

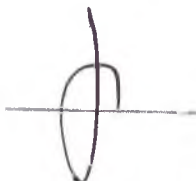
**TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
First Regular Session

Senate
Office of the Secretary

25 JUL 10 P2:09

SENATE
S.B. No. 369

RECEIVED BY:



Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND RESPONSIVE CIVIL
REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR THIS
PURPOSE ACT NO. 3753 OR THE PHILIPPINE LAW ON REGISTRY OF CIVIL
STATUS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) continues to face significant challenges in implementing universal civil registration in the Philippines, with an estimated 3.7 million Filipinos, or 3.4% of the total population, found to have no birth certificates based on the 2020 Census of Population and Housing.¹ Of these 3.7 million Filipinos without birth certificates, 1.4 million or almost 38% are children aged 0 to 14.²

Compounding the existing problem on non-registration of birth of a considerable percentage of the population is the proliferation of fake birth certificates and abuse of the delayed birth registration system. As of last year, the PSA has found 14.9 million late birth registration submitted between 2010 and 2024, subject to review to verify authenticity.³ This includes the birth certificate of Bambang Mayor Alice

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority, *PSA Strategy Bolsters Birth Registration in Asia and the Pacific: UNESCAP*, PSA WEBSITE, at <https://psa.gov.ph/content/psa-strategy-bolsters-birth-registration-asia-and-pacific-unescap> (last visited Dec. 1, 2024).

² Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development, *Civil Registration Bill pushed to help 3.7M Pinoys without birth certificates*, PLCPD WEBSITE, at <https://www.plcpd.org.ph/civil-registration-bill-pushed-to-help-3-7m-pinoys-without-birth-certificates/> (last visited Dec. 1, 2024).

³ Izzy Lee, *PSA discovers 14.89 million late birth registrations*, ABS-CBN NEWS, at <https://www.abs-cbn.com/news/2024/11/7/psa-discovers-14-89-million-late-birth-registrations-2227> (last visited Dec. 1, 2024).

Guo, whose birth certificate has been found to have discrepancies.⁴ As of November 2024, the PSA has already blocked 1,627 suspicious birth certificates linked to foreign nationals, 18 of which have been endorsed to the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) for cancellation. In addition, the PSA is auditing 50,532 birth certificates for signs of falsification and irregularities.⁵

The prevailing law on civil registration, Act No. 3753 or the Philippine Law on Registry of Civil Status, was enacted 94 years ago on November 26, 1930. This outdated law provides minimal penalties for violations of the Act, penalizing knowingly making false statements in relation to civil registration with only imprisonment of one (1) month to six (6) months, or a fine of Two Hundred Pesos (Php 200.00) to Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00), or both.⁶ Meanwhile, failure to report the occurrence of vital events by responsible informants under the Act is penalized with a fine of only Ten Pesos (Php 10.00) to Two Hundred Pesos (Php 200.00).⁷

In compliance with the country's commitment to international standards and recommendations in relation to civil registration, including the universal human right to be recognized as a person before the law under Article 6 of the Universal of Human Rights (UDHR), and the right of the child to nationality and registration after birth under Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), there is a need to revisit the existing law on civil registration in the country. This proposed measure aims to promote universal, free, and accessible civil registration through a modern and simplified registration system for vital events geared towards establishing the most precise identity of an individual for administrative and legal purposes.

To achieve this objective, this bill creates the Civil Registration Office under the PSA, which shall be responsible for central registry document management and archiving, modernization of the Philippine civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system, policy development and advocacy on civil registration matters, and overseeing

⁴ Philstar, *PSA flags irregularities in Bamban Mayor Alice Guo's birth certificate*, PHILSTAR GLOBAL, at <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/05/22/2357110/psa-flags-irregularities-bamban-mayor-alice-guos-birth-certificate> (last visited Dec. 1, 2024).

⁵ Lee, *supra* note 3.

⁶ Act No. 3753 (1991), § 16. Philippine Law on Registry of Civil Status.

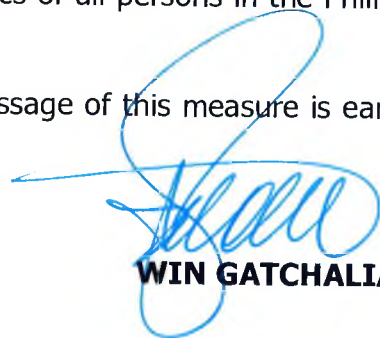
⁷ Act No. 3753, § 17.

the performance of civil registration services. This measure also creates the Civil Registration Inter-Agency Cooperation Committee tasked with addressing specific concerns on the enforcement of CRVS laws, and establishing inter-agency task forces at the regional, provincial, and city/municipal level to ensure nationwide coordination and enforcement.

To encourage universal registration of vital events, this measure ensures that the timely civil registration of vital events shall be completely free of charge. Taking into consideration Republic Act (RA) No. 11055 or the Philippine Identification System Act, the PSA is mandated to assign a PhilSys Number (PSN) upon registration of birth, which shall be used by each registrant for the registration and reporting of all vital events. The PSA shall prescribe guidelines for the delayed registration of vital events, including the appearance of document owner, exceptional circumstances necessitating birth registration assistance programs, and imposition of standard fees for delayed registration, subject to waiver of fees where the applicant is an indigent, has limited access to registration services, and other similar circumstances.

Finally, this measure provides guidelines on multiple registration of vital events, including cancellation of civil registry documents through the Special Committee on Cancellation of Civil Registry Documents. To curb the proliferation of fake birth certificates and other civil registry documents, as well as the abuse of the delayed birth registration process, this measure imposes higher penalties for forgery of civil registry documents, submission of false information during civil registration, preparation or facilitating the preparation of civil registry documents containing false or fraudulent information, failure to report a vital event when required, and refusal of health facilities to report or cause the registration of a vital event due to non-payment of hospital fees. These reforms are necessary to ensure the easier and more accurate generation, recording, and retrieval of vital statistics of all persons in the Philippines and Filipino citizens abroad.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND RESPONSIVE CIVIL
REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR
THIS PURPOSE ACT NO. 3753 OR THE PHILIPPINE LAW ON
REGISTRY OF CIVIL STATUS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines
in Congress assembled:*

1 **SEC. 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Civil
2 Registration and Vital Statistics Act".

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy** – The State shall promote and maintain
4 an efficient, responsive, inclusive, and accessible civil registration and vital
5 statistics (CRVS) system, as well as uphold a safe and systematic recording of
6 vital events of an individual. It shall implement a modern and simplified
7 registration procedure necessary to establish the most precise identity of an
8 individual for administrative and legal purposes.

9 This Act institutionalizes a CRVS system that provides universal, free,
10 and accessible civil registration, and ensures easier generation, recording, and
11 retrieval of vital statistics.

12 The enactment of the Philippine Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Act
13 reaffirms the commitment of the State to international standards and
14 recommendations, according to the principles of:

- (a) The universal human right to be recognized as a person before the law, as provided under Article 6 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR);
- (b) The right of the child to nationality and registration after birth, as provided under Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC);
- (c) The right to identity, as provided under Article 8 of the UNCRC;
- (d) The right to be protected from discrimination based on race, sex, color, language, religion, national or social origin, as provided under Article 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
- (e) The right to nationality of persons with disabilities, as provided under Article 18 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);
- (f) The right of adolescents to birth registration, as provided under General Comment No. 20, Article 8 of the UNCRC;
- (g) The right of children in street situations to be proactively supported to obtain legal identity documents and the right of all children at all ages to free, accessible, simple, and expeditious birth registration, as provided under General Comment No. 21, Article 15 of the UNCRC; and
- (h) The right of all Filipino migrant workers to be recognized as a person of the law, as provided under Article 24 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW).

SEC. 3. Coverage. – This Act shall cover all acts, vital events, judicial decrees, and administrative issuances affecting the civil status of persons in the Philippines and Filipino citizens abroad.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- 1 (a) **Abandoned child** refers to a child who has no proper parental
2 care or guardianship, a foundling, or one who has been deserted
3 by one's parents for a period of at least three (3) continuous
4 months and has been declared as such by the National Authority
5 for Child Care (NACC).
- 6 (b) **Abandoned Filipino child in a foreign country** refers to an
7 unregistered or undocumented child found outside the Philippine
8 territory, with known or unknown facts of birth, separated from
9 or deserted by the biological Filipino parent guardian, or
10 custodian, for a period of at least three (3) continuous months
11 and committed to a foreign orphanage or charitable institution or
12 in a temporary informal care, and has been declared as such by
13 the NACC, upon recommendation of the office of the Social
14 Welfare Attaché (OSWA) of the Department of Social Welfare and
15 Development (DSWD), or the Department of Foreign Affairs
16 (DFA).
- 17 (c) **Adoption** refers to the socio-legal process of providing a
18 permanent family to a child whose parents had voluntarily or
19 involuntarily given up their parental rights, permanently
20 transferring all rights and responsibilities, along with filiation,
21 making the child a legitimate child of the adoptive parents.
- 22 (d) **Barangay Civil Registration System (BCRS)** refers to a
23 scheme to facilitate extensive civil registration at the barangay
24 level involving all barangay officials assisting the Local Civil
25 Registrars (LCRs) in civil registration work, as provided in Section
26 394(d)(5) of Republic Act (RA) No. 7160 or the Local Government
27 Code of the Philippines.
- 28 (e) **Barangay Secretary** refers to the person appointed by the
29 Punong Barangay, in accordance with Section 394(a) of Republic
30 Act (RA) No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991.
- 31 (f) **Cause of death** refers to diseases, morbid conditions, or injuries,
32 which either resulted in or contributed to the death, and the

1 circumstances of the accident or violence which produced such
2 injuries, for purposes of registration, aligned with International
3 Classification Standards;

4 (g) **Child** refers to any person below 18 years of age, or 18 years or
5 older who is unable to fully take care of oneself from abuse,
6 neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a
7 physical or mental disability or condition.

