

THE CIVIL REGISTRY LAW OF 2002

LAW WHICH ABOLISHES THE LAWS REGULATING ISSUES RELATING TO REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS, REGISTRATION OF RESIDENTS, VOTER REGISTRATION AND PREPARATION OF THE ELECTORAL REGISTER, REGISTRATION OF THE CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC AND ALSO INTRODUCES SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS/TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND REFUGEE IDENTITY CARDS FOR REFUGEES

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CHAPTER I
Introductory Provisions

Short Title **1.** This Law shall be cited as the Civil Registry Law of 2002 to 2011.

Definitions **2.—(1)** In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires—

“foreigner” means a person who is not a citizen of the Republic;

“minor” means a person who has not reached the age of eighteen years on his birthday;

“deceased person” ...

“registration number” means the letters and numbers with which the volume of the civil register and the serial number of the registration is recognized in the register;

“competent informant”, in relation to birth, means any person designated as competent, in accordance with Section 9 of this Law and, in relation to death, means any person designated as competent in accordance with Section 21 of this Law;

“civil registry” means the Registry where the personal data of all residents of Cyprus shall be collected and maintained;

“registration authority” means the Civil Registry and Migration Department and the Department or Departments of the District Administration Offices which are responsible for the registration of births and deaths, the issuance of identity cards and refugee identity cards;

“police officer” means any member of the Police Force of Cyprus

“General Registry” means the office of the Registrar General for Births and Deaths including the office of the Registration Officer;

“Registrar General” means the Registrar General for Births and Deaths, including Deputy Registrar General and Registrar, who are appointed as provided in Section 3 of this Law;

“birth” means the birth of a living or a stillbirth;

“birth of a living” means the birth of a child who breathed after the full ejection or the detachment from its mother;

“birth of a child” means the full ejection or detachment of a child from its mother;

“identity card” means the identity card issued in accordance with the provisions of Section 63 or considered to have been issued in such a way according to the provisions of subsection (5) of Section 84 of this Law;

“public hospital” means any hospital, sanatorium or rural health centre functioning under the administration of the Department of Medical and Public Health Services;

“passport” means the official document of the Republic of Cyprus giving to its owner the right to travel outside Cyprus;

“disposal” ...

“conduct of burial” ...

“Director” means the Director of the Department;

“Court” means the competent District or Family Court;

“court” means the District Court;

“registration” means the entry of a birth or death in the register, including the entry of a voter in the electoral list;

“foundling” means every newborn of unknown parents;

“voter” ...

“voting booklet”...

“electoral register” ...

“displaced person” means any person who holds a valid refugee identity card;

“Greek voter” ...

“birth registration form” means the form by which the Registrar is provided with details concerning the birth, in accordance with Section 8 of this Law;

“death registration form” ...

“District” means any one of the six Administrative Districts of Cyprus;

“District of Entry of Births and Deaths” ...

“Prefect” means the Prefect of the relevant District;

“index” means the book or tab or a magnetic medium in the form of a computer or any other form aiming at the rapid search of any entry in the register;

“coroner” ...

“stillbirth” means a birth of a child after the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy or of a child weighing 500 grams, that did not breathe after the full ejection or detachment from its mother;

“doctor” means a registered doctor in accordance with the Doctors Registration Law;

“private hospital” means a hospital registered in accordance with Private Hospitals (Control) Law;

“Institution” means any public or private hospital, prison or any other public or other charitable institution, as they may be decided by the Registrar General and prescribed by Regulations;

“prescribed” means determined by Regulations issued in accordance with this Law;

“entry” means the complete or partial entry of the registration of a birth or death in the register;

“enter” means to enter in the register in writing, electronically or in a typed document, a photocopy or by any other means;

“owner of Institution” means the person who is responsible for the administration of the Institution;

“residence owner” ...

“Central Electoral Service” ...

“cemetery” ...

“Government” means the Government of the Republic of Cyprus;

“Cypriot” means a citizen of the Republic of Cyprus, including a person whose parent or parents are of Cypriot origin;

“Cyprus” means for the purposes of this Law, the territory of the Republic of Cyprus including the territory of the British Military Bases;

“Registry” means the office of the Registrar for birth and deaths of the District;

“registrar” means the Prefect or his authorised representative considered as the Registrar of births and deaths in his District;

“midwife” means a person, including a doctor, who exercises obstetrics pursuant to the Nursing and Obstetrics Law;

“identity card register” means any register which is established and maintained in accordance with the provisions of Section 59 of this Law;

“house” ...

“Annex D” means Annex D’ of the Treaty of Establishment of the Republic of Cyprus;

“birth certificate” means the birth certificate determined by Article 49 of this Law;

“certificate of displaced person by virtue of origin” means a certificate issued, in accordance with Section 121A, to persons whose father or mother are displaced persons;

“death certificate” means the death certificate determined by Article 49 of this Law;

“naturalized person” means a person who acquired citizenship of the Republic in accordance with the provisions of this Law;

“body” ...

