**Law No. (7) of 2019**

**Regulating the Registration of Births and Deaths**

**We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.**

Having reviewed the Constitution,

The Bahraini Nationality Law of 1963, as amended,

Legislative Decree No. (6) of 1970 Regulating the Registration of Births and Deaths, as amended,

The Civil and Commercial Procedures Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (12) of 1971, as amended,

Law No. (11) of 1975 with respect to Passports, as amended,

The Penal Code promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (15) of 1976, as amended,

Legislative Decree No. (9) of 1984 with respect to the Central Population Registry, as amended by Law No. (45) of 2006,

Legislative Decree No. (22) of 2000 with respect to Family Custody,

Legislative Decree No. (26) of 2000 with respect to Regulating Procedures for Lawsuits for the Acquisition of Names and Titles, as amended,

Civil Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (19) of 2001,

Law No. (46) of 2006 with respect to Identity Cards,

Law No. (37) of 2012 Promulgating Child Law,

Law No. (16) of 2014 with respect to the Protection of State Information and Documents,

Law No. (18) of 2014 promulgating the Reform and Rehabilitation Institution Law,

Law No. (60) of 2014 with respect to Cybercrimes,

Legislative Decree No. (21) of 2015 with respect to Private Health Institutions,

Law No. (19) of 2017 promulgating Family Law,

Law No. (2) of 2017 ratifying the Arab Convention to Combat Cybercrimes,

The Public Health Law promulgated by Law No. (34) of 2018,

And the Law on Electronic Communications and Transactions promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (54) of 2018,

The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives approved the following Law, which we have ratified and enacted:

**Chapter One**

**Definitions and General Provisions**

**Article (1)**

For the purposes of implementing this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings set out hereunder, unless the context otherwise requires:

**Kingdom:** The Kingdom of Bahrain.

**Authority:** The Information and E-Government Authority, or any other body entrusted with the competence to regulate the registration of births and deaths.

**Minister:** The minister concerned with the affairs of the Authority or any other minister appointed by a decree.

**Chairman:** The Chief Executive Officer of the Authority.

**Registry:** The electronic or paper-based document for the purpose of registering births or deaths.

**Competent Employee:** The employee of the Authority, the consulate, the embassy, ​​or the diplomatic representation office responsible recording the reporting of births and deaths and the registration thereof.

**Coroner:**  The doctor who reports to the Public Prosecution and is assigned to determine the cause of death and indicate whether it was of a criminal nature.

**Attending Physician:** a physician who holds a medical degree from a recognized university, and a license to practice the profession from the National Health Regulatory Authority.

**Live Birth:** A newborn who shows signs of life after his or her birth, regardless of the duration of the pregnancy.

**Still Birth:** The newborn who does not show signs of life after his or her birth.

**Newborn of Unknown Parents:** A newborn whose parents are unknown when found.

**Newborn of Unknown Father:** A newborn whose father is unknown when found.

**Death:** the permanent cessation of all vital functions after any period of life.

**Notification:** The evidentiary document of the incident of birth or death drawn up by the Attending Physician, Coroner, or midwife, as the case may be.

**Person:** A natural or legal person.

**Legally Responsible Person:** includes the Attending Physician, obstetrician, midwife, hospital, and health center in which the birth occurred. In the case of the Newborn of Unknown Parents, any official body authorized by law to receive and register the newborn, or any other person appointed by a decision of the Minister.

**Article (2)**

The provisions of this Law shall apply to births and deaths which occur within the Kingdom, and to Bahraini citizens if they are abroad.

**Article (3)**

The Registry shall be used as a comprehensive reference for registering births and deaths in accordance with the provisions stipulated for in this Law.

**Article (4)**

The Authority is specialized in the following:

1. Receiving and collecting reports and notifications of births and deaths that occur within the Kingdom, and those which occur abroad through embassies, consulates and representative offices of the Kingdom, or any other competent official body.
2. Recording the incidents of birth and death and issuing their respective certificates.
3. Keeping registries, notifications and all documents, data and information related to them, which are stipulated for in this Law or any other law.
4. Reissuance of any document or statement created or preserved under the provisions of this Law.
5. Coordination and cooperation with all public and private bodies in order to provide data and information necessary to perform its work.