8 (h) **Civil register** refers to the various civil registry books, and
9 related certificates and documents, including physical, electronic,
10 and digital copies, where registrable acts, events, judicial decrees,
11 and administrative issuances concerning the civil status of a
12 person are recorded and kept in the archives of Local Civil
13 Registry Officers, Philippine Foreign Service Posts, Shari'a District
14 and Circuit Courts, and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

15 (i) **Civil Registrar** refers to the officers performing civil registry
16 functions, such as the head of the Local Civil Registry Office, the
17 Clerk of Court in a Shari'a District or Circuit Court, or the Consul
18 General in Philippine Foreign Service Posts.

19 (j) **Civil registration** refers to the continuous, permanent,
20 universal, and compulsory recording of occurrences and
21 characteristics of vital events in the life of a person, including any
22 modifications thereto during their lifetime until death.

23 (k) **Civil registry document** refers to a certificate or any document,
24 including electronic or digital copies thereof, concerning acts and
25 events affecting the civil status of persons, which are recorded
26 and kept in the civil register.

27 (l) **Consul General** refers to an official of the Department of
28 Foreign Affairs (DFA) who has been issued a consular commission
29 and acts as the head of a consular post or the head of the
30 consular section of an embassy and entrusted in that capacity
31 with the exercise of diplomatic and consular functions, including
32 civil registration duties;

- 1 (m) **Consul/Vice Consul** refers to an official of the DFA who has
2 been issued a consular commission and entrusted in that capacity
3 with the exercise of diplomatic and consular functions. In
4 exigencies, the civil registration duties herein provided for the
5 Consul General may be delegated to, and can be exercised and
6 performed by, the Consul or Vice Consul.
- 7 (n) **Death** refers to the permanent disappearance of all evidence of
8 life at any time after live birth has taken place.
- 9 (o) **Document owner** refers to the individual whose legal identity
10 and other vital statistics are recorded in the civil registry
11 document or legal instrument in accordance with this Act.
- 12 (p) **Divorce** refers to the final legal dissolution of marriage which
13 confers on the parties the right to remarriage under Presidential
14 Decree (PD) No. 1083 or the Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the
15 Philippines.
- 16 (q) **Fetal death** refers to death prior to the complete expulsion or
17 extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective
18 of the duration of the pregnancy, where the death is indicated by
19 the fact that after such separation, the fetus does not breathe or
20 show any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart,
21 pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary
22 muscles.
- 23 (r) **Philippine Foreign Service Post** refers to all Philippine
24 embassies, missions, consulates general, and other foreign
25 service establishments maintained by the DFA.
- 26 (s) **Foundling** refers to a deserted or abandoned child or infant with
27 unknown facts of birth and parentage. This shall also include
28 those who have been duly registered as a foundling during their
29 infancy and/or childhood, and have reached the age of majority
30 without benefitting from adoption procedures.
- 31 (t) **Health facility** refers to facilities or institutions, whether
32 stationary or mobile, land-based or otherwise, that provides

1 diagnostics, therapeutic, rehabilitative, and other healthcare
2 services, except medical radiation facilities and hospital-based or
3 stand-alone pharmacies.

4 (u) **Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples**
5 **(ICC/IPs)** refer to a group of people or homogenous societies
6 identified by self-ascription and ascription by others, who have
7 continuously lived as organized community on communally
8 bounded and self-defined territory, and who have, under claims
9 of ownership since time immemorial, occupied, possessed, and
10 utilized such territories, sharing common bonds of language,
11 customs, traditions, and other distinctive cultural traits, or who
12 have, through resistance to political, social, and cultural inroads
13 of colonization, non-indigenous religions and cultures, became
14 historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos. ICC/IPs
15 shall likewise include people who are regarded as indigenous on
16 account of their descent, but who may have been displaced from
17 their traditional domains or who may have resettled outside their
18 ancestral domains.

19 (v) **Legal instrument** refers to registrable instruments issued
20 pursuant to this Act, affecting the civil status of persons and
21 executed without a court decree or order.

22 (w) **Live birth** refers to the complete expulsion or extraction of a
23 product of conception from the mother, which after such
24 separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as
25 beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite
26 movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical
27 cord has been cut off or the placenta is still attached.

28 (x) **Manner of death** refers to the circumstances in which a death
29 arose, as stated in the medical certification of cause of death.

30 (y) **Marriage** is a special contract of permanent union between a
31 man and a woman entered into in accordance with law for the
32 establishment of conjugal and family life. It is the foundation of

1 the family and an inviolable social institution whose nature,
2 consequences, and incidents are governed by law and not subject
3 to stipulation, except that marriage settlements may fix the
4 property relations during the marriage within the limits provided
5 by the Family Code.

6 (z) **Mass death** occurs when several persons die due to natural
7 calamities, accidents, epidemics, or other analogous
8 circumstances.

9 (aa) **Muslim marriage** refers to a marriage where both parties are
10 Muslims, or where only the male party is a Muslim and the
11 marriage is solemnized in accordance with Muslim law or PD No.
12 1083.

13 (bb) **Next-of-kin** refers to a document owner's spouse, ascendant,
14 descendant, brother or sister, or any person under the document
15 owner's guardianship or related by consanguinity or affinity within
16 the sixth civil degree, or in the absence of the foregoing, any
17 other person who lived with the document owner in the same
18 household at the time of occurrence of the vital event, as provided
19 in this Act.

20 (cc) **Out-of-Town Reporting** refers to the presentation of the
21 certificate of live birth or death to the civil registrar of a city or
22 municipality which is not the place of birth or death for purposes
23 of forwarding to the civil registrar of the city or municipality where
24 the birth or death occurred.

25 (dd) **PhilSys Number (PSN)** refers to a unique and randomly
26 generated permanent identification number assigned to every
27 citizen or resident alien upon successful registration to the
28 Philippine Identification System (PhilSys), in accordance with
29 registration guidelines.

30 (ee) **Solemnizing officer** refers to any person who may solemnize a
31 marriage, as provided in Executive Order (EO) No. 209 or the
32 Family Code of the Philippines, and PD No. 1083.

- 1 (ff) **Verbal autopsy** refers to a structured questionnaire or interview
2 on a deceased's medical history, as well as signs and symptoms
3 prior to death, that is completed by a reliable next-of-kin to
4 determine a probable cause of death in deaths that are not
5 medically attended.
- 6 (gg) **Vital event** refers to an event concerning life and death of
7 individuals, as well as their family and civil status, including live
8 birth, death, fetal death, marriage, annulment or declaration of
9 nullity of marriage, divorce, adoption, and recognition of
10 paternity.

11 **SEC. 5. Implementing Agency.** – The PSA, headed by the National
12 Statistician and Civil Registrar General (NSCRG), shall be the primary
13 implementing agency of this Act. The PSA shall issue rules in the
14 implementation and enhancement of the civil registration and vital statistics
15 (CRVS) system, including, but not limited to, registration, copy issuance, and
16 data governance in accordance with the provisions of this Act, including all
17 other applicable laws and policies.

18 The PSA shall collaborate with local government units (LGUs), other
19 government agencies, and government-owned and -controlled corporations
20 (GOCCs) in order to facilitate the registration or reporting of all vital events of
21 persons in the country and Filipinos abroad.

22 **SEC. 6. Civil Registration Office.** – To better implement the
23 provisions of this Act, and attain its objectives and purposes, the Civil
24 Registration Service shall be reorganized and strengthened into the Civil
25 Registration Office which shall perform the functions provided under this Act.

26 The Civil Registration Office shall be headed by a Deputy Civil Registrar
27 General with rank equivalent to a Deputy National Statistician. The Deputy Civil
28 Registrar General shall be responsible for central registry document
29 management and archiving, modernization of the Philippine CRVS system,
30 policy development and advocacy on civil registration matters, and overseeing
31 the performance of civil registration services.

1 There following Services shall be created under the Civil Registration
2 Office, each of which shall be headed by an Assistant Civil Registrar General
3 with rank equivalent to an Assistant National Statistician:

- 4 (a) National Civil Register Service;
- 5 (b) Civil Registration Operations and Management Service; and
- 6 (c) Civil Registration Advocacy and Frontline Services.

7 **SEC. 7. Creation of Regional and Field Offices for Civil**
8 **Registration.** – To perform the functions provided under this Act, the regional
9 and field offices of the PSA shall be strengthened through the creation of new
10 plantilla positions, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

11 **SEC. 8. Civil Registration Inter-Agency Cooperation Committee.**
12 – A Civil Registration Inter-Agency Cooperation Committee shall be created, to
13 be composed of the following:

- 14 (a) The PSA, represented by the Deputy Civil Registrar General, as
15 Chairperson.
- 16 (b) Department of Health (DOH) representative with rank of at least
17 director as Vice-Chairperson.
- 18 (c) One (1) representative from each of the following agencies with
19 a rank of director or higher, nominated by their respective
20 agencies, with two (2) permanent staff members as designated
21 alternate representatives:
 - 22 (1) Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);
 - 23 (2) Department of Justice (DOJ);
 - 24 (3) Department of Education (DepEd);
 - 25 (4) Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
 - 26 (5) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
 - 27 (6) Commission on Population and Development (CPD);
 - 28 (7) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
 - 29 (8) National Authority for Child Care (NACC);
 - 30 (9) Philippine National Police (PNP);
 - 31 (10) Commission on Election (COMELEC);

- 1 (11) Bureau of Immigration (BI);
2 (12) Department of Information and Communications
3 Technology (DICT);
4 (13) Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
5 (BARMM);
6 (14) National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF);
7 (15) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP); and
8 (16) National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).
9 (d) One representative from among the associations of Local Civil
10 Registrars, as determined by the Inter-Agency Cooperation
11 Committee, in accordance with the guidelines set by the National
12 Statistician and Civil Registrar General (NSCRG).