“foreign country” means any other country apart the Republic of Cyprus;

“family member” ...

“travel document” ...

“burial” ...

“Department” means the Civil Registry and Migration Department;

“Minister” means the Minister of Interior.

(2) Subject to the provisions of Section 18, any reference to a child in this Law shall be interpreted as a reference to a legal child and the terms “parent”, “ascendant” and “descendant” shall be interpreted accordingly.

(3)(a) The birth of a child in a ship or aircraft which are approaching Cyprus shall be entered in any District, but the child shall be considered to have been born in the District where the ship disembarked or the aircraft landed.

(b) Child born to foreign nationals is entered in the same way as mentioned above.

(4) For the purposes of Chapter VII of this Law, adult is considered the person who has reached the age of eighteen years on his birthday, and with full (legal) capacity, if he does not suffer from a mental disorder of such type and degree that makes him unable to personally administer his affairs.

CHAPTER II
PART II
Entry of Births

Birth registration **8.**—(1) All births in Cyprus shall be registered in a final entry in the register of births by the Registrar of the District, where the birth took place or in any other District, whose Registrar/Prefect acts on behalf of the Registrar/Prefect of the District where the birth took place so that the final entry is made in the birth register of the district. All required details shall be provided to the Registrar within fifteen days from the day of birth by the submission of a birth registration form, which shall include details relating to the child and its parents, the name, address and signature of the competent informant, and a doctor's or midwife's certification.

2 of 92(1) of 2009. (2) Parents are entitled to give a name to their child, which shall not exceed three names, but, as the child's surname, which shall be common for all of the parents' children, shall be registered the family's surname or that of the father or the mother, or a combination of the surnames of both parents, but under no circumstances shall be more than two, except for special circumstances, whereby the number of characters shall not exceed 35.

(3) The child shall be known as the child born and registered with the full name of this first entry in the Registry. This entry shall be binding for every public/semi-public service.

(4)(a) For the purposes of this part 'origin' means the place of origin.

(b) The child's origin may be—

(i) The place of habitual residence of the parents at the time of its birth;

(ii) the father's or mother's place of origin.

(c) The entry of the child's origin, which shall be common for all the children of the family, shall be made at the time of the birth registration by a common declaration of both parents, before the Registrar, stipulating the child's birthplace. In case of dispute or otherwise the child shall decide for itself the place of origin upon reaching adulthood.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, the transliteration, in any official document, of the name or surname of a citizen of the Republic in the Latin alphabet, other than the official languages, shall be invalid without the prior consent of the citizen or of his parents when a minor is concerned.

Competent informant **9.** In relation to births, competent informant for providing the necessary information relating to the child and its parents shall be—

- (a) the child's mother;
- (b) the child's father;
- (c) every person present during labour;
- (d) every person who is responsible for the child;
- (e) the doctor or midwife, or the owner or the manager of the Institution or residence where the child was born.

Competent person for providing information **10.** Every competent informant shall provide, if requested, to their best knowledge and belief, the Manager of the Institution where the child was born or the doctor or midwife who carried out the birth of the child or the District Registrar, with the necessary information relating to the child and its parents, and sign the birth registration form.

Birth in an Institution **11.** For every birth carried out in the Institution, its owner or manager shall complete and document in the birth registration form the information and details relating to the child and its parents, the name, the address, and, after being signed by the competent informant and certified by the doctor or midwife, shall send the form to the Registrar within fifteen working days from the day of birth. A copy of the said form shall be given to the child's parents.

Birth outside an Institution **12.** For every birth carried out in a residence or anywhere outside an Institution, the doctor or midwife who carried out the birth shall complete the birth registration form with the information relating to the child and its parents, the name, the address and, after being signed by the competent informant and certified by the doctor or midwife, the form shall be sent to the Registrar within fifteen working days from the day of birth. In case of absence of a doctor or midwife, the birth registration form shall be completed and signed by the child's parents or any other authorized person who happened to be present during labour.

Issuance of birth certificate **13.** When the Registrar has received the necessary information by the competent informant for the entry of the birth, he shall issue a birth certificate, after the payment of the prescribed fee, provided he is convinced that the facts are correct, and he shall inform the authorized person about the receipt of the certificate and the newborn's personal number. The personal number is listed in the issued birth certificate:

Provided that, if the Registrar is aware that the child has died, or it was a still birth, no personal number shall be provided.

Provided further that, in case of an embryo of 28 weeks old or younger, the birth certificate shall be provided, even if the child subsequently dies.

Registrar's duty to call the informant **14.** The Registrar may use any means available in order to be informed for the births taking place in his District and to ensure that the details concerning these births are sent to the Registry for entry in the register. At any time after the expiration of the prescribed deadline the Registrar may, even if the information relating to the birth has not been sent, request in writing the competent informant to provide the necessary information within fifteen days after the receipt of the request for the entry of birth.

Maintenance of birth records in every Institution **15.** The owner of an Institution where births take place shall maintain records of the births and each doctor or midwife who carries out births outside Institutions shall be responsible for maintaining records of these births. These records shall include the details specified in Section 9 of this Law and which shall be given to the Registrar when he conducts an investigation and inspection of these data.

