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**CHAPTER 169**

**BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS REGISTRATION**

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CHAPTER 169

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS REGISTRATION

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGES, FOR  
THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS AND  
FOR THE REGISTRATION OF MINISTERS FOR CELEBRATING  
MARRIAGES

*1 of 1896*  
*13 of 1916*  
*11 of 1970*  
*8 of 1974*  
*LN 46A of 1978*  
*LN 88 of 1978*

[16th March 1896]

1. This Act may be cited as the Births, Marriages and Deaths  
Registration Act.

Short title

2.—(1) Any minister of religion ordinarily officiating as such,  
or the head of the denomination to which he belongs on his  
behalf, may forward to the Minister a requisition for registration  
as a minister for celebrating marriages in Solomon Islands  
giving the following information —

Registration of  
ministers for  
marriages  
*LN 46A of 1978*

- (a) Name of minister;
- (b) Nationality;
- (c) Date and place of birth;
- (d) Denomination;
- (e) When and where ordained;
- (f) Usual place of residence;
- (g) Place where he officiates.

(2) On the receipt of a requisition under subsection (1) the  
Minister may, if he shall think fit, register the name of the  
minister mentioned with the prescribed particulars in a Register  
Book to be kept for that purpose. No fee shall be payable in  
respect of any such registration.

(3) The Minister may at any time, if he shall think fit to do  
so, remove the name of any minister from the register and shall,  
upon being satisfied of the facts, so remove the name of any  
minister who shall die or shall depart permanently from  
Solomon Islands or shall cease to officiate within Solomon  
Islands or shall by competent authority be deprived of his office  
of minister.

(4) The Minister shall notify in the Gazette, or in some other  
public manner, the registration of every minister, and the  
removal of the name of any minister from the register.

(5) No minister whose name is removed from the register shall after the notification of such removal in the Gazette have any authority under this Act to celebrate marriages.

Persons pretending to be ministers 11 of 1970, Sched

3. Any person not being at the time a minister of religion ordinarily officiating as such who shall cause his name to be registered as such a minister shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months.

Certificates LN 46A of 1978

4. The Minister shall from time to time furnish every minister registered under this Act with a sufficient number of forms of the marriage certificate hereinafter mentioned.

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGES

Marriages may be celebrated by registered ministers of religion

5. Marriages between person who would if in England be legally competent to contract marriages may be celebrated by any minister of religion ordinarily officiating as such who is at the time of the celebration of the marriage registered in accordance with section 2.

Declaration precedent to marriage

6. No marriage shall be celebrated until each of the parties to the marriage shall have made the following declaration before the minister celebrating the marriage —

“I, A.B., do solemnly and sincerely declare that I believe there is no impediment or lawful objection by reason of any kindred or relationship, any former marriage, or want of consent of parents or guardians, or any other lawful cause, to my being married to C.D., of daughter of E.F., of

(Signature of A.B.)

“And I, the said C.D., do solemnly and sincerely declare that I believe there is no impediment or lawful objection by any such reason or other lawful cause as aforesaid to my being married to the said A.B.”

(Signature of C.D.)

Declared by both the parties above-named at this day of 19 , before me, (Signature and designation of minister.)

7. Any person who shall wilfully make any false statement in any such declaration shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months.

False declaration 11 of 1970, Sched

8. No marriage, in fact, shall be avoided by reason only of the same having been celebrated by a person not being a duly registered minister, if either of the parties to the marriage bona fide believes at the time that he was a duly registered minister.

Provisions for special cases

9. The presence of two witnesses at least is requisite for the due celebration of marriage, and the minister, the parties to the marriage, and the witnesses shall sign in duplicate a certificate in the following form —

Witnesses and certificate LN 46A of 1978

I [minister] being [designation] certify that I have this day at [place] duly celebrated marriage between [name, designation, and residence of husband] and [name, designation, and residence of wife] after declaration duly made as required [by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893, or if neither party is a British subject, or if the marriage is celebrated by a minister who is not a British subject, by the Births, Marriages and Deaths Registration Act].

Dated this day of , 19 . A.B., (minister officiating at ) .

Signature of parties.

C.D.

E.F.

Signature of witnesses.

G.H.

L.M.

The minister shall immediately after the marriage deliver one certificate to one of the parties to the marriage, and within one month thereafter, or by the first opportunity, shall transmit the other certificate to the Minister.

Any such certificate purporting to be signed by the minister who solemnised the marriage shall be received as prima facie evidence of such marriage at the date set forth in the certificate.

10. If any minister (except as hereinafter provided —

(a) celebrates a marriage knowing that he is not duly registered; or

Offences by ministers 11 of 1970 Sched LN 46A of 1978

(b) fails to transmit to the Minister the certificate of any marriage celebrated by him,

he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months.

#### REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Minister to keep registers of births, marriages and deaths  
LN 46A of 1978

**11.**—(1) The Minister shall keep books for the registry therein of births, marriages and deaths of foreigners occurring within the limits of this Act, and will, as soon as possible after being informed of any such birth, marriage, or death, enter the same respectively in the books in such manner as he may think convenient.

(2) In the case of a death the Minister will, if possible, also enter the date and place of burial.

Copies of entries to be prima facie evidence  
LN 88 of 1978

**12.** A copy of the entry of any birth, marriage, or death signed by the Registrar-General shall be received as prima facie evidence of the fact of such birth, marriage, or death. But no registry of any death shall be received as evidence of the fact of such death unless the burial of the person named be also registered.

Search and copies  
LN 88 of 1978

**13.** Every person, on payment of the fees hereunder mentioned and on stating in writing the particular entry which he desires to find, shall be entitled, at reasonable hours to be fixed by the Minister, to search the books for such entry, and to have a copy of any such entry certified by the Registrar-General—

Fees

- (a) every search (to be paid beforehand) fifty cents,\*
- (b) every certified copy of any entry, twenty-five cents.

Notice of births and deaths  
LN 46A of 1978

**14.**—(1) In every case of the birth of any child of a British subject or foreigner within the limits of this Act, one of the parents shall within sixty days thereafter, and in every case of the death of any British subject or foreigner within the said limits the occupier of the house or place where the death occurred shall within thirty days thereafter, transmit to the Minister a statement of the fact and date of such birth or death; giving also in the case of a birth the names, and, as far as possible, particulars of the name, age, and birthplace and nationality of each parent, the name of the child; and in the case of a death the name, age, and parentage (if known) and nationality of the deceased, stating also, as far as known, whether the deceased was married, and to whom, and at what place, together with the names and ages of any children left by the deceased.

(2) The statement of a death shall include the date and place of burial of the deceased, verified if possible by the signatures of two witnesses present at the burial.

**15.** Upon the discovery of any error in the form or substance of any such entry, the Minister will correct the error by making and signing a new entry in the margin without altering the original entry, adding the date of the correction, and every certified copy of such entry shall show the original entry and the correction.

Corrections of accidental errors  
LN 46A of 1978

**16.** If any person—

(a) refuses or neglects to give any notice or information required by this Act; or

(b) wilfully makes or causes to be made for the purpose of being inserted in any register under this Act any false statement touching any of the particulars hereby required to be registered,

Offences  
11 of 1970,  
Sched

he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months.

**17.** The provisions of this Act regarding the celebration and registration of marriages shall not be compulsory when both parties to any marriage are Islanders

Marriage of Islanders  
8 of 1974, Sched

**18.** Nothing in this Act shall invalidate any marriage which but for this Act would have been valid.

Saving

(No Subsidiary Legislation)