13 The Inter-Agency Cooperation Committee may establish technical
14 working groups and task forces, and invite other members or participants, as
15 the need arises, to address specific concerns on the enforcement of CRVS laws,
16 as well as establish inter-agency task forces at the regional, provincial, and
17 city/municipal level to ensure nationwide coordination and enforcement.

18 The Inter-Agency Cooperation Committee shall convene on a quarterly
19 basis to discuss coordination on enforcement of CRVS laws and recommend
20 policies relating to civil registration and vital statistics for the approval of the
21 NSCRG.

22 **SEC. 9. Powers and Functions of the National Statistician and**
23 **Civil Registrar General (NSCRG).** – The National Statistician and Civil
24 Registrar General shall enforce the provisions of this Act and its implementing
25 rules and regulations. The NSCRG shall have the following powers and
26 functions:

- 27 (a) Maintain the National Civil Register;
28 (b) Maintain the National Register for Solemnizing Officers;
29 (c) Enforce the provisions of this Act and other laws on CRVS;
30 (d) Exercise technical control and supervision over civil registrars, in
31 the exercise of their civil registration functions;

- 1 (e) Issue certificates and certifications of entries in civil registers
2 maintained by the office in accordance with the provisions of this
3 Act and upon payment of the prescribed fees;
- 4 (f) Assign a PhilSys Number (PSN) upon registration of birth, which
5 shall be used by each registrant for the registration and reporting
6 of all vital events;
- 7 (g) Develop modules and training programs for stakeholders involved
8 in providing civil registration services;
- 9 (h) Establish and implement strategies and mechanisms to ensure
10 the accessibility of civil registration services;
- 11 (i) Develop and adopt appropriate technology to facilitate and
12 improve access to modernize the Philippine CRVS system and to
13 improve access to and efficiency of civil registration services;
- 14 (j) Issue guidelines on reconstruction of burned, destroyed, and lost
15 civil registry records;
- 16 (k) In cases of national calamity or disasters, coordinate with the
17 national, regional, or local disaster risk reduction and
18 management council to ensure continuity or resumption of civil
19 registration services;
- 20 (l) Conduct a comprehensive and nationwide information, education,
21 and communications campaign regarding this Act;
- 22 (m) Deny request for copy issuance of civil registry documents and
23 certificates found to be fraudulent and/or fictitious, except for
24 investigation purposes by law enforcement agencies and other
25 government agencies with investigative and/or quasi-judicial
26 powers, and court orders, in accordance with this Act, RA No.
27 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012, and other relevant laws,
28 rules, and regulations;
- 29 (n) Block civil registry documents in the database upon findings of
30 fraud and unblock civil registry documents pursuant to a court or
31 administrative order;

- 1 (o) Ensure accuracy of annotation in civil registry documents,
2 including modification, revision, and correction of clerical errors
3 in the annotation of administrative decisions, court decrees, and
4 legal instruments;
- 5 (p) Issue regulations on the reporting and registration of vital events
6 of Filipinos abroad, in coordination with the DFA;
- 7 (q) Exercise quasi-judicial functions in accordance with this Act;
- 8 (r) Exercise inspection and visitorial powers over civil registrars and
9 such other officers exercising civil registration functions, in
10 coordination with the Office of the Mayor, the Office of the Court
11 Administrator, or the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, as may be
12 applicable;
- 13 (s) Issue rules and regulations to enforce the provisions this Act and
14 other applicable laws on civil registration; and
- 15 (t) Perform such other functions necessary to implement this Act.

16 **SEC. 10. *Technical Control and Supervision.*** – The NSCRG shall
17 have technical control and supervision over civil registrars and such other
18 officers designated by law to perform civil registration functions, and shall:

- 19 (a) Issue rules, regulations, guidelines, criteria, and standard
20 operating procedures to guide the performance of civil
21 registration functions of civil registrars and such other officers
22 designated by law to perform civil registration functions;
- 23 (b) Review *motu proprio* and declare *ultra vires* acts or omissions of
24 civil registrars and such other officers designated by law, in the
25 exercise of their civil registration functions, and order modification
26 of such acts or omissions; and
- 27 (c) Issue policies, rules, and regulations to carry out the purposes of
28 this Act and other laws on CRVS, including the standardization of
29 CRVS processes and procedures, and prescribe the necessary
30 forms for proper compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

1 **SEC. 11. *Quasi-Judicial Function.*** – The NSCRG shall have the power
2 to review decisions rendered over the following:

- 3 (a) Appeal/reconsideration of decisions of regarding petitions under
4 RA No. 9048, as amended by RA No. 10172;
- 5 (b) Application/cancellation of Certificates of Authority to Solemnize
6 Marriage (CRASM);
- 7 (c) Decisions rendered by Local Civil Registrars (LCRs) on Petitions
8 for Cancellation of Certificate of Live Birth of Persons with No
9 Known Parents, as provided under RA No. 11767 or the Foundling
10 Recognition and Protection Act; and
- 11 (d) Other analogous cases as may be provided under this Act and
12 other relevant laws.

13 To better implement the provisions of this Act and attain its objectives
14 and purposes, the Legal Service of the PSA shall be reorganized and
15 strengthened into a Legal Office, which shall be responsible for the NSCRG's
16 exercise of quasi-judicial functions.

17 The Legal Office of the PSA shall be headed by a Director V. There shall
18 be three (3) Services under the Director V, each headed by Director IV:

- 19 (a) Legal Operations and Administrative Support Service;
- 20 (b) Litigation and Enforcement Management Service; and
- 21 (c) Legislative Affairs and Regulatory Compliance Service.

22 **SEC. 12. *Investigative Power of NSCRG.*** – The NSCRG, in the
23 exercise of its investigative powers, shall:

- 24 (a) Conduct investigations in relation to violations of this Act and all
25 irregularities, negligence, or incompetence of civil registrars and
26 such other officers designated by law, in the exercise of their civil
27 registration functions;
- 28 (b) Take action on and/or report any violation of the provisions of
29 this Act and other issuances relating to civil registration, including
30 acts and omissions of civil registrars and such other officers

1 designated by law, in the exercise of their civil registration
2 functions; and

3 (c) Cause the filing of the necessary civil, criminal, and/or
4 administrative actions for violations of this Act and other relevant
5 laws and regulations on CRVS.

6 The NSCRG shall, in the exercise of its investigative power, coordinate
7 with the Office of the Mayor, the Office of the Court Administrator, or the
8 Secretary of Foreign Affairs, as may be applicable.

9 **SEC. 13. Oversight Power of NSCRG.** – The NSCRG, in the exercise
10 of its oversight power, shall review policies, programs, and projects
11 implemented by civil registrars and such other officers designated by law, in
12 the exercise of their civil registration functions. The NSCRG shall likewise ensure
13 compliance with existing policies, laws, regulations, and ethical standards in
14 relation to civil registration.

15 **SEC. 14. Appointment of Local Civil Registrar (LCR).** – The
16 appointment of a Local Civil Registrar (LCR) shall be mandatory for all city and
17 municipal governments. The LCR shall be responsible for the civil registration
18 programs in the concerned LGU, in accordance with this Act and other existing
19 laws, rules, and regulations.

20 **SEC. 15. Duties and Responsibilities of the LCR.** – The LCR shall
21 develop plans and strategies for the effective implementation of this Act,
22 subject to the approval of the Local Chief Executive, without prejudice to the
23 NSCRG's exercise of its oversight powers under Section 13 of this Act.

24 For purposes of this Act, the LCR shall:

- 25 (a) Verify correctness and completeness of information reported for
26 registration;
- 27 (b) Accept for registration reports of vital events, court decrees, and
28 legal instruments affecting the status of persons in accordance
29 with this Act;

- 1 (c) Maintain and preserve civil registry books, documents, and/or
- 2 electronic copies as required by this Act and other relevant laws,
- 3 rules, and regulations;
- 4 (d) Receive applications for marriage license and issue the same in
- 5 accordance with law;
- 6 (e) Transmit to the NSCRG copies of civil registry documents in the
- 7 form and manner prescribed by the NSCRG;
- 8 (f) Issue certified copies of any registered certificates or documents
- 9 in accordance with this Act and upon payment of the prescribed
- 10 fees;
- 11 (g) Act on petitions for revocation of certificates of live birth of
- 12 persons with no known parents under RA No. 11767;
- 13 (h) Administer oaths for civil registration purposes, free of charge;
- 14 (i) Delegate powers and responsibilities to, and supervise staff, in
- 15 performing civil registration functions, except the power to
- 16 administer oaths;
- 17 (j) Adopt mechanisms to improve access to civil registration services
- 18 in their locality, in coordination with the NSCRG and upon
- 19 approval of the Local Chief Executive;
- 20 (k) Annually collate records of inhabitants from barangay secretaries
- 21 or through the Barangay Civil Registration System (BCRS) and, as
- 22 needed, seek assistance from Barangay Secretaries in the
- 23 registration of births, deaths, and marriages;
- 24 (l) Coordinate with the Civil Registration Office of the PSA in
- 25 conducting information, education, and awareness campaigns for
- 26 civil registration, and assist in the preparation of demographic
- 27 information and other statistics for the LGU concerned; and
- 28 (m) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and
- 29 functions as may be prescribed by law or relevant rules and
- 30 regulations.

1 **SEC. 16. Duties and Responsibilities of the Shari’a District**

2 **Registrar.** – The Clerk of Court of the Shari’a District Court shall, in addition
3 to their regular functions, act as District Registrar of Muslim marriages,
4 divorces, revocations of divorces, and conversions within the territorial
5 jurisdiction of the said court.