Entry of Births **16. - (1)** At any time before the lapse of three months from the date of birth, the birth may be registered by the Registrar at the same time he receives the information by the competent informant, the certificate of the doctor or midwife who carried out the birth and the fee, as prescribed by Regulations.

(2) After the lapse of three months from the day of birth, the birth is registered only with the Registrar's consent, further to taking such a testimony that the Registrar requires and further to payment of the fee, which shall be five times more than that mentioned in subsection (1) of this section. It is noted that all birth registrations, after the lapse of three months from the day of birth, shall be accompanied by a summary report of the testimony upon which the Registrar's consent was based.

Entry of birth of child born out of wedlock **17.** Where a child born out of wedlock and its father is identity, the father's name as well as all other details concerning him, shall not be entered in the register and the child's surname shall be the maiden surname:

Provided that this shall not be valid where the child's parents were married but the marriage dissolved within the last ten months prior to the birth:

Provided further that details relating to the father shall be entered at any time after the registration of birth, if a written consent of both parents, as provided in the Parent-Child Relations Law or in a Judicial Order determining the child's paternity, is submitted to the Registry.

*216 of 1990
60(I) of 1995
95(I) of 1995
30(I) of 1997
21(I) of 1998*

Entry of data of foundling **18.** Any person who finds and undertakes responsibility of a foundling shall, before the lapse of seven days since its finding, make it known to the Registrar of the District where the baby was found and the Registrar shall make the necessary entry, subject to the manner the General Registrar determines. The registration conducted in accordance with this section shall be annulled if at any later time the identity of the foundling is ascertained and if the entry of the real facts has been or can be done.

Birth of a child in a ship or an aircraft **19.**—(1) The birth of a child carried out in a ship or aircraft which was legally in the territorial waters or the airspace of Cyprus shall be entered in any District, but the child shall be considered to be born in the District in which the ship disembarked or the aircraft landed.

(2) The birth of a child to third-country national parents shall be entered in the registers of the relevant District, as that is described above.

PART IV *Births and Deaths Registry*

Births and Deaths Registry **35.** The Registrar General shall maintain a General Registry of births and deaths entered in all Districts, and the Registrar shall maintain a special Registry of all birth and deaths entered in each District separately:

Provided that the Registrar General may, with the Minister’s consent, not seek the maintenance of a Special Registry in any District for certain categories of documents, in accordance with specific criteria prescribed by Regulations.

Documents maintained in the Registry **36.** The documents maintained in the Registry must be the original births and deaths registration forms or copies of the originals made as prescribed in Section 39 of this Law.

Method of Registry maintenance **37.** The method of entry of births and deaths as well as the method of their maintenance shall be determined by the Registrar General, in accordance with the Regulations to be prescribed for that purpose.

District Births and Deaths Registries **38.** Registries containing any entries made in accordance with the Births and Registrations Laws shall be considered to be District Registries for the purposes of this Law. Registries maintained by the presidents of community councils/ the community leader relating to their duties in accordance with these Laws, shall be handed over to the Registrar for safekeeping at a time determined by the Registrar General.

Copies of original documents **39.** The Registrar General shall ensure the creation or protection of the General and/or District Registries; he may however make copies of the original entries by an appropriate computer print-out, photocopies or other means. Certificates of the authenticity of the afore-mentioned copies shall be made for each copy included in the General or District Registries. Copies that are certified in accordance with this section shall be considered as original entries for the purposes of this Law.

Amendment of Registry **40.**—(1) For the purposes of this section, “amendment” includes the correction of errors, addition, a new name or change of name, or the change of name and sex simultaneously, and annulment of any registration. No amendment may be made in the Registry maintained by the Registrar General, unless it is made in accordance with specific criteria determined by Regulations.

(2) Amendments made in the General Registry shall also be made in the corresponding District Registry and vice versa.

(3) No error shall be deleted from a handwritten or print of a registration form in the Registry and no addition or correction may cover or destroy the first registration in the Registry.

(4) The amendments shall be certified by any means decided by the Registrar, as prescribed by Regulations. The date of authentication shall be entered in the Registry.

Correction of errors **41.** The Registrar General may, if he deems necessary and based on a testimony- of the person concerned- he considers satisfactory, correct clerical errors or any other error relating to the real facts of any registration in the Archive of the Registry.

Addition of data in the Registry **42.** The Registrar may, if he deems necessary and based on a testimony - of the person concerned- he considers satisfactory, add additional data in a registration in the District Registry.

For the purposes of this Section, “additional data” includes—

- (a) Additional details concerning a foundling or deserted baby;
- (b) details concerning the father of the baby not entered initially according to Section 17;
- (c) the date of a subsequent marriage of the father with the child’s mother;
- (d) findings of inquests or autopsies conducted in accordance with the Death Investigators Law;
- (e) any of the details which were determined and which were not provided at the time of entry of the birth or death;
- (f) Court decisions relating to issues of this Law.

