

Q: WHAT ABOUT LATE REGISTRATION?

If you register your child's birth after the expiration of 10 days from the date of the birth of any child, the Registrar may need to get full information from a qualified informant to the best of that person's knowledge and belief or the particulars required to be registered concerning the birth.

Registration between 3 months and 12 months from date of birth the Registrar may designate a qualified informant to make a declaration according to the best of his/her knowledge concerning the birth.

Registration after 12 months may need the late registration assessor to assess a qualified informant to give full information from the best of his or her knowledge concerning the birth.

Q: WHAT IS THE COST OF REGISTRATION?

If you register your child's birth within 12 months of his or her birth, then registration is free.

Registrations that are more than 12 months late attract a fee of \$4.00.

All late registrations (10 or more days after the child's birth) must be preceded by a search to establish that the birth has not already been registered. This search costs \$1.00.

There is also a \$2.00 court fee for the swearing of an Affidavit (needed for registrations 10 or more days after the child's birth).

A Birth Certificate costs \$3.00, regardless of when the birth was registered.

Q: CAN THE CHILD CHANGE HIS / HER NAME?

If a child's birth was registered before he or she were given a name, then parents or guardians may apply to the Registrar to change a child's name within 1 year of the date of registration. The Registrar will then amend the records, rather than creating a new record. There is no cost for this.

You can also apply to change your name or your child's name at anytime, provided it is not for a fraudulent or improper purpose. The Civil Registration Office, the Island Council or the Linnix Office do not charge a fee for this, however the People's Lawyer may charge for their services.

Q: WHAT ABOUT ADOPTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CUSTOMARY LAW?

When the Registrar receives a Certificate from the Magistrate's Court confirming the customary adoption, details of the customary adoption are entered along with the original registration of birth.

Q: ARE THERE ANY PENALTIES FOR NOT REGISTERING A BIRTH?

A person who is required but does not register a birth can be fined \$10.00 for each offence.

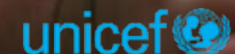
If a person provides false information relating to the registration of a birth, they can be fined \$600.00 and/or imprisonment for 3 years.

Q: WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

If you need any help completing forms or have any questions about birth, staff at the Civil Registration Office, the Island Council or the Linnix Office can assist you.

Questions & Answers on
what you need to know about

BIRTH REGISTRATION In KIRIBATI



Q: WHAT IS BIRTH REGISTRATION?

Birth registration is the permanent and official record of a child's existence. It recognises the right of every child to a name, nationality and to know the identity of their parents, as set out in Article 7 of the CRC.

Other information about births collected by health facilities, churches and other community organizations should be referred to as *birth records*.

Q: WHY SHOULD I REGISTER MY CHILD?

Birth registration entitles children to various rights and protections:

- Birth registration establishes a permanent link between parents and children. It enables children to know their parentage, particularly if they are born out of wedlock or if they have been adopted. It provides proof of family connections at critical times, such as when children are missing or become involved with the law.
- Birth registration helps safeguard children against trafficking, abuse, abduction and exploitation. Proof of age is essential to ensure that children are not prematurely deprived of the protection that the law entitles them to in areas such as marriage, sexual exploitation, work and criminal justice.
- Children need their Birth Certificate to enroll in school and sit their JSS and KNC exams. When they get older, they can use their Birth Certificate to open a bank account, exercise their right to vote or to apply for a passport, a driver's license, a marriage license and jobs.
- Unregistered children and adults face particu-

lar risks if they leave their place of birth, either deliberately, such as in search of employment, applying to any institutes, passport, open bank account, face hardship to withdrawal their KPF, face hardship to have their share from their parents especially when that child is born out of wed-lock or because they have been displaced.

The Government needs to know how many children are born in a particular area in a particular year in order to properly plan for schools, health clinics, housing requirements, water and sanitation needs and the number of people likely to use facilities such as roads and electricity grids.

Q: WHAT DOES THE LAW IN KIRIBATI SAY ABOUT BIRTH REGISTRATION?

The birth of every child (either born alive or stillborn) must be registered within 10 days of his or her birth.

It is the mother's and/or father's responsibility to register the birth of their child.

Q: WHAT IF THE MOTHER OR THE FATHER OF THE CHILD IS UNABLE TO REGISTER THE BIRTH OF HER/HIS CHILD?

If the mother or father is unable to register the child's birth for whatever reason, then anyone present at the birth, anyone occupying the house at the time or the birth, any medical practitioner or midwife present at the birth, or any person in charge of the child may register the birth. These people are referred to as *qualified informants*.

Q: HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD?

Go the Civil Registration Office, the Island Council Office or the Linnix Office within 10 days of the child's birth to register the name of your child in the Register book and complete a Certificate of Registration of Birth (Form 6).

Q: WHAT SHOULD I BRING IF I WANT TO REGISTER MY CHILD'S BIRTH?

Bring all the documents you have for the child, such as baptism certificate (if your child has been baptised), health card, birth notification because it will help you complete the Certificate of Registration of Birth (Form 6).

Q: WHEN WILL THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF MY CHILD BE ISSUED?

Once your child is entered into the Birth Register, a Birth Certificate will be issued

Q: IF MY CHILD IS BORN WITH THE HELP OF A DOCTOR / NURSE OR IN THE HOSPITAL, WILL THE BABY BE REGISTERED AUTOMATICALLY?

No, there is no automatic registration of children yet. But you should ask the doctor / nurse / midwife to provide you with a Birth Notification; this will help you to register your child's birth.

Q: IS A BAPTISM CERTIFICATE THE SAME AS A BIRTH CERTIFICATE?

No. Baptism is a religious act by the Church and Birth Registration is a civil act by the Government. A Baptism Certificate is recognised as a supporting document for Birth Registration.