



**AN BILLE UM CHLÁRÚ BREITHEANNA, 1996**  
**REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS BILL, 1996**

**EXPLANATORY AND FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM**

*General*

The purpose of the Bill is to amend the form of the birth certificate in order to remove gender inequalities in the particulars registered.

The existing format of the birth certificate dates from 1863 and reflects the social attitudes of the time. It records the address and occupation of the father, but not of the mother of the child; it asks for the mother's maiden name; and it does not record the child's surname, thereby giving rise to the assumption that the child automatically takes the surname of the father.

The Bill provides for a new format of birth certificate, and thereby gives effect to one of the recommendations of the Second Commission on the Status of Women.

*Contents of the Bill*

*Section 1* is the key section of the Bill. It provides that the new format, as detailed in the *Schedule*, is to apply to births registered or re-registered after commencement of the Act. The child's surname registered can be that of either the mother or the father or both. Another surname can, however, be registered if either parent requests this and the Registrar General considers that the circumstances so warrant. In the case of a re-registration of a birth which has already been registered in the new format, the surname of the child on re-registration remains unchanged. The requirement to re-register under the Legitimacy Act, 1931 is waived if, as a consequence of the change in format, the new entry would duplicate the previous entry relating to that child.

*Section 2* deals with the provision of forms by the Registrar General.

*Section 3* is a technical provision which is necessary to effect a change in the format of the birth certificate. It gives the Registrar General certain powers in relation to the delivery and supply of register books.

*Sections 4, 5 and 6* contain miscellaneous amendments and repeals of forms consequential on the change of format of the birth certificate.

*Section 7* contains standard provisions about short title, citation, construction and commencement.

The *Schedule* details the particulars to be registered. These differ in some significant respects from the existing format. The birth certificate will record the occupation and address of the mother, as well as those of the father. The former name(s) of both mother and father will be shown, instead of the mother's maiden name. The child's surname, which can be that of the mother or father or both (*section 1 (3)*) will also be recorded.

**Staffing and Exchequer Implications**

There are no staffing implications. Some additional costs may arise from the preparation of new forms and certificates, but these will not be significant.

**An Roinn Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dlí,  
Samhain, 1996.**

The existing format of the birth certificate dates from 1883 and reflects the social attitudes of the time. It records the address and occupation of the father, but not of the mother of the child; it asks for the mother's maiden name, and it does not record the child's surname, thereby giving rise to the assumption that the child automatically takes the surname of the father.

The Bill provides for a new format of birth certificate, and thereby gives effect to one of the recommendations of the *Second Commission on the Status of Women*.

An Seanadair Muiris Ó Mairín, a thiolac,

Presented by the Bill

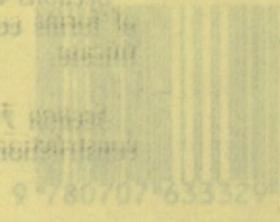
Section 4 is the key section of the Bill. It provides that the provisions of the Act, as detailed in the *Schedule*, are to apply to births registered or to be registered after commencement of the Act. The child's surname registered can be that of either the mother or the father or both. Another surname can, however, be registered if either parent requests this and the Registrar General considers that the circumstances so warrant. In the case of a re-registration of a birth which has already been registered in the new format, the surname of the child on re-registration remains unchanged. The requirement to register under the Legitimacy Act, 1931 is waived if, as a consequence of the change in format, the new entry would duplicate the previous entry relating to that child.

Section 5 deals with the provision of forms by the Registrar General.

Section 6 is a technical provision which is necessary to effect a change in the format of the birth certificate. It gives the Registrar General certain powers in relation to the delivery and supply of register books.

Section 7 and 8 contain miscellaneous amendments and details of amendments consequential on the change of format of the birth certificate.

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