4 of 65(1) of 2003 Name or change of name **43.—** (1) Upon written request of the person concerned and based on testimony that may be considered satisfactory and the payment of the specific fee prescribed by Regulations, the Registrar may —

- (a) Ensure the registration of first name and/or last name of the child, where at the time of entry these were not given;
- (b) ensure the entry of the additional first name or surname, provided that the total number of first names shall not be more than three and the total number of surnames shall not be more than two;
- (c) ensure the registration of change of first name or surname, provided that the total number of first names shall not be more than three and the total number of surnames shall not be more than two, including the initial first and surname, respectively.

(2) In any of the cases above the applicant shall pay a fee of £30.

Annulment of birth or death registration **44.** In cases where the birth or death has been entered and the Registrar is satisfied, based on a relevant testimony saying that the entry should be annulled, he may annul the registration in the Registry, with whichever means he determines.

Re-entry of adopted child in the register **45.**—(1) Upon receipt of a judicial notification that a decree was issued for the adoption of a person whose birth was entered in the register, the Registrar of the District where the birth was entered shall re-enter the birth in the District Birth Registry. During re-entry, the only details submitted shall relate to the adopters as well as the name, sex, date of birth and District of Birth of the person adopted; however no other detail submitted during the initial entry. The re-entry must include a reference to the relevant adoption decree.

(2) The Registrar ensures that the initial entry is marked with a special stamp, so that no certified copies are issued for that entry.

Index creation **46.**—(1) The Registrar General ensures the creation of indexes, including electronic ones, of the documents of births and deaths entered in the register in accordance with this Law, and their safekeeping in the General Registry.

(2) Indexes of births and deaths which have been entered in the District in accordance with this Law and indexes of births and deaths entered before the entry into force of this Law are prepared in the manner approved by the Registrar General.

PART VI

Births and Deaths outside Cyprus

Entry of births which occurred outside Cyprus **56.** The Registrar General shall maintain a special register, wherein the details of births which have occurred outside Cyprus shall be entered. This special register shall maintain the details for—

(a) Every child whose father or mother was a citizen of the Republic of Cyprus at the time of its birth, or if he or she was not alive at the time of its birth, its parent was, at the time of his or her death, a citizen of the Republic of Cyprus

(b) each child born out of wedlock, whose mother was a citizen of the Republic of Cyprus at the time of its birth.

Entry of death which occurred outside Cyprus **57.**—(1) The Registrar General shall maintain a special register, wherein all the details of deaths which have occurred outside Cyprus shall be entered, for all persons who, at the time of their death, were citizens of the Republic of Cyprus.

(2) Certified copies of the registrations of all births and deaths of citizens of the Republic of Cyprus which occur outside Cyprus and are entered, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of this Law, by civil servants of the Republic or civil servants of any other country, which has undertaken the representation of the Republic's interests, shall be sent to the Registrar General and shall be entered in the special Registries in accordance with this section.

Registration of citizen born outside Cyprus **58.** Subject to the provisions of subsection (5) of Section 84, the following persons, who reside in the Republic and who were born outside Cyprus, shall be registered in accordance with the manner prescribed in the this Law:

- (a) Citizens of the Republic;
- (b) persons whose father or mother is of Cypriot origin;
- (c) foreign nationals who reside legally in Cyprus, permanently or temporarily.

CHAPTER III

PART I

Citizens Register; Identity Card Register

Citizens' register **59.**—(1) The Registrar General ensures the preservation of a register or registers, as prescribed by Regulations, for all the citizens of the Republic registered in accordance with this Law, in which the following details shall be entered for each person:

- (a) Registration number;
- (b) full name;
- (c) father's full name;
- (d) mother's full name;
- (e) sex;
- (f) nationality;
- (g) place of birth;
- (h) date of birth;
- (i) parents' origin.

(2) Any civil servant duly authorised by the Registrar for this purpose may inspect any such register, while performing official duties.

Registration of citizens of the Republic **60.**—(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (5) of Section 84, the following persons in the Republic shall be registered in accordance with the manner prescribed in this Law:

- (a) "Citizens of the Republic". Citizens of the Republic of Cyprus are these persons who acquired or are entitled to acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Cyprus at the time of entry into force of this Law;

- (b) persons whose father or mother are of Cypriot origin, as prescribed in this Law;
- (c) foreign nationals who reside legally in Cyprus, permanently or temporarily.

(2) The persons mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) above, may be registered in accordance with the manner prescribed in this Law, regardless of the fact that they do not reside in the Republic.