6 Every District Registrar shall exercise supervision over Shari’a Circuit
7 Registrars and shall, in addition to maintaining an entry book, maintain copies
8 of certificates of marriage, divorce, revocation of divorce, and conversion
9 received from Shari’a Circuit Registrars in separate general registers. The
10 District Registrar shall transmit copies of such civil registry documents to the
11 NSCRG in the form and manner prescribed by the NSCRG.

12 **SEC. 17. Duties and Responsibilities of the Shari’a Circuit**

13 **Registrar.** – The Clerk of Court of the Shari’a Circuit Court shall act as Circuit
14 Registrar of Muslim marriages, divorces, revocation of divorces, and
15 conversions within the territorial jurisdiction of the said court. For this purpose,
16 the Circuit Registrar shall:

- 17 (a) Register and file certificates of Muslim marriage, divorce,
18 revocation of divorce, and conversion, and such other documents
19 presented for registration;
20 (b) Issue certified copies of any certificate or document registered by
21 their office in accordance with this Act and upon payment of
22 prescribed fees;
23 (c) Compile certificates of Muslim marriage, divorce, revocation of
24 divorce, and conversion, and transmit the same to the Shari’a
25 District Registrar in the manner and form prescribed by the
26 NSCRG; and
27 (d) Administer oaths for civil registration purposes, free of charge.

28 **SEC. 18. Duties and Responsibilities of Consul**

29 **General/Consul/Vice Consul.** – The Consul General/Consul/Vice Consul
30 within the Philippine Foreign Service Posts shall:

- 1 (a) Receive reports or records of vital events of Filipinos occurring
2 abroad or while in transit to a foreign destination;
- 3 (b) Register vital events of Filipinos occurring within Philippine
4 Foreign Service Posts or while in transit to a foreign destination;
- 5 (c) Submit copies of reported vital events to the NSCRG on a regular
6 basis, as prescribed by the NSCRG;
- 7 (d) Maintain registry books of such reported and registered vital
8 events of Filipinos; and
- 9 (e) Facilitate the registration of undocumented Filipinos and Filipinos
10 at risk of statelessness abroad, in coordination with the NSCRG.

11 **SEC. 19. Civil Registry Books.** – The civil registry books making up
12 the Civil Register under this Act, and all records relating thereto, shall be
13 considered public documents and shall be *prima facie* evidence of the facts
14 contained therein.

15 In case of discrepancy between civil registry documents issued by LCRs,
16 Circuit/District Registrars, or Consul General/Consul/Vice Consul, and the civil
17 registry documents issued by the NSCRG, the latter shall prevail.

18 Every LCR shall maintain, keep, and preserve in a secured place in their
19 office the following registry books where they shall properly enter the acts,
20 events, and judicial decrees concerning the civil status of persons:

- 21 (a) Register of births;
- 22 (b) Register of foundlings or persons with no known parents;
- 23 (c) Register of deaths;
- 24 (d) Register of fetal deaths;
- 25 (e) Register of marriages;
- 26 (f) Register of court decrees/orders;
- 27 (g) Register of legal instruments; and
- 28 (h) Register of applications for marriage license.

29 The Shari’a Circuit Registrar shall maintain, keep, and preserve in a
30 secured place in their office the following registry books where they shall

1 properly enter the acts, events, and judicial decrees concerning the civil status
2 of persons, in accordance with PD No. 1083:

- 3 (a) Register of Muslim marriages;
- 4 (b) Register of Muslim divorces;
- 5 (c) Register of revocations of Muslim divorces;
- 6 (d) Register of conversions to Islam; and
- 7 (e) Register of court decrees/orders.

8 Philippine Foreign Service Posts shall maintain the following registers:

- 9 (a) Register of marriage between Filipinos, celebrated within Foreign
10 Service Posts;
- 11 (b) Register of births of foundlings or persons with no known parents;
12 and
- 13 (c) Register of legal instruments.

14 In addition to the registers cited above, Philippine Foreign Service Posts
15 shall maintain databases for the following:

- 16 (a) Reports of birth;
- 17 (b) Reports of death; and
- 18 (c) Reports of marriages.

19 The NSCRG may prescribe additional registers for other registrable
20 documents.

21 **SEC. 20. Operative Act of Registration.** – Unless otherwise provided
22 in this Act, civil registrars shall register a vital event upon ensuring that:

- 23 (a) The appropriate form is used, and the form is properly and
24 completely accomplished;
- 25 (b) All required documents are submitted;
- 26 (c) The information provided is complete and correct based on the
27 documents submitted, including but not limited to the identity and
28 civil status of the persons involved; and
- 29 (d) Based on available information, the vital event has not been
30 previously registered.

1 When all the foregoing conditions are present, the presumption of
2 regularity on the performance of the duty of civil registrars shall apply.

3 **SEC. 21. *Registration of Court Decree/Order.*** – Judicial decrees
4 concerning the civil status of persons shall be recorded in the Civil Register.
5 The following are registrable court decrees/orders:

- 6 (a) Judicial adoption;
- 7 (b) Rescission of judicial adoption;
- 8 (c) Annulment of marriage;
- 9 (d) Declaration of nullity of marriage;
- 10 (e) Declaration of presumptive death;
- 11 (f) Compulsory recognition of illegitimate child;
- 12 (g) Voluntary recognition of minor illegitimate child;
- 13 (h) Appointment of guardian;
- 14 (i) Termination of guardianship;
- 15 (j) Judicial determination of filiation;
- 16 (k) Judicial naturalization;
- 17 (l) Judicial cancellation of naturalization;
- 18 (m) Judicial determination of the fact of reappearance, if disputed;
- 19 (n) Separation of property;
- 20 (o) Revival of former property regime;
- 21 (p) Correction/cancellation of entries in the Civil Register;
- 22 (q) Recognition of foreign court orders; and
- 23 (r) Other court decrees/orders that pertain to the civil status and vital
24 statistics of a person.

25 The civil registrar shall properly enter the registrable events and court
26 decrees/orders, as well as final decisions on administrative adoption and other
27 orders/decrees affecting civil status of persons rendered by quasi-judicial bodies.

28 **SEC. 22. *Free Civil Registration Services.*** – The timely civil
29 registration of vital events shall be completely free of charge. No fees for
30 processing or for the preparation of supporting documents, including
31 miscellaneous and computer fees, shall be imposed: *Provided,* That in case of

late or delayed registration of births, deaths, or marriages, a processing fee may be charged, subject to limits prescribed by the NSCRG.

Upon registration of the vital event, the applicant shall be given a personal copy of the civil registry document free of charge. Succeeding copies of birth, death, marriage certificates, and other civil registry documents may be issued upon payment of fees as prescribed by the NSCRG.

SEC. 23. Place of Registration. – Unless otherwise provided in this Act, vital events occurring in the Philippines shall be registered in the city or municipality where said vital event occurred.

SEC. 24. Reporting of Vital Events Occurring Abroad. – All vital events occurring to Filipinos residing abroad, whether permanently or temporarily, shall be reported to the Philippine Foreign Service Posts of the country of residence or where the vital event took place. If there is no Philippine Foreign Service Post located in the country of residence or where the vital event took place, such vital event shall be reported in the Philippine Foreign Service Post of the country nearest the place of residence of the party concerned or where the vital event occurred.

SEC. 25. Out-of-Town Reporting and Special Circumstances. – The NSCRG shall issue guidelines on out-of-town reporting and registration of vital events, and the registration of vital events in special circumstances as defined in this Act, including but not limited to those vital events occurring abroad and the parties are already residing in the Philippines, as well as vital events occurring in the Philippines and the parties are already residing abroad.

SEC. 26. Mandatory Continuing Education and Training Program. – To ensure the efficient and effective delivery of civil registration services, the NSCRG, in coordination with LGUs, the Supreme Court, the DFA, and other relevant stakeholders, shall conduct continuing education and training program for LCRs, Shari’a District/Circuit Registrars, Consul Generals/Consuls/Vice Consuls, their staff, and all barangay officials under Section 28 of this Act. Such training programs shall be initiated and conducted

1 based on Training Needs Analysis, and evaluated regularly throughout the year
2 by the NSCRG, through the Civil Registration Office.

3 In addition to civil registrars, all physicians shall be required to undergo
4 training on their duties and responsibilities in relation to civil registration,
5 including on medical certification of cause of death. The DOH shall provide
6 capacity building for local health officers, physicians, and other members of the
7 health sector on their duties and responsibilities in relation to civil registration.
8 The CHED shall likewise ensure that birth registration, death registration, and
9 medical certification of cause of death are integrated in the curriculum of all
10 medical schools in the Philippines.

11 **SEC. 27. Professionalization of Civil Registration Profession. –**

12 In order to build a cadre of civil registrar professionals, the Department of
13 Budget and Management (DBM) shall create Civil Registrar positions in the
14 government based on the qualification standards recommended by the NSCRG
15 and approved by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). The PSA shall ensure the
16 professionalization of civil registrar practitioners and, for these purposes, shall
17 develop the following:

- 18 (a) A competency framework to identify the skills, knowledge, and
19 attribute of each of the civil registrar positions;
20 (b) A certification framework to upscale civil registration
21 competencies and ensure continued professional development;
22 (c) A code of ethics for civil registrar professionals; and
23 (d) An inclusive capacity development program in order to enhance
24 accountability of all civil registrars, promote diversity, promote
25 competition, and optimize efficiency.

26 Moreover, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), in
27 consultation with the NSCRG, shall establish, administer, and regulate a
28 professional licensing program and the continuing education of civil registrars
29 as the requirement for holding Civil Registrar positions in government.

30 **SEC. 28. Barangay Civil Registration System (BCRS). –** The

31 NSCRG shall, in coordination with the Department of Information and

1 Communications Technology (DICT), establish a systematic civil registration
2 procedure at the barangay level, to be called the Barangay Civil Registration
3 System (BCRS), where elected and appointed barangay officials shall be
4 mandated to assist in the facilitation of civil registration within their area or
5 jurisdiction, as provided under Section 394(d)(5) of RA No. 7160, and in
6 accordance with this Act and the procedures prescribed by the NSCRG.

