
Registration (Marriages, Births, and Deaths).

No. 15 of 1877.

**An Ordinance to amend the Ordinances No. 6 of 1847,
No. 13 of 1863, No. 8 of 1865, and No. 18 of 1867.**

(See No. 6 of 1847.)

WHEREAS by the 7th section of the Ordinance No. 6 of 1847, intituled "An Ordinance to amend in certain respects the Law of Marriages, and to provide for the better registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths," it is enacted amongst other things that it shall be lawful for the Governor to appoint one Registrar-General of Marriages in this colony and one provincial registrar in each of the provinces thereof, and to establish from time to time, with the advice of the Executive Council, such and so many districts within any such provinces as shall appear expedient, and such districts with the like advice from time to time to alter or abolish, and that it shall be lawful for the said Governor to appoint one or more registrar or registrars to each of such districts, and at any time when he shall think fit to remove any such Registrar-General, provincial registrar, or registrars, and when necessary to appoint some other person in his place or in the place of any Registrar-General, provincial registrar, or registrar, who shall have died or resigned his office: And whereas by the 2nd section of the Ordinance No. 13 of 1863, intituled "An Ordinance to amend in certain respects the Law of Marriages in this Island, and to provide for the due registration thereof," it is enacted that for the purposes of that Ordinance the expression "Registrar-General of Marriages" and "registrar of marriages" shall include any person authorized by the Governor to act as such respectively: And whereas by the Ordinance No. 18 of 1867, intituled "An Ordinance relating to the registration of Births and Deaths," it is enacted amongst other things that for the purposes of that Ordinance the Registrar-General, the provincial registrars, and the district registrars of marriages should also respectively be and act as Registrar-General, provincial and district registrars of births and deaths, and that the division of each province of this island into districts for the registry of marriages should also form the division for the registry of births and deaths as thereafter provided: And whereas by the said hereinbefore recited Ordinances and by the Ordinance No. 8 of 1865, intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Ordinance No. 13 of 1863," divers powers, duties, and functions are vested in and made exercisable by such Registrar-General, provincial registrars, and registrars as aforesaid: And whereas in pursuance of the power and authority in that behalf in him vested, His Honour the Officer then administering the Government did in the year 1867 appoint divers persons as Registrar-General, provincial registrars, and district registrars respectively of marriages, births, and deaths, and a list of the persons so appointed was duly published for general information in the *Government Gazette* dated the 29th day of August, 1868: And whereas

Preamble.

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the officer then holding the office of Registrar-General of Lands was duly appointed Registrar-General of Marriages, Births, and Deaths, and the several government agents were duly appointed provincial registrars of marriages, births, and deaths for their respective provinces, and the several assistant government agents were duly appointed registrars for their several districts, respectively, as will more fully appear from the aforesaid list so published for general information as aforesaid : And whereas the aforesaid government agents and assistant government agents were appointed such provincial registrars and district registrars respectively by name, but no provision has been made for the appointment of their successors to be such provincial registrars and district registrars respectively : And whereas since the said 29th day of August, 1868, divers government agents and assistant government agents and office assistants to government agents have acted as provincial registrars and district registrars respectively of marriages, births, and deaths, without having been formally appointed such provincial registrars and district registrars respectively, and doubts have been entertained as to the legal validity of the acts performed by such government agents, assistant government agents, and office assistants to government agents as such provincial and district registrars respectively, and it is expedient to remove all such doubts and for the future to vest in all government agents the powers, duties, and functions of provincial registrars of marriages, births, and deaths, and in all assistant government agents and office assistants to government agents the powers, duties, and functions of district registrars of marriages, births, and deaths : It is hereby enacted by the Governor of Ceylon, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows :

Short title.

1 This Ordinance may be cited for all purposes as "The Marriages, Births, and Deaths Registration Amendment Ordinance, 1877."

Interpretation clause.

2 The terms "government agent," "assistant government agent," and "office assistant" shall respectively include persons lawfully holding acting appointments as such government agent, assistant government agent, or office assistant respectively.

Government agents to be deemed to have been duly appointed provincial registrars of marriages, births, and deaths.

3 Every person who shall have heretofore held or who now holds the office of government agent of any province shall be deemed to have been at the time of his appointment to such office of government agent duly appointed provincial registrar of marriages and provincial registrar of births and deaths for the province of which he was or is such government agent, for all the purposes of the said Ordinances No. 6 of 1847, No. 13 of 1863, No. 8 of 1865, and No. 18 of 1867, and each and every of them to hold the said office of provincial registrar so long as he should hold the said office of government agent ; and all acts, matters, and things heretofore done or performed or purporting to be

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done or performed, or which may hereafter be done or performed, during his agency by any such government agent as provincial registrar of marriages or as provincial registrar of births and deaths, shall, for all the purposes of the aforesaid Ordinances and each and every of them, be as valid and effectual as if such government agent had, at the time of his appointment as such, been duly appointed such provincial registrar as aforesaid.

4 Every person who shall have heretofore held or who now holds the office of assistant government agent or of office assistant to any government agent shall be deemed to have been at the time of his appointment to such office of assistant government agent or office assistant duly appointed district registrar of marriages and district registrar of births and deaths for the district for or in respect of which he was or is such assistant government agent or office assistant as aforesaid ; and all acts, matters, and things heretofore done or performed, or purporting to be done or performed, or which may hereafter be done or performed during his office of assistant government agent or office assistant by any such assistant government agent or office assistant as district registrar of marriages or district registrar of births and deaths, shall be deemed for all the purposes of the Ordinances mentioned in the preceding section and each and every of them as valid and effectual as if such assistant government agent or office assistant had, at the time of his appointment as such, been duly appointed such district registrar as aforesaid.

Assistant government agents and office assistants deemed to have been appointed district registrars.

5 Provided always that no validity shall be given by the 3rd or 4th section of this Ordinance to any marriage that may have heretofore been declared invalid by a competent court, or where the parties or either of them have or has heretofore contracted a subsequent valid marriage.

Subsequent valid marriages not affected by this Ordinance.

6 Every person who shall hereafter be appointed a government agent shall become at the same time provincial registrar of marriages and provincial registrar of births and deaths for the province of which he shall be appointed such government agent, for all the purposes of the aforesaid Ordinances mentioned in the 3rd section and of each and every of them ; and shall continue to hold such office of provincial registrar during the time that he shall hold such office of government agent.

Future government agents to be provincial registrars.

7 Every person hereafter appointed an assistant government agent or office assistant to a government agent shall become at the same time district registrar of marriages and district registrar of births and deaths for the district of or in respect of which he shall be appointed assistant government agent or office assistant, for all the purposes of the aforesaid Ordinances mentioned in the 3rd section and of each and every of them, and shall continue to hold such office of district registrar during the time that he shall hold such office of assistant government agent or office assistant.

Future assistant agents and office assistants to be district registrars.

28th November, 1877.