this Chapter and the powers and duties of the Registrar with respect to Majuro Atoll.
- (2) The Registrar-General may appoint a Deputy Registrar-General who shall be a member of the public service. There may also be appointed a person or persons to be the Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages for any Atoll or Atolls. The Registrar-General may also assign other appropriate duties to such person or persons.
- (3) A Registrar may exercise such powers and perform such duties vested or imposed under the Chapter, except those that are specifically provided in the Chapter to be exercised or performed by the Registrar-General.
- (4) All duties and responsibilities as set out in the *Registration of Persons Act 1989*, 7 MIRC 16, shall be assumed by the Registrar-General and

coordinated with the existing records and responsibilities of the Registrar-General.[P.L. 1988-10, §3; amended by P.L. 1992-4, §2(1).]

**§404. Registry office.**

- (1) The office of the Registrar-General shall be known as the Registrar-General or as the Registrar-General's Office and shall be located in Majuro.
- (2) Every Registrar shall, as far as practicable, maintain an office in the Atoll for which he is appointed.
- (3) The office of the Registrar shall be opened to the public on such days and at such hours as may be prescribed. [P.L. 1988-10, §4.]

**§405. Registers of births, deaths and marriages.**

- (1) The Registrar-General shall maintain separate General Registers with respect to births, deaths and marriages for the whole of the Marshall Islands; and in addition maintain separate registers with respect to Majuro Atoll.
- (2) Every Registrar shall maintain separate registers with respect to births, deaths and marriages in the Atoll for which he is appointed.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the Registrar General to ensure that each Registrar is supplied and kept supplied with sufficient numbers of registers in the prescribed form.[P.L. 1988-10, §5.]

**§406. Delivering up of books, etc.**

Where a person ceases to hold office of the Registrar for any Atoll, all registers, books, documents and other material in the possession of the holder of that office, shall be delivered up to his successor in office or, if there is no successor, to such person as the Registrar-General may designate. Failure to deliver up such books as stated above shall constitute an offense under this Chapter.[P.L. 1988-10, §6.]