Duty to acquire an identity card

61.—(1) Every person who becomes 12 years of age shall present themselves before a registration authority within three months, or any other timeframe, as may be prescribed by Regulations in the case of any other specific person or category of persons, from the entry into force of this Law or at the date which it constitutes necessary to register, whichever of the two is later, for the purposes of registration, according to the provisions of this Law. Each person who presents themselves in the above way shall—

(a) provide the registration authority with a photograph of himself, which shall be 4x5 cm. or have the dimensions of an identity card or passport photograph, which satisfies the registration authority, or make the necessary arrangements to take a picture, in accordance with the instructions of the registration authority;

(b) provide to the registration authority all the details determined in subsection (1) of Section 59 of this Law

(2) Any person not registered who, while is subject to registration in accordance with this Law, enters the Republic after the entry into force of this Law, shall present themselves in the closest registration authority and shall be registered in the manner prescribed in subsection (1) of this Section, within a timeframe to set by Regulations.

Power of registration authority to request proof for information

62. The registration authority may ask any person, who has provided any information in accordance with this Law or regulations issued in accordance with this Law, to present such written or any other type of testimony attesting to the truth of the information that person has the power to present.

CHAPTER VII

PART I

Acquisition of citizenship of the Republic

Citizen of the Republic

108. Citizens of the Republic are persons who at the date of entry into force of this Law had acquired or were entitled to acquire the citizenship of the Republic or who after the said date acquire citizenship according to the provisions of this Law or according to Annex D' of the Treaty Of Establishment of the Republic of Cyprus.

Citizenship pursuant to birth or origin

109.—(1) Any person born in Cyprus on or after 16 August 1960 is a citizen of the Republic, if at the time of his birth either of his parents was a citizen of the

Republic, or if his parents were not alive at the time of his birth, either of them would have been entitled to become a citizen of the Republic had he or she not passed away:

Provided that the provisions of this subsection do not apply in cases whereby the entrance or stay in the Republic of either parent of that person was illegal, unless the Council of Ministers decides otherwise.

(2) Any person born in any foreign country on or after 16 August 1960 is a citizen of the Republic, if at the time of his birth either of his parents was a citizen of the Republic or if his parents were not alive at the time of his birth, either of them would have been entitled had he or she not passed away, to become a citizen of the Republic pursuant to the provisions of this Law or according to Annex D' of the Treaty Of Establishment of the Republic of Cyprus:

Provided that the provisions of this subsection do not apply in the case of a person who is a permanent resident abroad, unless his birth is registered in the prescribed manner.

(3) The provisions of subsections (1) and (2) do not apply in the case of a person born in Cyprus or in any other foreign country between 16 August 1960 and 11 June 1999, if that person would have acquired the citizenship of the Republic because, at the time of his birth, his mother was, or was entitled to acquire the citizenship of the Republic:

Provided that, if the said person is an adult of full capacity, and has applied to the Minister, in the prescribed manner, to register as a citizen of the Republic, shall be registered and shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic:

Provided further that, if that person is a minor, the application for acquisition of citizenship may be submitted by his father or mother:

Provided further that the provisions of this subsection do not apply in cases whereby the entrance or stay in the Republic of either parent of that person was illegal, unless the Council of Ministers decides otherwise.

(4) Any person who was born on or after 16 August 1960 and who is a descendant of a person who—

(a) Became a British citizen subject to the Annexation of Cyprus Orders of 1914 until 1943; or

(b) was born in Cyprus between 5 November 1914 and 16 August 1960, during which time his parents were habitually residing in Cyprus, is entitled to make an application, in the prescribed manner, to the Minister to be registered as a citizen of the Republic, provided he is an adult and of full capacity and he has given an official declaration of faith to the Republic, according to the form set forth in Schedule Two.

Schedule Two

Citizenship pursuant to registration **110.**—(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (4), a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies or of a Commonwealth country, who is a person of Cypriot origin, and who is an adult and of full capacity, may be registered as a citizen of the Republic, when he submits the relevant application, in the prescribed manner, to the Minister and when he gives an official declaration of faith to the Republic in the prescribed manner set forth in Schedule Two of this Law, provided that the Minister is satisfied that this person—

(a) Habitually resides in Cyprus and/or resided in Cyprus, for a continuous period of 12 months or for a shorter period of time, which the Minister accepts under special circumstances of any specific case, immediately prior to the date of application, or serves in the Republic’s civil service;

(b) is of good character;

(c) intends to continue to reside in the Republic, or where appropriate, continues to serve in a public service of the Republic.

For the purposes of this subsection—

“Person of Cypriot origin” means a person who was born in Cyprus, when his parents were habitually residing in Cyprus and includes every person who is a descendant of such a person;

“Commonwealth country” means every country, other than the Republic, which on the date of entry into force of this Law is a member of the British Commonwealth, including the Republic of Ireland and any other country declared as a member of the Commonwealth by a Decree of the Ministerial Council for the purposes of this subsection.