7 The Barangay Captain shall submit to the Local Civil Registrar's Office
8 (LCRO) the names of the Barangay Secretary as Ex-Officio Barangay Civil
9 Registration Officer (BCRO) and another deputized barangay official as
10 Barangay Civil Registration Assistant (BCRA) who shall assist in the registration
11 of all vital events within their jurisdiction.

12 The LCRO shall engage barangays in the implementation of this Act,
13 including the provision of fiscal and budgetary support.

14 **CHAPTER I**

15 **Registration and Certification of Birth**

16 **SEC. 29. *Mandatory Registration of Live Birth.*** – All live births
17 occurring within the Philippines shall be registered in accordance with this Act:
18 *Provided,* That the birth of a fetus with an intrauterine life of less than seven
19 (7) months that dies within twenty-four (24) hours after its complete delivery
20 from the maternal womb shall be reported for statistical purposes, but shall not
21 be entered in the register of live births; *Provided, further,* That a fetus with an
22 intrauterine life of seven (7) months or more and born alive at the time it was
23 completely delivered from the maternal womb, but died later, shall be
24 considered a live birth and shall be registered in the register of births and
25 register of deaths accordingly.

26 **SEC. 30. *Persons Responsible for Reporting a Live Birth.*** – The
27 following persons and institutions shall be responsible for reporting a live birth
28 occurring within the Philippines to the LCR:

- 1 (a) The administrator of a health facility, physician, or midwife, who
2 attended the birth, in such order, for live births that occur in a
3 health facility;
- 4 (b) The physician, nurse, midwife, or any person who attended to the
5 birth, for live births that occur outside a health facility;
- 6 (c) In the absence of (a) or (b), the mother of the child, the father
7 of the child, or next-of-kin; or
- 8 (d) The Barangay Secretary or deputized BCRAAs, through the BCRS.
9 The declaration of the following persons shall be sufficient for purposes
10 of registration:
- 11 (a) Either parent of the newborn child born within a valid marriage;
- 12 (b) The mother or, in her absence, the guardian, in case of a child
13 born outside a valid marriage;
- 14 (c) Any responsible person who has knowledge of the facts of birth;
15 or
- 16 (d) The person themselves, upon reaching the age of majority.

17 **SEC. 31. Persons Responsible for Reporting a Live Birth Under**
18 ***Special Circumstances.*** – The following persons shall be responsible for
19 informing a live birth occurring under special circumstances:

- 20 (a) The driver of a vehicle, captain of a vessel, or pilot of an airplane,
21 as the case may be, and the parents of the child, in case of a live
22 birth that occurs aboard a vehicle, vessel, or airplane while in
23 transit;
- 24 (b) The imam, priest, religious leader, village chief, or community or
25 tribal leader for a live birth that occurs within the religious or
26 indigenous cultural community or, in default thereof, either
27 parent of the child in accordance with this Act; or
- 28 (c) The head of the facility that has custody over the mother for live
29 births occurring while the mother is in state custody.

30 The NSCRG shall issue guidelines on the registration of live births under
31 special circumstances.

1 **SEC. 32. *Duty to Report Live Birth.*** – It shall be the duty of the
2 informants mentioned under this Act to report a live birth within thirty (30)
3 calendar days from the date of the live birth, or from knowledge thereof, in
4 accordance with Sections 23 to 25 of this Act.

5 **SEC. 33. *Duty to Keep Records of Birth.*** – All health facilities shall
6 submit to the LCR a record of all births occurring in such facilities, which shall
7 contain information required for registration, including but not limited to the
8 name of the child, the parents, the medical attendant at birth, and the date of
9 submission of registration documents to the LCR.

10 **SEC. 34. *Registration of Foundlings or Persons with No Known***
11 ***Parents.*** – The registration of foundlings or persons with no known parents
12 shall be governed by the relevant provisions of RA No. 11767, its implementing
13 rules and regulations, and other relevant issuances.

14 **SEC. 35. *Live Births in Indigenous Cultural Communities /***
15 ***Indigenous Peoples (ICC/IPs).*** – The NSCRG, in coordination with the
16 NCIP, shall prescribe guidelines for the registration of the ethnic or indigenous
17 affiliation of a child and their parents, and for the recording of names of children
18 in accordance with the naming conventions of their respective ICCs.

19 **SEC. 36. *Live Births of Muslim Filipinos.*** – The NSCRG, in
20 coordination with the NCMF, shall prescribe guidelines for the registration of
21 Muslim Filipinos, and for the recording of names of children in accordance with
22 the naming conventions of Muslim Filipinos.

23 **SEC. 37. *Strict Confidentiality of Birth Records.*** – The record of a
24 person's birth shall be kept confidential and no information relating thereto shall
25 be issued except upon request of the following:

- 26 (a) The document owner, or any person authorized by them;
27 (b) Legal spouse;
28 (c) The parents, direct descendants, or the guardian or institution
29 legally in charge, in case the document owner is a minor;

- 1 (d) The Court or appropriate public official, whenever absolutely
2 necessary in administrative, judicial, or other official proceedings,
3 to determine the identity of the child's parents or other
4 circumstances surrounding the birth; and
5 (e) The next-of-kin, in case of a person's death.

6 CHAPTER II

7 Registration of Deaths and Fetal Deaths

8 **SEC. 38. *Mandatory Registration of Death.*** – All deaths that occur
9 within the Philippines shall be registered with the LCR in the city or municipality
10 where the death occurred within thirty (30) days from the time of death, in
11 accordance with this Act.

12 **SEC. 39. *Registration of Fetal Death.*** – Fetal deaths shall be
13 registered with the LCR in the city or municipality where the death occurred
14 within thirty (30) days from the time of death, in accordance with this Act.

15 **SEC. 40. *Registration of Mass Death.*** – Where the deceased cannot
16 be identified, the Local Health Officer, pursuant to existing guidelines and in
17 the exercise of their discretion, may issue and cause the registration of the
18 death certificate bearing the annotation "Body Not Identified". The NSCRG shall
19 issue guidelines on the registration of mass deaths.

20 **SEC. 41. *Permit to Dispose of Dead Bodies.*** – No remains shall be
21 buried, cremated, donated, transferred, or otherwise disposed of without a
22 permit to dispose of dead bodies issued by the Local Health Officer in the city
23 or municipality where the decedent died. A permit to dispose of human remains
24 shall only be issued upon the submission of the duly accomplished death
25 certificate to the Local Health Officer. In the case of medicolegal deaths, such
26 permit shall only be issued upon approval of the Medicolegal Officer conducting
27 the medicolegal death investigation.

28 The DOH shall, in coordination with the NSCRG and the DILG, establish
29 mechanisms for adoption of Local Health Officers to ensure that there is no

1 interruption of services on weekends, holidays, and instances of absence of a
2 Local Health Officer, such as:

- 3 (a) Assignment of a Provincial Health Officer or Local Health Officer
4 of a contiguous city or municipality in case of absence of the Local
5 Health Officer;
- 6 (b) Temporary appointment of a government physician to perform
7 the functions of the Local Health Officer under this Act; or
- 8 (c) Enabling reporting of deaths to Barangay Secretaries during
9 weekends or holidays: *Provided*, That the cause of death has
10 been determined and certified in accordance with this Act, and
11 that the death is immediately reported to the Local Health Officer.

12 **SEC. 42. *Persons Responsible for Reporting a Death.*** – The
13 following shall be responsible for reporting a death occurring within the
14 Philippines to the LCR in accordance with this Act:

- 15 (a) The head of the health facility, or the physician who last attended
16 to the deceased, for deaths occurring in a health facility;
- 17 (b) The physician who attended to the deceased during their last
18 illness, or in their absence, the next-of-kin, or in their default, any
19 person who has knowledge of the death, for deaths occurring
20 outside health facilities; or
- 21 (c) Medicolegal officers of the Philippine National Police (PNP) or the
22 National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for medicolegal deaths
23 reported to them.

24 It shall be the duty of funeral parlors, burial facilities, crematoriums, and
25 embalmers to report a death to the LCR pursuant to this Act and other relevant
26 laws, rules, and regulations, upon knowledge that a death has not been
27 registered.

28 **SEC. 43. *Persons Responsible for Reporting a Death Under***
29 ***Special Circumstances.*** – The following persons shall be responsible for
30 informing the LCR of the fact of death occurring under special circumstances:

- 1 (a) The driver of a vehicle, captain of a vessel, or pilot of an airplane,
2 as the case may be, or in default thereof, the owner of the moving
3 conveyance, for a death that occurs aboard a vehicle, vessel, or
4 airplane;
- 5 (b) The imam, village chief, or tribal leader, as the case may be, for
6 a death that occurs within the religious or indigenous cultural
7 community;
- 8 (c) The head of a detention facility for deaths that occur in state
9 custody.

10 **SEC. 44. Duty to Report A Death.** – It shall be duty of the informants
11 under Sections 42 and 43 of this Act to inform the Local Health Officer of the
12 city or municipality where the death occurred or where the body was found, of
13 a death within forty-eight (48) hours from the time of death, or from knowledge
14 of such death: *Provided*, That in case of medicolegal deaths, the medicolegal
15 officer to whom the death was referred shall report such death to the Local
16 Health Officer within ten (10) days from the date of death or receipt of the
17 report of death.

18 The Local Health Officer, or any other government physician authorized
19 under this Act shall, upon ensuring that the information provided is complete
20 and accurate, and that the medical certification on cause of death is properly
21 filled out, report the death to the LCR by forwarding the certificate of death
22 and other relevant documents within thirty (30) days from the time of or
23 discovery of death.

