

What is birth registration?

Birth registration is a process of notifying the Registrar General of the birth of child. The process results in the issuance of a birth certificate which is a legal document that shows a person's name, place, date of birth and parent's names.

When should birth be registered?

Birth should be registered within six weeks of the child's birth.

What is the relevance of attaining a birth certificate?

Observing the sanctity of human life, birth registration is a key way of safeguarding and validating the personhood of a live birth and its entitlement to protection by the state. *(The underlined is not clear for me)*

- Registration at school, college or institution of learning.
- Applying for any assistance especially assistance that is meant for vulnerable children and orphans.
- Buying life insurance
- Claiming pension contribution
- Claiming maintenance
- Claiming inheritance shares
- Buying assets that will require registration in the person's name like houses or cars.
- Access to justice
- Access to developmental assistance
- Access to health

Who can give notice of birth?

It is duty of every parent and caregiver to give notice of birth. If both parents are dead or for some reason cannot give notice of birth of their child, then the duty is on any of the following the person is whose home the child was born, as they know about the birth, any person above 18 years who was present when the child was born, any person above the age of 18 years who is responsible for looking after the child.

Can single mothers and widows register children?

- Yes! They can, it is their right. In fact NO child can be registered in the absence of the mother or when she is not represented by her relatives. What they need to do is to gather their own confidence.
- They do not need to wait for the father, if he is reluctant to accept parental responsibility
- It is allowed at law that if the man finally agrees to register the child in his name he can cause amendment of child's birth certificate through the Registrar General's office.

What should be done if one or both parents disappear leaving the child or children?

Notify the police through an affidavit form that will subsequently be used as a proof of disappearance, the affidavit will be required when registering the birth of a child.

For children of parents who are in an unregistered customary marriage parents or caregivers will have to carry:

National identity cards or death certificate of the deceased parent • Birth confirmation record if the child was born in hospital or clinic.

- **If the child was born at home or anywhere outside the hospital or clinic the parents or caregivers should be accompanied by witness to the Registrar's office: preferably maternal relatives.**

NB: in all situations if birth is registered by someone other than the parent, the person should have a national registration card.

- **If the alleged father of the child is dead, the mother may seek assistance of the alleged father's close relatives to sign an affidavit confirming the paternity of the child.**

If the father refuses paternity the mother of the child will simply fill the mother's section and leave out the father's section

Feel free to also contact:

District Registry- Market Square

86 Mbuya Nehanda Street Harare

Phones: +263-4-790708/9

Provincial Registry

Old income tax building 10th Ave/H Chitepo St Bulawayo

Phones: +263-9-68491/3

District Registry

Drill Hall Grounds, 10th Avenue/Lobengula St Bulawayo

Phones: +263-9-61566/7

Mutare Provincial Registry

898a Simon Mazorodze Rd.Mutare

Phones: +263-20-60701

Trinity Project , Office 303 3rd floor, York House, H.Chitepo & 8th Ave, PO BOX 2669

Bulawayo

TIZ is a research based organisation, its broad mandate is to fight corruption and related vices through networks of integrity in line with the Global Strategy. TIZ believes corruption can only be sufficiently tackled by all citizens including people at grass root level. TIZ does this through lobbying for anti-corruption policies and legislation, providing free legal aid services to victims and witnesses of corruption-related cases and advocacy.

Keep in mind that even the attempt to bribe is punishable by law with up to twenty years in prison.

For more information and Legal Advice



Harare Office
96 Central Avenue
Causeway
Harare
Tel: 04-
793246/08677004072

Email: alac@tizim.org

Bulawayo Office
42 A Samuel Parirenyatwa
Between 2nd and 3rd
Avenue
Bulawayo
Tel: 09-
881397/08677004073

Mutare Office
No. 4 Carlos Flats
4th Street-Mutare
Tel: 020-
60030/08677004074

*Why is the part on title deed part of this FAQ
(just need clarity)*