ADMINISTRATION

1959 No. 529

The Birth Certificate (Shortened Form) Regulations, 1959

Made - - - - 23*rd March*, 1959
Coming into Operation 1*st April*, 1959

The Registrar General, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 33 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1953(a), and section 39 of that Act as extended by subsection (2) of section 5 of the Foundling Hospital Act, 1953(b), and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, with the approval of the Minister of Health, hereby makes the following regulations:—

Citation and Commencement

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Birth Certificate (Shortened Form) Regulations, 1959.

(2) These regulations shall come into operation on the first day of April, 1959.

Interpretation

2.—(1) The Interpretation Act, 1889(c), shall apply to the interpretation of these regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament and as if these regulations and the regulations hereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

(2) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

"short certificate of birth" means a certificate of birth the form of which is prescribed by regulation 5 of these regulations;

"registered person" means a person in respect of whose birth an application for a short certificate of birth is made and whose birth is registered or recorded in any register or record in the custody of the Registrar General;

"the entry" in relation to a registered person means the entry relating to him in any such register or record as aforesaid;

"adopted" means adopted under the Adoption Act, 1958(d), the Adoption Act, 1950(e), or any enactment repealed by the latter Act, and "adoption order" and "adopted" have the respective meanings which those expressions bear in the said Act of 1958.

Revocation of existing regulations

3. The Birth Certificate (Shortened Form) Regulations, 1947(f), and the Birth Certificate (Shortened Form) Regulations, 1949(g), are hereby revoked.

(a) 1 & 2 Eliz. 2. c. 20. (b) 1 & 2 Eliz. 2. c. xxxvi. (c) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.
(d) 7 & 8 Eliz. 2. c. 5. (e) 14 Geo. 6. c. 26.
(f) S.R. & O. 1947/2501 (Rev. XIX, p. 928: 1947 I, p. 1906).
(g) S.I. 1949/2419 (1949 I, p. 3583).

Application for short certificate of birth

4. The particulars to be furnished to the Registrar General on an application for a short certificate of birth (other than a certificate issued under section 5 of the Foundling Hospital Act, 1953), shall be the following particulars relating to the registered person—

(*a*) where the registered person has been adopted and the certificate is to be in respect of him as an adopted person—

(i) his name and surname ;

(ii) the date of his birth ;

(iii) the name and surname of his adopter or, as the case may be, his adopters ; and

(iv) the date upon which, and the name of the court by which, the adoption order was made ;

(*b*) in any other case—

(i) the name and surname of the registered person ;

(ii) the date of his birth ;

(iii) the name and surname of his father ;

(iv) the name, surname and maiden surname of his mother ; and

(v) the place of his birth or the place at which his birth was registered :

Provided that the Registrar General may dispense with the furnishing of any of the said particulars which in his opinion it is not reasonably practicable for the applicant to furnish.

Form of short certificate of birth

5. The form of short certificate of birth to be issued by the Registrar General under section 33 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1953, or under section 5 of the Foundling Hospital Act, 1953, shall be the form set out in the Schedule to these regulations.

Manner of preparing short certificate of birth

6. A short certificate of birth issued by the Registrar General under the enactments mentioned in the last preceding regulation shall be compiled in accordance with, and shall contain the particulars required by, regulations 7 to 10 of these regulations.

7.—(1) In the case of a short certificate of birth issued under section 5 of the Foundling Hospital Act, 1953, opposite the words "Name and Surname" there shall be entered the name and surname given to the registered person on his admission to the Foundling Hospital.

(2) In the case of a short certificate of birth issued under section 33 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1953, opposite the words "Name and Surname" there shall be entered the name of the registered person as recorded in the entry and immediately thereafter there shall be entered such of the following particulars, if any, as may be appropriate—

(*a*) except where the registered person is a person to whom paragraph (*b*) or (*c*) of this regulation applies, the surname of his father as recorded in the entry or, if more than one such surname is so recorded or if his mother appears from the entry to have borne a different surname at or after the date of his birth, such one of those surnames of his father or mother as the applicant may request ;

(*b*) where it appears from the entry that the registered person is illegitimate and the birth was not registered on the joint information of his mother and father, the surname of his mother appearing from the entry to have been used by her at or after the date of birth or, if more than one such surname is so recorded, such one of them as the applicant may request;

(*c*) where the registered person has been adopted and the certificate is to be in respect of him as an adopted person, then either—

(i) any surname of the registered person which is recorded as such in the entry, or

(ii) if no such surname is so recorded and the surname of the registered person as furnished in the application for the certificate is not included as part of the name recorded in the entry, the surname of his adopter or adopters as recorded in the entry or, if more than one such surname is so recorded, such one of them as the applicant may request.

8. Opposite the word "Sex" there shall be entered the word "Boy" or "Girl" in accordance with the information contained in the entry.

9. Opposite the words "Date of Birth" there shall be entered the particulars thereof in the entry:

Provided that if the date or probable date of birth is not specified in the entry there shall be entered such date, if any, as may appear to the Registrar General from the information recorded in the entry to be the probable date of birth, preceded by the words "On or about".

10.—(1) In the case of a short certificate of birth issued under section 5 of the Founding Hospital Act, 1953, opposite the words "Place of Birth" there shall be entered particulars of the country of birth of the registered person.

(2) In the case of a short certificate of birth issued under section 33 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1953, opposite the words "Place of Birth" there shall be entered such of the following particulars as may be appropriate—

(*a*) where the register or other record containing the entry includes particulars of the registration district and sub-district in which the birth occurred or in which the birth is treated under any enactment as having occurred, the name of that registration district and sub-district;

(*b*) where the registered person's birth is recorded as having occurred on a British ship, the words "At Sea" followed by the name of the ship on which the birth occurred;

(*c*) where the registered person's birth is recorded as having occurred in an aircraft the words "In an aircraft" followed by the particulars as to place of birth in the entry;

(*d*) in any other case where the entry contains particulars as to the place of birth, those particulars;

(*e*) if the entry contains no particulars as to place of birth, such particulars (if any) as to the country of birth of the registered person as the Registrar General is satisfied can be obtained from any other register or record in his custody.

SCHEDULE

FORM OF SHORT CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH FOR ISSUE BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

Name and Surname	
Sex	
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	

Certified to have been compiled from records in the custody of the Registrar General. Given at the General Register Office, Somerset House, London, under the Seal of the said Office, the.....day of....., 19.....

Given under my hand this twenty-third day of March, nineteen hundred and fifty-nine.

E. M. T. Firth,
Registrar General

I approve

Derek Walker-Smith,
Minister of Health

23rd March, 1959.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations consolidate with amendments the Birth Certificate (Shortened Form) Regulations, 1947, and the Birth Certificate (Shortened Form) Regulations, 1949. One form of short certificate of birth is prescribed to replace the two forms under the existing regulations and the form under the Foundling Hospital Act, 1953. The regulations prescribe the particulars to be furnished by applicants for short certificates of birth and the manner in which certificates are to be compiled from the records and registers in the custody of the Registrar General. Certificates compiled from registers in the custody of superintendent registrars and registrars of births and deaths are provided for by the Registration (Births, Still-births, Deaths and Marriages) Regulations, 1954 and 1959.