BERMUDA

REGISTRATION (BIRTHS AND DEATHS) AMENDMENT ACT 2026

2026 : 29

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WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Registration (Births and Deaths) Act 1949 and the Registrar-General (Recording of Documents) Act 1955 to restrict the persons who may obtain a copy of a birth certificate, and to make consequential amendments;

Be it enacted by The King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Assembly of Bermuda, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Citation

1 This Act may be cited as the Registration (Births and Deaths) Amendment Act 2026.

Amends section 1

2 In section 1 (interpretation) of the Registration (Births and Deaths) Act 1949 ("the principal Act"), before the definition of "midwife" there is inserted—

" "birth certificate" means a certificate in Form F2 of the First Schedule containing a true copy of particulars relating to an individual compiled from the particulars recorded in the General Register of Births, or any other register kept by the Registrar-General under any provision of law, certified under the hand and seal of the Registrar-General; ".

Repeals and replaces section 4

3 Section 4 of the principal Act (searches and copies of entries) is repealed and replaced with the following—

"**Searches and copies of entries; restriction relating to copies of birth certificate**

4 (1) Any person may search the entries in any register during ordinary office hours and upon payment to the Registrar-General of the prescribed fee.

(2) Any person may request, upon payment of such additional fees or composite fees as are prescribed—

(a) in the case of an entry in any register, a true copy of all such particulars recorded in such entry certified under the hand and seal of the Registrar-General, except such particulars as relate to the racial colour or origin of the person to whom the entry relates; or

(b) in the case of an entry relating to the death of any person, a certificate ("a short certificate of death") in Form F1 of the First Schedule certified under the hand and seal of the Registrar-General, containing such particulars as are referred to in that form and which shall be compiled from the particulars recorded in the register or any other register kept by the Registrar-General under any provision of law.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(a), only the following persons may obtain a copy of a birth certificate—

(a) the individual to whom the certificate relates;

(b) a parent or guardian of the individual, or a child or grandchild of the individual who is at least 18 years of age;

(c) a person authorized in writing by the individual, provided that the individual is at least 18 years of age;

(d) a legal representative of a person mentioned in the preceding paragraphs;

(e) a police officer with a court order authorizing the obtaining of a copy;

(f) a public officer whom the Registrar-General is satisfied requires a copy to carry out statutory duties.

(4) Subsection (3) does not apply where a person seeks to obtain a birth certificate relating to an individual born more than 150 years before the request is made to the Registrar-General."

Inserts Form F2 into the First Schedule

4 In the First Schedule to the principal Act, after Form F1 there is inserted—

"FORM F2

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Child's full name *[blank]*

Date of birth *[blank]*

Place of birth *[blank]*

Sex *[blank]*

Mother's full name *[blank]*

Mother's maiden name *[blank]*

Mother's occupation *[blank]*

Father's full name *[blank]*

Father's occupation *[blank]*

Additional information *[blank]*

Registration number and date *[blank]*

Certified to have been compiled from particulars recorded in registers kept by the Registrar-General. Given at the Registry Office, Hamilton, Bermuda, under the seal and hand of the Registrar-General, the [*blank*] day of [*blank*] 20 [*blank*].

Registrar-General"

Amends the Registrar-General (Recording of Documents) Act 1955

5 The text of section 4 of the Registrar-General (Recording of Documents) Act 1955 (inspection of registers and indexes; copying; obtaining certified copies) is renumbered as subsection (1), and after that subsection there is inserted—

"(2) Subsection (1)(c) is subject to section 4(3) and (4) of the Registration (Births and Deaths) Act 1949 (restriction on persons who may obtain copy of a birth certificate)."

Consequential amendments and fees

6 (1) In the First Schedule to the principal Act (forms), Form F (short certificate of birth) is repealed.

(2) In the Schedule to the Government Fees Regulations 1976, in Head 67 (fees relating to the principal Act)—

(a) for paragraph (4) (fee of $25 for issuing a short certificate of birth) there is substituted—

"(4) Issuing a birth certificate..... $35";

(b) in paragraph (5)(b) (fee for express service), for "$15" there is substituted "$25".

Commencement and transitional provision

7 (1) This Act comes into effect on such date ("the commencement day") as the Minister responsible for the Registry General may appoint by notice published in the Gazette.

(2) The restriction in section 4(3) of the principal Act (as inserted by section 3 of this Act) applies in relation to a request for a copy of a birth certificate which is pending on the commencement day.

[Assent Date: 14 September 2026]

[Operative Date: 21 September 2026]