Schedule Two (2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (4), the Minister may - provided that the application has been made in the prescribed manner and a declaration of faith to the Republic has been made in the prescribed manner set forth in Schedule Two - arrange the registration as a citizen of the Republic of any person who is an adult and of full capacity, provided that the Minister is satisfied that this person—

(a) Is the spouse or widower or widow of a citizen of the Republic, or was the spouse of a person who, if he or she had not passed away, would have become or would have been entitled to become a citizen of the Republic;

(b) resides in Cyprus with his/her spouse for a period of time not less than three years;

(c) is of good character; and

(d) is willing to continue to reside in the Republic, or where appropriate, continues to serve in a civil service of the Republic or in the education service of the Republic or in the Police Force of the Republic following his registration as a citizen of the Republic:

Provided that the Minister may, taking into consideration the special circumstances of any specific case, arrange the registration pursuant to this subsection, even if the spouse had resided with his/her spouse in Cyprus for less than three years, but not less than two. In the case of persons who permanently or temporarily reside abroad, the residence should not under any circumstances be less than three years:

Provided further that the provisions of this subsection do not apply in cases where the foreign national enters or resides illegally in the Republic.

For the purposes of this subsection, “resides with his/her spouse in Cyprus” means residence of the couple in Cyprus for at least six months each year and, in any case, the overall stay of the couple in Cyprus for the past three years, which immediately precedes the date of application, should not be less than two years.

(3) The Minister may arrange the registration as a citizen of the Republic of a minor child of any citizen of the Republic, following an application made in the prescribed manner by the minor’s parent or guardian.

(4) Any person who renounced his citizenship or who was deprived of it is not entitled to be registered as a citizen of the Republic, according to this section, unless the Minister gives his consent.

(5) Any person who was registered according to this section becomes, as from the date of registration, a citizen pursuant to registration.

*Citizenship
pursuant to
naturalization
Schedule Three*

111. Where an application in the prescribed form and manner is submitted to the Minister by any foreign national, adult of full capacity, and the Minister is satisfied that he fulfills the criteria for naturalization pursuant to the provisions of Schedule Three, the Minister may grant to this person a certificate of naturalization. The person, to whom the certificate of naturalization is granted and upon an official declaration of faith as specified in the form of Schedule Two, becomes a citizen of the Republic pursuant to naturalization, from the date the certificate of naturalization is granted to him:

Schedule Two

Provided that, following a suggestion by the Minister in any specific case or category of cases, the Council of Ministers may reject the application for a certificate of naturalization, unless the applicant renounces the citizenship of any other country he may have.

PART II

Renunciation and deprivation of citizenship

*Renunciation of
citizenship*

112.—(1) If any citizen of the Republic, who is an adult and of full capacity and who also has the nationality of any foreign country, gives a confirmation of renunciation of his Cypriot citizenship in the prescribed manner, the Minister shall ensure that such a confirmation is registered and once such registration is completed that person shall cease to be a citizen of the Republic:

Provided that the Minister may suspend the registration of any such confirmation, if such an act happens during the time of war which the Republic may conduct or when the Minister is of the opinion that such an act is done for the purpose of evading compulsory military service, or for the purpose of avoiding prosecution for an offences punishable by imprisonment, which that person would be subjected to.

(2) For the purposes of this section any woman who is married shall be considered an adult.

Deprivation of citizenship **113.**—(1) Any citizen of the Republic who is a citizen pursuant to registration or a naturalized person, ceases to be a citizen of the Republic if he is deprived of his citizenship by a decree of the Council of Ministers, which is published pursuant to this section.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Council of Ministers may issue a decree depriving such a citizen of his citizenship if it is satisfied that the registration or the certificate of naturalization was acquired through deceit, false pretences or concealment of a material fact.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Council of Ministers may issue a decree depriving any citizen, who is a naturalized person, of his citizenship, if it is satisfied that the citizen—

(a) Has demonstrated in words or in actions lack of loyalty or disgrace to the Republic; or

(b) during any war that is carried out by the Republic he engaged in transactions or came in contact with the enemy, or he engaged in a transaction or any operation which he was aware of that it was being conducted in such a manner that could help the enemy during that war; or

(c) he was sentenced to imprisonment in any country for no less than twelve months, within five years after his naturalisation.

(4) The Council of Ministers may by Order deprive of his citizenship any citizen of the Republic, who is a naturalized person, if it is satisfied that this person was habitually residing in foreign countries for a continuous period of seven years and if during that period he did not—

(a) spend any time in the service of the Republic or any International Organization, which the Republic is a member of; or

(b) inform annually, in the prescribed manner, a Consulate of the Republic of his intention to retain his citizenship.

(5) Pursuant to this Section, the Council of Ministers does not deprive any person of his citizenship unless it is satisfied that it is not conducive to the public interest that this person continues to be a citizen of the Republic.

(6) Before a Decree is issued pursuant to this section, the Council of Ministers shall give the person against whom the decree is issued, written notice informing him of the reason for which the Decree shall be issued. If the Decree is to be issued pursuant to any of the reasons mentioned in subsections (2) and (3) of this Section, the affected person shall be particularly informed about the right to request an investigation, according to this section.

(7) If the Decree is to be issued pursuant to any of the reasons mentioned in subsections (2) and (3) of this section and the affected person requests an investigation, the Council of Ministers may refer the case to the Investigation Committee, appointed by the Council of Ministers specifically for this purpose. The Investigation Committee shall consist of the President, who shall have judicial experience, and a number of members that the Council of Ministers deem necessary.