24 **SEC. 45. Medical Certification and Determination of Cause of**
25 **Death.** – The cause and manner of death of deceased persons shall be
26 determined and medically certified, by the following persons, subject to
27 guidelines to be issued by the DOH:

- 28 (a) By the head of the health facility or the attending physician, in
29 case of deaths occurring in a health facility and deaths
30 pronounced in the health facility;

- 1 (b) By the physician who last attended to the deceased during their
2 last illness, in case of deaths occurring outside a health facility
3 but with medical attendance;
- 4 (c) By the Local Health Officer, or other physicians authorized by
5 them, in case of deaths occurring outside a health facility and
6 without medical attendance, upon viewing the body in-person or
7 through video conferencing, and upon reviewing the deceased's
8 medical records; or
- 9 (d) By the medicolegal officer of the PNP or NBI, in cases of
10 medicolegal deaths.

11 The cause and manner of death shall be reported to the LCR in the same
12 manner as the fact of death. The Local Health Officer may designate other
13 physicians to determine the cause and manner of death for deaths without
14 medical attendance: *Provided*, That such physician has undergone training on
15 medical certification of cause of death, as prescribed by the DOH.

16 **SEC. 46. *Verbal Autopsy.*** – In cases where a person died outside a
17 health facility and without medical attendance, and no medical records are
18 available to determine the cause and manner of death of the deceased, the
19 Local Health Officer receiving the report of death or other physicians authorized
20 by the Local Health Officer shall view the body in-person, through video
21 conferencing, or such other means allowed under regulations, and conduct
22 verbal autopsy to determine the most likely cause of death: *Provided*, That
23 physicians designated by the Local Health Officer to conduct verbal autopsy
24 have undergone training on the use of verbal autopsy. The fact that verbal
25 autopsy was used to determine the most likely cause of death shall be specified
26 in the certificate of death.

27 The DOH shall issue guidelines on the conduct of verbal autopsies by
28 Local Health Officers.

29 **SEC. 47. *Medicolegal Deaths.*** – The following deaths shall be
30 considered medicolegal deaths that must be reported to medicolegal officers of

1 the PNP or NBI in cases within their jurisdiction, by any person who has
2 knowledge of such death:

- 3 (a) Deaths due to known or suspected unnatural or external causes,
4 including violent deaths, whether due to homicide, suicide, or
5 accident;
- 6 (b) All potentially unlawful deaths;
- 7 (c) Sudden, unexpected, or unexplained deaths not caused by a
8 readily recognizable disease, including dead-on-arrival cases with
9 improbable or inconsistent medical history or within confinement
10 of less than twenty-four (24) hours;
- 11 (d) Deaths in state custody; and
- 12 (e) Other analogous causes.

13 Upon receipt of the report, the medicolegal officer to whom the case is
14 assigned shall conduct a post-mortem examination of the deceased and such
15 other examinations needed to determine the cause and manner of death. The
16 consent of the deceased's next-of-kin shall not be required for such
17 examinations.

18 The medicolegal officer shall certify and report the cause and manner of
19 death, in the form and manner prescribed by the NSCRG, and according to
20 guidelines to be issued by the NSCRG in coordination with the DILG, the DOJ,
21 and the DOH.

22 In the absence of a medicolegal officer of the PNP and NBI in the city or
23 municipality where the death occurred, the PNP may authorize a Local Health
24 Officer or government physician to conduct the medicolegal death investigation
25 (MLDI): *Provided*, That such Local Health Officer or government physician shall
26 act under the supervision of the PNP.

27 The cause and manner of death determined upon request for a second
28 opinion made to another agency shall not be registered without court order:
29 *Provided*, That in case jurisdiction is transferred to the NBI or PNP upon order
30 of the Secretary of Justice or the Secretary of the Interior and Local
31 Government, the agency designated to conduct the MLDI shall be responsible
32 for reporting the cause and manner of death.

1 **SEC. 48. *Duty to Keep Records of Death.*** – All health facilities shall
2 submit to the LCR a record of all deaths occurring in such facilities on a quarterly
3 basis. Such record shall contain information required for registration, including
4 but not limited to the name of the deceased, the certifier of cause and manner
5 of death, and the date of submission of registration documents to the LCR.

6 All funeral parlors, embalmers, cemeteries, and crematoriums shall
7 likewise submit to the LCR on a quarterly basis, a record of all deaths referred
8 to their facility for embalming, burial, or cremation services. Such record shall
9 contain relevant information, including but not limited to the name of the
10 deceased, the date of issuance of the permit to dispose of the body, the name
11 of the embalmer, and the date of registration of death.

12 **SEC. 49. *Classification of Diseases.*** – The DOH and the PSA shall
13 adopt a standard for the classification of diseases consistent with international
14 standards.

15 **SEC. 50. *Registration of Deaths of Unidentified Persons.*** – The
16 NSCRG, in coordination with the PNP, NBI, DOJ, DILG, DOH, and other relevant
17 organizations, shall issue guidelines for the registration of deaths of unidentified
18 persons. These guidelines shall include mechanisms to amend the identity,
19 cause and manner of death, and other relevant information on the deceased
20 when they become known, in accordance with this Act.

21 The DOH shall ensure that all funeral parlors, burial facilities, and
22 crematoriums are trained on disposal of unidentified bodies and remains.

23 **SEC. 51. *Monitoring and Review of Causes of Death.*** – The DOH,
24 through its regional offices and provincial health officers, shall conduct regular
25 and random audits of causes of death within their territorial jurisdiction and
26 shall submit reports and recommendations to the Civil Registration Inter-
27 Agency Cooperation Committee to improve the quality, accuracy, and
28 timeliness of cause of death determination and certification.

29 **CHAPTER III**
30 **Marriage License and Registration of Marriage**

1 **SEC. 52. *Registration of the Application for Marriage License.* –**

2 An application for a marriage license shall be filed by the contracting parties
3 before the LCR where either of the parties resides. The LCR shall enter all
4 applications in the Register of Applications for Marriage License strictly in the
5 order of receipt of applications. The LCR shall record in the said register the
6 names of the applicants, the date of issuance of the marriage license, and such
7 other information as may be prescribed by the NSCRG.

8 No application shall be received by the LCR unless supporting documents
9 are attached thereto and no application shall be posted unless it is received by
10 the LCR. Registration of such application shall only take place after the
11 completion of the posting period.

12 All applications for marriage license shall be governed by the pertinent
13 provisions of EO No. 209.

14 **SECTION 53. *Registration of Marriage.* –** All marriages, including
15 marriages among ICCs/IPs requiring a marriage license, shall be registered by
16 the solemnizing officer within fifteen (15) days following the solemnization of
17 the marriage at the LCRO of the place where the marriage was solemnized.
18 Marriages exempted from the license requirement, as provided in Title I,
19 Chapter 2 of EO No. 209, shall be registered in the same manner within thirty
20 (30) days from the date of celebration of marriage.

21 A marriage solemnized while in transit within Philippine territory is
22 registrable at the place of destination or usual residence of either party.

23 Marriage among Muslim Filipinos performed under their customs, rites,
24 and practices shall be registered by the officiating person, or in their default,
25 by the parties to the marriage, with the Circuit Registrar of the city or
26 municipality where the Shari'a Circuit Court exists. Where there is no Shari'a
27 Circuit Court, marriages among Muslim Filipinos shall be registered at the LCRO
28 where the marriage was celebrated.

29 **SEC. 54. *Marriages Exempt from the License Requirement.* –** In
30 marriages exempt from the license requirement, the solemnizing officer, in
31 accordance with Title I, Chapter 2 of EO No. 209, shall indicate in the space

provided in the Certificate of Marriage the specific provision of EO No. 209 under which the marriage was performed. The civil registrar shall enter the same in the remarks column of the marriage register, in accordance with relevant NSCRG guidelines.

CHAPTER IV

Delayed Registration

SEC. 55. Delayed Registration. – Delayed registration refers to the registration of a vital event beyond the reglementary period under this Act and other relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

The NSCRG shall prescribe guidelines on the delayed registration of vital events, in accordance with this Act and other relevant laws, rules, and regulations. Such guidelines shall include but not be limited to the requirements and procedures for the following:

- (a) Appearance of the document owner in relation to the processing of delayed registration, including instances where personal appearance may be dispensed with;
- (b) Exceptional circumstances, such as the occurrence of a state of calamity or pandemic, necessitating birth registration assistance programs to aid in the expedient registration of birth among the vulnerable sectors of society;
- (c) Imposition of standard fees for delayed registration and/or waiver of the delayed registration fee where the applicant is an indigent, has limited access to registration services, and such other similar circumstances; and
- (d) Other analogous cases as may be deemed necessary to realize the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 56. Delayed Registration of Birth. – The primary documentary requirements for the application for delayed registrations of birth shall be:

- 1 (a) Certificate of Live Birth duly accomplished and signed by the
- 2 proper parties;
- 3 (b) Accomplished Affidavit for Delayed Registration; and
- 4 (c) National ID or ePhilID.

5 **SEC. 57. *Waiving of Delayed Registration Fee.*** – The standard fee
6 for delayed registration shall be waived upon presentation of any of the
7 following:

- 8 (a) Certificate of indigency issued by the DSWD or by the Local Social
- 9 Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO); or
- 10 (b) Certificate of 4Ps.

11 *Provided, That* certificates of indigency issued by the LSWDO shall be
12 subject to further verification by the PSA; *Provided, further, That* that persons
13 requesting for waiver of the delayed registration fee should be in the DSWD's
14 Listahanan or other equivalents lists or databases.

15 **CHAPTER V**

16 **Multiple Registration**

17 **SEC. 58. *Multiple Registration.*** – In cases of multiple registrations
18 of birth and death, the first registered certificate shall be presumed valid, unless
19 otherwise canceled by the court. No copies of subsequently registered
20 certificates registering the same birth or death shall be issued.

