

Additional page for manual on birth registration

Because the preparation of this manual was finalised before the civil registration and citizenship acts were amended and endorsed, some parts in the manual require some clarifications.

Citizenship act, 4th edition, 2008

Additional issues to be added:

- 1) Article 7 of the original law for citizenship by blood stresses that children whose fathers are Thai must be the product of a registered marriage. Under the second section of this amendment act, children born to Thai men regardless of marital registration are entitled to obtain Thai citizenship. Paternity status should not be automatically granted to those children without any proof of relationship between father and child. This is based on the Ministry of Interior's regulations which require DNA testing for proof of a paternal relationship.
- 2) The Minister of the Interior has authority to grant Thai citizenship under article 7 with the approval of the cabinet.
- 3) There is a committee considering issues regarding citizenship which, under article 25, should make opportunities for outsiders to take part in giving suggestions for solving citizenship issues.
- 4) Under this amendment act, there is a reversal of the negative effects from the coup d'etat council number 337 dated 13 December 1973. Article 23 states that those whose citizenship was withdrawn (under the number 337) are now entitled to have their citizenships reinstated as well as that of their heirs born in Thailand. However, these people are required to have a registration record and must show a history of good habits that are beneficial for Thai society. These people need to ask to add their names in their nearest governmental office or in the registration office where their house is situated.

5) There is a fee for submitting a petition for obtaining citizenship; for example, a request to change one's citizenship costs 10,000 baht.

Civil registration act, 2nd edition, 2008

New issues to be considered:-

1) The registrar has the authority to immediately suspend the registration process before receiving clarification or arguments from an applicant (Article 10(4)).

2) Birth registration can occur not only in the district where the child is born but also in official offices where convenient. However, this registration process has to follow the regulations of the ministry (article 18 (3)).

3) In the past, the issue of delayed birth registration was unclear particularly for late registrants. Now there is a clear line indicated in the new amended act that there is no specific age of those who can register their birth. Thus those having no birth certificate can inform their birth to the authority by themselves. With cases of juveniles, their parents or guardians can register their birth. However, in the case of delayed birth registration, a fine is imposed.

4) In the past, a certificate of place of birth was one of the prerequisites for obtaining civil status. Today, the birth certificate has replaced the certificate of birth. However, the petition on legal status should be based on regulations implemented by the director of the civil registration department (article 20/1).

5) Based on this new law it is the responsibility of either the head of the district or the district registrar to record house registration of people who are allowed to stay in Thailand temporarily. These people have different kinds of personal records according to the cabinet resolution to allow them to continually live in the country temporarily (article 38).