PART III

Miscellaneous Provisions

114.—(1) A child born out of wedlock and legalized according to the laws relating to personal legal status shall be treated as a legitimate child from the date of legalization or implementation of this Law.

*Legalization of
child born out
of wedlock*

(2) A minor adopted pursuant to the law relating to personal legal status shall be treated as a legitimate child from the date of adoption or implementation of this Law.

(3) An adult adopted by a citizen of the Republic shall not acquire the citizenship of the Republic through adoption. The adopted child may acquire the citizenship of the Republic by naturalization, according to the provisions of Section 111 of this Law.

115. The Council of Ministers may, where it deems it necessary, upon an application of any person for whom there is a doubt - either for an issue relating to facts or to law - as to his status as a citizen of the Republic, certify that this person is a citizen of the Republic; any certificate which is issued in accordance with this Section shall be conclusive proof of his status as a citizen of the Republic, unless it is proved that it was acquired through deceit, false pretences or concealment of any material fact, on the date of the certificate, without any prejudice to any evidence indicating his status as a citizen of the Republic at an earlier date.

*Certificate of
citizenship
status in cases
of doubt*

116.—(1) Any person who aims at causing something to be achieved or not in accordance with the law, gives any statement which is aware of being false as to its material fact, is guilty of an offense and, upon conviction, is subject to imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds or both penalties.

False statement

(2) Any person, who fails to comply with any requirement imposed by Regulations issued pursuant to this Law relating to the return of certificates of naturalization shall be guilty of an offense and, upon conviction, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds.

Regulations and Institutions **117.**—(1) The Council of Ministers may, with Regulations laid down before the House of Representatives for approval and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic, provide for the realization of the goals of this Law in general and more specifically—

- (a) for the determination of any matter that needs to be determined under this Law;
- (b) for the registration of every required or authorized person in accordance with this Law;
- (c) for the provision of an official confirmations of faith in the Republic, in accordance with this Law, for the period of time in which the official certificate may be granted and for the registration of the official confirmation;
- (d) for the service of any notice which is required or is authorised to be given to any person, pursuant to this Law;
- (e) for the annulment of the registration of persons deprived of their citizenship in accordance with this Law and for the cancellation and amendment of the certificates of naturalization which do not concern these persons and for the request of return of such certificates for the above purposes;
- (f) for the registration of births and deaths of persons of any category or class born to or died in a foreign country conducted by consulate officers or other officers in the service of the Republic; or, in the case of a foreign country where the Republic does not maintain at times diplomatic or consulate representatives, conducted by persons who serve in the diplomatic, consulate or any other external service of any country which, in accordance with arrangements made with the Republic, has been vested with the representation of the Republic's interests in that country, or by a person authorized by the Minister for that purpose;
- (g) for the imposition and collection of fees for any application made under this Law or for any registration, or any declaration, or the granting of any certificate or the receipt of any official certificate, made or administered or received after authorization in accordance with this Law, or a valid copy of every notice, certificate, decree, declaration or entry given, granted, issued, or done as mentioned above.

(2) The Supreme Court may, in accordance with the provisions of this Law, establish institutions for the procedure which must be followed for the referrals to the Investigation Committee. These institutions may ensure the granting of any powers and rights or any privileges of any Court to the Investigation Committee and authorize the Committee for the exercise of these powers.

Delayed application for acquisition of citizenship of the Republic

118. If any person, whose acquisition of the citizenship of the Republic pursuant to this Law depends on the execution of any act or the submission of any application, within a timeframe, in which he did not acquire the citizenship due to negligence or omission to execute the necessary act or to submit the necessary application and if that person would have acquired the citizenship had that omission not occurred, immediately prior to the entry

into force of this Law, this person is entitled to become a citizen of the Republic upon the execution of that necessary act or the submission of that necessary application within two years from the date of the entry into force of this Law, as if the deadline set by the provisions of Annex D' had not expired.

CHPATER VIII
PART I
Refugee Identity Cards

119. Displaced shall be considered a person whose—

Displaced persons (a) Permanent residence is situated in the occupied areas and which is deemed inaccessible;

(b) permanent residence is situated in the buffer zone, which is under the control of the Peacekeeping Force or has been evacuated and allocated to the National Guard for its needs:

Provided that the children whose father is a displaced person are considered to have their permanent residence in the occupied areas and, therefore, for the purposes of this Law, shall also considered to be persons displaced from the same place from which their father comes from:

Provided further that persons who prior and up to the invasion had, due to their profession, their habitual residence in the free areas, but their residence and/or their immovable property is located in the occupied areas, shall be considered, for the purposes of this Law, to be displaced persons:

Provided further that the persons who prior and up to the invasion had their habitual residence abroad and provided that they were not immigrants, but their residence and/or immovable property was in the occupied areas, shall be considered, for the purposes of this Law, to be displaced persons.