21 For multiple marriages involving the same parties, the certificate of
22 marriage pertaining to the first celebrated marriage shall be presumed valid,
23 unless otherwise canceled by the court.

24 The NSCRG shall promptly inform the concerned LCR, Shari'a Circuit
25 Registrar, or Philippine Foreign Service Post of the multiple registration upon
26 discovery.

27 **SEC. 59. *Supplemental Report.*** – A supplemental report using the
28 appropriate form (e.g., Certificate of Live Birth, Certificate of Death, Certificate
29 of Fetal Death, or Certificate of Marriage) may be filed to supply information

1 inadvertently omitted when the document was registered: *Provided*, That
2 supplemental reports to the Certificate of Death and Certificate of Marriage
3 shall only be allowed in cases where there is an official autopsy conducted by
4 the NBI and the PNP, or as ordered by the court, in accordance with Article 412
5 of the Civil Code and other relevant laws, rules, and regulations; *Provided*,
6 *further*, That the filing of the supplemental report shall be accompanied by an
7 affidavit executed by the registrant or person filing the supplemental report,
8 indicating the information inadvertently omitted and the reasons for such
9 inadvertence; *Provided, finally*, That all documents related to the filing of the
10 supplemental report shall be forwarded to the Office of the NSCRG.

11 **CHAPTER VI**
12 **Registration of Solemnizing Officers**

13 **SEC. 60. *Registration of Solemnizing Officers.*** – The following
14 shall file their sworn application for registration of authority to solemnize
15 marriage, in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the NSCRG:

- 16 (a) Priest, rabbi, imam, or minister of any church or religious sect,
17 acting within the limits duly authorized by their church or religious
18 sect; and
19 (b) Authorized chieftain or tribal leader of a duly confirmed ICC/IP
20 group by the NCIP.

21 The NSCRG shall review such applications and, after determination that
22 the denomination, church, sect, or religion of the applicant operates in the
23 Philippines and in good repute, shall issue the Certificate of Registration of
24 Authority To Solemnize Marriage (CRASM), and record the name of such priest,
25 rabbi, imam, or minister in the register of solemnizing officers. A denomination,
26 church, sect, or religion shall be deemed operating in the Philippines when such
27 appears in the latest census records of the Philippines. In the absence of census
28 records, the current Certificate of Registration or General Information Sheet
29 issued by the SEC may be presented. In the absence of the foregoing, a
30 certification from the mayor having jurisdiction over the place where its church,
31 temple, chapel, mosque, synagogue, and other places of worship used actually

1 and exclusively for holding religious gatherings, rites, and services is situated,
2 affirming that the religion or religious sect is operating in its locality, may be
3 submitted.

4 **SEC. 61. *Grounds for Cancellation of CRASM.*** – The NSCRG shall
5 have the authority to cancel the CRASM, upon due notice and hearing, based
6 on the following grounds:

- 7 (a) When the bishop or head of religion or religious sect of which the
8 solemnizing officer is a member requests for its cancellation;
- 9 (b) When the solemnizing officer voluntarily requests for cancellation;
- 10 (c) When the solemnizing officer ceases to be a member of the
11 religion or religious sect indicated in the certificate, or retires, or
12 ceases to be a priest, minister, or religious minister;
- 13 (d) When the solemnizing officer is convicted by final judgment of
14 any crime involving moral turpitude;
- 15 (e) When the solemnizing officer becomes permanently incapacitated
16 to discharge the functions of their office;
- 17 (f) When the solemnizing officer willfully violates laws or regulations
18 on marriage, or willfully fails to fulfill their duties as solemnizing
19 officer;
- 20 (g) When the solemnizing officer commits other acts in contravention
21 of law; and
- 22 (h) Other analogous circumstances.

23 **CHAPTER VII**

24 **Court Orders and Legal Instruments**

25 **SEC. 62. *Registration of Court Orders.*** – In case of a court
26 decree/order concerning the status of a person, it shall be the duty of the Clerk
27 of Court to advise the successful petitioner to have the decree/order registered
28 in the LCRO where the court is functioning within thirty (30) days after the
29 decree/order has become final.

1 The successful petitioner or their authorized representative, in lieu of the
2 Clerk of Court, may cause the registration of the court decree/order. The civil
3 registrar, upon receipt of the application for registration, shall verify the
4 authenticity of the court decree/order. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of Court
5 who issued the decree/order to ascertain whether the same has been
6 registered, and if not, to cause the registration of the same.

7 Applications for registration of a court decree/order filed beyond the 30-
8 day reglementary period shall be processed subject to the rules for delayed
9 registration, in accordance with this Act and the guidelines issued by the
10 NSCRG.

11 The LCRO where the decree/order was registered shall forward a
12 certified true copy of the same to the LCRO where the vital event affected was
13 originally registered, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the NSCRG.

14 **SEC. 63. *Registration of Divorce Among Muslim Filipinos.*** –
15 Divorce in accordance with PD No. 1083 shall be registered at the Shari’a Circuit
16 Court where the divorce occurred within thirty (30) days from the occurrence
17 of the vital event. In the event that there is no Shari’a Circuit Court in the place
18 where the divorce occurred, the same shall be registered in the Shari’a Circuit
19 Court of the place of habitual residence of the requesting party, or at the
20 nearest Shari’a Circuit Court where the divorce occurred.

21 A Decree of Divorce issued by a Shari’a Circuit Court, once final and
22 executory, shall be registered by the Shari’a Circuit Registrar of the place where
23 the divorce occurred and entered in the Register of Muslim Divorces within
24 thirty (30) days after the divorce has become final and executory. The Shari’a
25 Circuit Registrar shall transmit registered copies of the Decree of Divorce and
26 its Certificate of Finality to the appropriate office, in accordance with the
27 guidelines issued by the NSCRG.

28 **SEC. 64. *Registration of the Dissolution of Marriages Among***
29 ***ICCs/IPs.*** – In accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations, the
30 Certificate of Dissolution of Marriage of ICCs/IPs shall be registered with the

1 LCRO of the city or municipality where the dissolution of marriage occurred
2 within thirty (30) days from the confirmation of the occurrence of the
3 dissolution of marriage: *Provided*, That facts and information contained in such
4 Certificate shall be confirmed in writing by a tribal leader, chieftain, or
5 community elder of the ICC to which any of the parties belongs.

6 **SEC. 65. *Recognition of Foreign Decree or Judgment.*** – The
7 foreign decree or judgment must be judicially recognized by filing a proper civil
8 action with the Regional Trial Court (RTC). The court decision recognizing such
9 foreign judgment shall be registered at the LCRO where the concerned RTC
10 functions within thirty (30) calendar days from the finality of judgment. The
11 court decree/order, together with the Certificate of Finality, shall be submitted
12 to the LCRO where the marriage is registered for annotation.

13 **SEC. 66. *Registration of Judicial Declaration of Presumptive***
14 ***Death.*** – The Clerk of Court that issues the order or the successful petitioner
15 of the case declaring the presumptive death of a person shall submit a copy of
16 the court decree/order, together with the Certificate of Finality, to the LCRO in
17 the city or municipality where the court decree/order was issued, within thirty
18 (30) calendar days from the time of issuance of the court decree/order, in
19 accordance with the provisions of this Act and EO No. 209.

20 **SEC. 67. *Adoption.*** – All adoptions processed and recognized under
21 Philippine law shall be duly registered in accordance with this Act.

22 The registration of Administrative Orders of Adoption shall be governed
23 by the relevant provisions of RA No. 11642 or the Domestic Administrative
24 Adoption and Alternative Child Care Act, its implementing rules and regulations,
25 and other relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

26 **SEC. 68. *Rectification of Simulated Birth Records.*** – The
27 registration of rectification of simulated birth records shall be governed by the
28 relevant provisions of RA No. 11222, as amended by RA No. 11642, its
29 implementing rules and regulations, and other relevant laws, rules, and
30 regulations.

1 **SEC. 69. *Registration of Legal Instruments.*** – The following shall
2 be recorded in the Register of Legal Instruments:

- 3 (a) Affidavit of reappearance;
- 4 (b) Affidavit of acknowledgment under the Civil Code;
- 5 (c) Acquisition of citizenship;
- 6 (d) Acquisition of traditional title upon completion of Hajj or Ada, in
7 accordance with Section 17 of RA 9997 or the National
8 Commission on Muslim Filipinos Act of 2009;
- 9 (e) Administrative reacquisition and retention of citizenship under RA
10 No. 9225 or the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of
11 2003;
- 12 (f) Renunciation of Philippine citizenship;
- 13 (g) Authorization and ratification of artificial insemination;
- 14 (h) Certificate of legal capacity to contract marriage;
- 15 (i) Legitimation;
- 16 (j) Option to elect Philippine citizenship;
- 17 (k) Marriage settlements and any modification thereof before the
18 celebration of marriage;
- 19 (l) Repatriation document with oath of allegiance;
- 20 (m) Dissolution of marriage among ICCs/IPs, in accordance with their
21 customs and traditions;
- 22 (n) Affidavit to use the surname of the father;
- 23 (o) Affidavit of admission of paternity;
- 24 (p) Partition and distribution of properties of spouses and delivery of
25 the children's presumptive legitime;
- 26 (q) Waiver of rights/interests in absolute community of property; and
27 (r) Such other registrable legal instruments as may be determined
28 by the NSCRG.

29 **SEC. 70. *Place of Registration.*** – As a general rule, all legal
30 instruments shall be registered in the LCRO of the place where they were
31 executed except for the following:

- 1 (a) Affidavit of reappearance;
- 2 (b) Marriage settlement;
- 3 (c) Admission of paternity or equivalent document;
- 4 (d) Acknowledgement, legitimation, or voluntary emancipation of a
- 5 minor;
- 6 (e) Authorization and ratification of artificial insemination; and
- 7 (f) Affidavit to use the surname of the father.