**Chapter Two**

**Procedures for Reporting and Registering Births**

**Article (5)**

Live or Still Birth shall be reported to the Authority during the specified period by means of notification of birth or death issued by the Legally Responsible Person in accordance with the procedures specified by the implementing regulation, and the reporter shall be fully competent.

The Competent Employee shall register the Live or Still Birth in the births or deaths Registry after confirming the validity of the birth or death occurrence in accordance with the procedures issued by a decision of the Minister.

**Article (6)**

The Legally Responsible Person is obligated to report newborns of unknown father or unknown parents.

Newborns of unknown father or unknown parents shall be given an assumed name, shall be Muslim, and it shall not be permissible to change their name and lineage or religion except by a final court judgement.

**Article (7)**

Those assigned with reporting the birth are:

1. One of the parents of the newborn.
2. A relative of the newborn, up to the second degree, who attended the birth.
3. The Legally Responsible Person.

The responsibility of those charged with reporting are in the order stated above, and such responsibility is negated if one of them notifies. Reporting without capacity shall not be accepted.

The reporting shall include the data of the newborn, such as the first, second, third and fourth name, gender, family name - if any - and his mother's first, second and third name, and any other information stipulated for in the implementing regulation.

**Article (8)**

The reporting of birth which occur inside the Kingdom shall be within fifteen days from the date of birth, and within sixty days of the same date for those which occur abroad.

**Article (9)**

Subject to the provisions of Article (6) of this Law, a birth certificate shall be issued to the newborn whose parents are known, provided that the period of pregnancy is not less than six lunar months from the date of the conclusion of the marriage contract. If the period of pregnancy is less than the mentioned period, or if the newborn is of unknown parents or either of those, the registration of the newborn shall not be accepted, and a birth certificate shall not be issued except after proof of lineage and the issuance of a final court judgement.

**Chapter Three**

**Procedures for Reporting and Registering Deaths**

**Article (10)**

Upon the occurrence of a death inside the Kingdom, the legally mandated person shall notify the Attending Physician to sign the medical examination of the deceased, and if it is proven to the Attending Physician that the death is due to natural causes, the Attending Physician shall issue a notification thereof and deliver it to the legally mandated person to hand it over to the Competent Employee to register the deceased in the death registry.

In the event that the Attending Physician suspects that the death may be abnormal, the Attending Physician shall inform the competent judicial body to appoint a competent Coroner to prepare a technical report specifying the cause of death. The competent judicial body shall notify the Competent Employee to register the deceased, provided that a copy of the Coroner's report is attached to the notification.

In the event of a death of a Bahraini citizen abroad, the Competent Employee shall notify the Authority with a notification and a death certificate which shall be ratified by the embassy, ​​consulate or the competent diplomatic representation office.

**Article (11)**

Any of the following shall be assigned to report on death:

1. One of the deceased’s ascendants, adult descendants, spouses or relatives up to the third degree who attended the death.
2. An adult who lives with the deceased in the same residence even if such adult is not a relative.
3. The Attending Physician or the Coroner who performed the examination on the deceased.
4. The owner or manager of the place if the death occurred in a hotel, hospital, school, workplace, or any other place.
5. Manager of the Reform and Rehabilitation Institution, if the death was inside one of the institution’s centers, and the place shall not be mentioned in the death certificate.
6. The Competent Employee if such employee becomes aware of the death which occurs abroad.

The responsibility of those mandated with reporting the death shall be a direct responsibility in the order stated above. This responsibility is negated if one of them notifies.

**Article (12)**

Reporting of the death which occurs inside the Kingdom shall be within seventy-two hours from the date of death, and the period shall be sixty days from the date of death if it occurred abroad.

**Article (13)**

If the body of an unknown person is found, its reporting and registration in the death registry shall be in accordance with the procedures specified by the implementing regulation.

**Article (14)**

In the event that the person mandated with reporting the birth or death has an excuse that prevented such person from reporting during the dates set out in this Law, the person mandated with reporting shall submit a request to such an effect to the Chairman within a period not exceeding thirty days from the expiry date of the aforementioned period, indicating such excuse and attaching evidence of payment of the assigned fee.