Use of refugee identity card by non-refugees

120. Any person who uses a refugee identity card, while is not a displaced person, commits a criminal offence and, upon conviction, shall be subjected to imprisonment up to six months or to a fine that does not exceed five hundred pounds and/or both penalties.

Issuance of refugee identity card

121. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Law, the provisions of Sections 59, 60, 61, 62, 63 and 64 of the Third Chapter (Parts I and II), of this Law, apply mutatis mutandis to all matters relating to the examination of the request for issue and delivery and/or replacement of the refugee identity card.

Certificate of displaced Pursuant to origin

121A.-(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Law or any other law, a person, whose father or mother is considered to be a displaced person, under the provisions of Section 119, may request the Director to issue in his name, a certificate of a displaced pursuant to origin, according to the type determined in the Schedule Five of the present Law.

(2) The certificate, which is issued pursuant to subsection (1), certifies that the person mentioned therein, is the child of a parent displaced from the same place of origin, provided that his origin is the same as the one which has been entered in the register of births, according to the provisions of Section 8 or, following correction of the Registry, according to the provisions of Section 40.

(3) The certificate, which is issued pursuant to subsection (1), is not associated with any voting rights or voting procedure and does not constitute its holder a beneficiary of any state benefits or other benefits.

Regulations **122.** The Council of Ministers may adopt Regulations, which shall be submitted to the House of Representatives for approval and publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic, for the regulation of any other issue concerning the better implementation of the provisions of this Law and specifically the type of applications and the refugee identity cards and/or the manner and process of examination of the application for providing and/or replacing the refugee identity cards.

SCHEDULE TWO (Section 110(1) and (2) and Section 111)
Official Confirmation of Faith to the Republic

I,
formally certify my faith to the Republic of Cyprus and my respect for its Laws.

SCHEDULE THREE (Section 111)
Qualifications for Naturalisation

1. Subject to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the qualifications for the naturalisation of a foreigner who requests such naturalisation are as follows:

(a) Residence in the Republic for the whole duration of the immediately preceding 12 months from the date of application, and

(b) during the period of seven year, which immediately precedes the above-mentioned twelve-month period, either resided in the Republic, or served in the public service of the Republic, or did partly the former and partly the later, for periods whose aggregate sum is no less than four years:

Provided that students, visitors and self-employed persons, as well as athletes, coaches, sports technicians, housekeepers, nurses and persons employed to Cypriot citizens or foreign employers or offshore companies, who reside in the Republic for the exclusive purpose of employment, including their spouses, children or other dependant persons, must, during the immediately preceding period of at least seven years, have completed a total stay of at least seven years in the Republic, of which one year immediately before the date of their application must be of continuous stay.

(c) are of good character, and

(d) has the intention, provided he is granted a certificate—

(i) to remain in the Republic,

(ii) to enter or to continue to serve in a public service of the Republic or service of an international organisation of which the Republic is a member or service of any association, company, or body established in the Republic.

2. The Council of Ministers may, provided that this is deemed appropriate under the circumstances of any specific case—

(a) Allow that the continuous period of twelve months that ended no more than six months before the date of application to be counted, for the purposes of subparagraph (a) of paragraph 1 of the present Table, as if it had immediately preceded the aforementioned date,

(b) allow, in the case of a person of Cypriot origin, that such a stay in a foreign country before August 16, 1960, shall be counted, for the purposes of subparagraph (b) of paragraph 1 of the present Table, as residence in the Republic. For the purposes of this subparagraph, 'a person of Cypriot origin' has the meaning that is assigned to the term in paragraph (1) of Section 110 of this Law,

(c) allow that such a stay in the former Colony of Cyprus, or service to its Government, before August 16, 1960, shall be counted, for the purposes of subparagraph (b) of paragraph 1 of the present Table, as if it was stay in the Republic or service to it.

(d) allow such periods of time of stay or service of less than eight years, before the date of application, including the periods of stay which can be allowed according to subparagraph (b) of this paragraph to be taken into consideration for the calculation of the sum mentioned in subparagraph (b) of paragraph 1 of the present Table,

(e) allow the naturalisation of a person of Cypriot origin, who denounced his Cypriot citizenship, irrespective of the period of stay that is provided for in paragraph 1 of the present Table.

For the purposes of this subparagraph, 'a person of Cypriot origin' has the meaning that is assigned to the term in paragraph (1) of Section 110 of this Law,

(f) allow, in very exceptional cases of provision to the Republic of the highest level services which are mentioned in the relevant decision, for reasons of public interest, the naturalisation of a foreigner, irrespective of the period of stay which is provided for in paragraph 1 of the present Table, provided that the House of Representatives has been informed in advance.

SCHEDULE FIVE (Section 121A)

Certificate of Displaced Person Pursuant to Origin

It is certified that, according to the information of the Civil Registry, the person described below is a displaced person pursuant to origin, provided that his father/mother is a displaced person from the same place of origin.

First name:
Surname:
ID number:
Place of birth:
Place of residence:
Place or origin:
Full name of father:
Full name of mother:

Director of the Civil Registry and Migration Department