

ACT

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THE NATIONAL CIVIL REGISTRATION ACT, 2016

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Passed in Parliament this *30th day of June 2016*, in the year of our Lord two thousand and Sixteen.

IBRAHIM S. SESAY,
Clerk of Parliament.

THIS PRINTED IMPRESSION has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has passed Parliament and found by me to be a true and correct printed copy of the said Bill.

IBRAHIM S. SESAY,
Clerk of Parliament.

SIGNED this *26th day of July, 2016*.

DR. ERNEST BAI KOROMA,
President.



No. 14

2016

Sierra Leone

The National Civil Registration Act, 2016

Short title.

Being an Act to provide for the amendment and consolidation of the laws relating to the compulsory registration of citizens and non-citizens resident in Sierra Leone, to provide for the issuance of identity cards, to provide for the establishment of the National Civil Registration Authority responsible for the registration of births, adoptions, deaths, marriages, divorces and nullities throughout Sierra Leone and to provide for other related matters.

[] Date of commencement.

PART I – PRELIMINARY

Interpretation. **1.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires-

“Authority” means the National Civil Registration Authority established by section 2;

“birth” means live birth or still birth;

“Director-General” means the person appointed by the President to be Director-General under Section 16;

“child” means a person below the age of 18;

“civil register” means a Register of Adoptions, Register of Births, Register of Deaths, Register of Divorces, Register of Marriages or Register of nullities as the case may be, kept under this Act;

“Civil Registration System” means the Integrated National Civil Registration System established under subsection (1) of section 37 by which the government records the vital events of its citizens and residents;

“death” means the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live-birth has taken place;

“district” means Western Rural, Western Urban or any of the administrative district of the provinces;

“house” means any building or a part of a building where such part is occupied separately from the rest and includes a correctional facility, hospital, lunatic asylum, public or charitable institution;

“informant” means a person under duty to give information concerning the happening of an event under this Act;

“live birth” means the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such expulsion or extraction breathes or shows any other evidence of life;

“National Identification Number” means the unique administrative identifier for individuals and a component of the Integrated National Civil Registration System, issued by the Authority , under paragraph (b) of section 14 to every citizen and resident in Sierra Leone;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for internal affairs;

“Personal Registration File” means the Personal Registration File referred to in section 34;

“public institution” includes a correctional facility, hospital and such other public or charitable institution as may be prescribed;

“registration officer” means a registration officer appointed under this Act;

“registration” means registration by the Director-General or any Registration Officer.

“relative” includes a relative by marriage or adoption;

“still birth” means the birth of a child which has issued forth from its mother after twenty-eight weeks of pregnancy and which did not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother, breathe or show any other signs of life and “stillborn” shall be construed accordingly;

**PART II – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL CIVIL
REGISTRATION AUTHORITY**

Establishment
of National
Civil
Registration
Authority.

2. (1) There is hereby established a body to be known as the National Civil Registration Authority.

(2) The Authority shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and capable of acquiring, holding and disposing of property, whether movable or immovable, and of suing and being sued in its corporate name and, subject to this Act, of performing all such acts as bodies corporate may by law perform.

(3) The Authority shall have a common seal, the use of which shall be authenticated by the signature of-

- (a) the Chairman or other member of the Board authorised either generally or specially by the Board in that behalf; and
- (b) the Director-General or other officer of the Authority authorised by the Board for that purpose.

(4) Every document purporting to be an instrument executed or issued by or on behalf of the Authority and to be sealed with the common seal of the Authority authenticated in the manner stated in subsection (3) shall be deemed to be so executed or issued without further proof, unless the contrary is proved.

Board of
Authority.

3. (1) The governing body of the Authority shall be a Board in which shall be vested, subject to this Act, the control and supervision of the Authority.

(2) The Board shall consist of a Chairman and the following other members-

- (a) the Statistician-General, Statistics Sierra Leone;
- (b) Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs
- (c) the National Security Coordinator, Office of National Security;
- (d) the Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development;
- (e) the Chief Medical Officer; and
- (f) five other members to be appointed by the President, of whom two shall be women, subject to the approval of Parliament;

(3) The Director-General of the Authority shall serve as Secretary to the Board.

(4) The President shall, on the advice of the Minister and subject to the approval of Parliament appoint a Chairman from among persons with proven knowledge of and practical experience in matters relevant to the objects and functions of the Authority.

4. (1) The Chairman shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for another term of three years only. Tenure of members.

(2) A person shall cease to be a member of the Board on any of the following grounds-

- (a) for his inability to perform the functions of his office by reason of infirmity of mind or body;
- (b) for proven misconduct;
- (c) if he becomes bankrupt or insolvent;