The Chairman or whomever he delegates shall decide upon the request within fifteen days from the date of its submission, and in the event of rejection of such request, the rejection shall be reasoned. The lapse of thirty days from the date of submitting the request without a decision being issued on it, shall be considered as an implicit rejection of it.

In the event that the request is rejected explicitly or implicitly, the newborn or the deceased shall not be registered except after the issuance of a final court judgement.

**Article (15)**

In the event of a natural death, it is not permissible to bury the corpse without the permission of the Attending Physician, and if there is any suspicion indicating that the death is of a criminal nature, or circumstances calling for that, the burial shall not be authorized except after reporting to the competent judicial body and obtaining a permit from it for burial after the Coroner submits his report. The official in charge of the cemetery shall not allow any burial of any corpse except after receiving the burial permit.

**Chapter Four**

**Authentication and Confidential Data**

**and Issuance of Birth and Death Certificates**

**Article (16)**

The Chairman or whomever he delegates shall when any person submits documents, data or information, or upon his request to obtain any of them, in accordance with the provisions of this Law, ensure the correctness, accuracy and integrity of such documents by all available means. In the event of any suspicion of its invalidity, the Chairman shall inform the Public Prosecution to take the necessary action in this regard.

**Article (17)**

Without prejudice to the provisions of laws related to the confidentiality of information and data, all data recorded in the registry are considered confidential, and they may not be used, published or circulated except to the extent required to perform judicial procedures, or for the purposes of enabling any official body to carry out its work in accordance with the laws, regulations and decisions regulating it.

**Article (18)**

Registries that are created or preserved in accordance with the provisions of this Law, as well as certificates and copies extracted in accordance with the regulations and decisions issued in implementation of its provisions, are considered the only official documents to prove the data they contain.

It is not permissible to change any of the Registry data except by virtue of a final court judgement.

**Article (19)**

Everyone with capacity has the right to obtain a birth or death certificate related to the person born or deceased, their ascendants, descendants or spouses, as provided for in the implementing regulation.

**Chapter Five**

**Fees**

**Article (20)**

The Minister - after the approval of the Council of Ministers - shall issue a decision determining the fees that the Authority collects in return for issuing certificates and copies obtained in accordance with the regulations and decisions issued in implementation of the provisions of this Law, as well as statements and data regarding births and deaths and the delay in reporting them with an excuse. The applicable fees shall continue to be enforced until a decision of the Minister is issued determining the new fees in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**Chapter Six**

**Penalties**

**Article (21)**

Without prejudice to any more severe penalty stipulated for in the Penal Code or any other law, a penalty of imprisonment and a fine not exceeding five hundred dinars, or either of these two penalties, shall be imposed on whomever commits any of the following acts:

1. Maliciously informed of a newborn or a deceased, and as a result of that, the newborn or the deceased were registered more than once in the Registry.
2. Intentionally provided incorrect data or resorted to fraudulent or illegal means to register a newborn or a deceased in the Registry.

The court shall pass a judgement to write off the registration that proves to be incorrect

1. Failure to report when legally mandated to do so, refuse to provide the data required by this Law, or refuse to attend to provide the information required.
2. Made a change to the data contained in the Registry without a final court judgement.
3. Deliberately damaged or caused the destruction or loss of the registries, and all related documents preserved in accordance with the provisions of this Law.
4. Violated the provisions of Article (15) of this Law.

**Chapter Seven**

**Final and Executive Provisions**

**Article (22)**

Legislative Decree No. (6) of 1970 Regulating the Registration of Births and Deaths shall be repealed along with any text that contradicts the provisions of this Law.

**Article (23)**

The Prime Minister shall issue the implementing regulation for this Law within three months from the date of its enforcement.

**Article (24)**

The Prime Minister and the ministers - each within his jurisdiction - shall implement this Law, and it shall come into force on the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**King of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

Issued in Riffa Palace:

On: 14 Ramadan 1440 AH

Corresponding to: 19 May, 2019 AD