8 **SEC. 71. *Registration of Affidavit of Reappearance.*** – A sworn
9 statement of the facts and circumstances of reappearance of a spouse declared
10 to be absent or presumptively dead shall be recorded with the LCRO where the
11 judicial declaration of presumptive death was recorded, and in the LCRO where
12 a subsequent marriage was recorded, if applicable. The affidavit of
13 reappearance shall be annotated both in the first and subsequent certificates
14 of marriage of the spouses, if applicable.

15 **SEC. 72. *Registration of Marriage Settlement.*** – The marriage
16 settlement signed by the parties prior to their celebration of marriage, in
17 accordance with EO No. 209, shall be registered in the LCRO where the
18 marriage was registered.

19 **SEC. 73. *Registration of Admission of Paternity or Equivalent***
20 ***Document, Acknowledgment, and Affidavit to Use the Surname of the***
21 ***Father.*** – The sworn statement recognizing paternity of a child shall be
22 registered in accordance with RA No. 9255 and other relevant laws, rules, and
23 regulations.

24 **SEC. 74. *Registration of Affidavit of Legitimation.*** – The Affidavit
25 of Legitimation shall be registered in the LCRO where the birth was registered,
26 subject to RA No. 9858 and its implementing rules and regulations.

27 **SEC. 75. *Registration of Affidavit of Ratification of Artificial***
28 ***Insemination.*** – Children conceived as a result of artificial insemination of the
29 wife with the sperm of the husband, or that of a donor, or both, are likewise

legitimate children of the husband and his wife: *Provided*, That both of them authorized or ratified such insemination in a written instrument executed and signed by them before the birth of the child. The instrument shall be recorded in the civil register together with the birth certificate of the child.

SEC. 76. Registration of Reacquisition of Philippine Citizenship under RA No. 9225. – The Oath of Allegiance, together with the Order of Approval, shall be registered at the LCRO or Philippine Foreign Service Post where the Oath of Allegiance was executed within thirty (30) days from its execution, in accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

CHAPTER VIII

Civil Registry Database

SEC. 77. Prima Facie Evidence of Vital Events. – The registry books making up the civil register, both physical and digital, as well as corresponding certified copies shall be *prima facie* evidence of the truth of the facts contained therein.

The civil registrar shall not, under any circumstance, permit any document entrusted to their care to be removed from their office, except upon lawful order of the court, in which case the proper receipt shall be secured.

SEC. 78. Data Privacy and Confidentiality of Civil Registration Records. – All processes, databases, and information gathered through and stored in the CRVS System shall be processed in accordance with RA No. 10173.

The PSA shall adopt such controls and safeguards as are appropriate and necessary to ensure that only authorized personnel have access to its data and records, and that the confidentiality of the information handled and processed by the CRVS system is protected at all times, in accordance with relevant provisions of PD No. 603 or the Child and Youth Welfare Code, as amended, and RA No. 10173.

The NSCRG shall issue policies and guidelines on the copy issuance of civil registry documents.

SEC. 79. *Generation and Sharing of CRVS Information.* – Civil registration information shall be the primary source of vital statistics. The PSA shall regularly publish vital statistics and reports thereon, in accordance with RA No. 10625 or the Philippine Statistical Act of 2013.

5 The PSA shall likewise share information to other government agencies,
6 including LGUs, as may be necessary to the purposes of such requests and in
7 accordance with relevant provisions of PD No. 603, RA No. 10173, and other
8 relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

9	CHAPTER IX
10	Digitalization

SEC. 80. *Digitalization of CRVS System.* – The NSCRG, in coordination with the DICT, shall develop and adopt appropriate technology to facilitate and improve the CRVS system. The NSCRG may, for this purpose, issue guidelines on:

- 15 (a) The digitalization of civil registration processes and the
16 digitization of the national register, local registers, and other civil
17 registration records;
- 18 (b) The requirements for the adoption of the CRVS system, including
19 its interoperability or integration with existing IT systems, by
20 LCRs, Shari'a District/Circuit Registrars, Philippine Foreign Service
21 Posts, health facilities, BCRS, and other government
22 stakeholders;
- 23 (c) The use of electronic or digital signatures for registration of vital
24 events, in accordance with RA No. 8792 or the Electronic
25 Commerce Act of 2000.

26 All national and local registers, and all civil registration records forming
27 part of said registers, shall conform to the guidelines set by the NSCRG, in
28 coordination with the DICT, taking into consideration new technologies
29 available.

The NSCRG may prescribe the form of civil registry documents and reports, including physical and electronic/digital copies, to be used by civil registrars.

SEC. 81. *Interoperability of CRVS System with PhilSys Database.* – The CRVS System shall be interoperable with the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys), in accordance with relevant provisions of RA No. 11055 or the Philippine Identification System Act. The NSCRG shall issue guidelines to ensure the secure sharing and interoperability of the CRVS system with the PhilSys.

SEC. 82. *E-Filing.* – The Civil Registration Office shall establish an electronic filing system for the following:

- (a) Petitions under RA No. 9048, as amended by RA No. 10172;
- (b) Submission or Application for Annotation under RA 9858;
- (c) Application for Registration of CRASM;
- (d) Petition for cancellation of CRASM; and
- (e) Appeals and other processes related to civil registration, as may be deemed necessary.

SEC. 83. *Posting and Publication Requirements.* – The posting and publication relative to the registration of vital events shall be made in accordance with this Act and other relevant laws, rules, and regulations. This notwithstanding, posting through the official PSA central and field office websites or other official government website shall constitute compliance with the posting and publication requirements under civil registration laws.

CHAPTER X

Penal Provisions

SEC. 84. *Immunity from Suit of Civil Registration Officers.* – The NSCRG, LCRs, Shari’a District/Circuit Registrars, Consul Generals/Consuls/Vice Consuls, and other officers performing civil registration functions shall not be subject to any action, claim, or demand in connection with any act done or

omitted by them in the performance of their duties and exercise of their powers to implement the provisions of this Act, except for acts and omissions done in evident bad faith or gross neglect of duty.

Unless the actions of the above-mentioned officers are found to be in willful violation of this Act or performed with evident bad faith or gross negligence, the abovementioned officers are held free and harmless from any liability, to the full extent permissible by law, and they shall be indemnified for any and all costs, and expenses of whatever kind and nature that may arise in connection with the lawful exercise of their powers and performance of their duties and functions.

SEC. 85. Offenses and Penalties. – (A) It shall be prohibited for any natural or juridical person to commit or facilitate the commission of any of the following acts:

- (1) Forging civil registration documents, certificates, and registers;
- (2) Willfully falsifying, altering, or tampering civil registration documents, certificates, and registers;
- (3) Submitting false information in registering vital events;
- (4) Using, abetting to use, or possessing falsified or illegally obtained certificates and security papers; and
- (5) Profiteering and unauthorized facilitation of registration and copy issuance of civil registration documents.

Any person who commits the foregoing violations shall, upon conviction, be punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more than twelve (12) years, or a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

(B) It shall be prohibited for any government employee or official, solemnizing officer, or medical practitioner, attendant, or health facility officer authorized to prepare civil registry documents to:

- 1 (1) Intentionally prepare, or aid or abet in the preparation of, a
2 certificate or civil registration document containing false or
3 fraudulent information;
- 4 (2) Intentionally and knowingly issue certificates or civil registration
5 documents containing false information;
- 6 (3) Make any unauthorized alteration in civil registration documents,
7 certificates, and registers; and
- 8 (4) Intentionally withhold information from, or refuse to inform, the
9 LCR of a vital event.

10 Any government employee or official, solemnizing officer, or medical
11 practitioner, attendant, or health facility officer, who commits the foregoing
12 violations shall, upon conviction, be punished with imprisonment of not less
13 than six (6) years but not more than twelve (12) years, or a fine of not less
14 than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) but not more than One
15 Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

16 In all instances, if the violation was committed by a government official
17 or employee, the penalty shall include perpetual absolute disqualification from
18 holding any public office or employment in the government, including GOCCs,
19 and their subsidiaries.

20 This provision shall be without prejudice to the filing of the appropriate
21 criminal cases, in accordance with the Revised Penal Code and other special
22 penal laws.

23 (C) It shall be unlawful for health facilities and their responsible
24 personnel, and medical practitioners, to refuse to report or cause the
25 registration of a vital event due to non-payment of hospital fees.

26 Any government employee or official, medical practitioner, or health
27 facility officer who commits the foregoing violation shall, upon conviction, be
28 punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more than
29 twelve (12) years, or a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php
30 100,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000.00), or both,
31 at the discretion of the court. This provision shall be without prejudice to other
32 penalties and fines that may be imposed on government employees and

officials for misfeasance, malfeasance, and other acts and omissions prohibited by law.

In case of acts committed by private individuals, the penalties imposed in this section shall be without prejudice to the filing of the appropriate criminal cases, in accordance with the Revised Penal Code and other special penal laws.

In case of acts committed by juridical persons, the penalties mentioned herein shall be imposed on its president, manager, or most senior officer.

CHAPTER XI

Cancellation of Civil Registry Documents

SEC. 86. *Power to Block Copy Issuance of Civil Registry Documents.* – The PSA may, *motu proprio*, block the copy issuance of any civil registry document in the civil registry database upon initial findings of fraud, subject to guidelines issued by the NSCRG.

SEC. 87. *Special Committee on Cancellation of Civil Registry Documents.* – There shall be a special committee on the cancellation of civil registry documents, which shall be composed of a Chairman and two (2) Members appointed by the NSCRG. The Special Committee shall convene and act as a collegial body in rendering a decision. The presence of the Chairman and one (1) Member shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 88. *Cancellation of Civil Registry Documents.* – The Special Committee shall, upon due notice and hearing, cause the cancellation of civil registry documents based on the following grounds:

- (a) Fraud in the registration of vital event; and
- (b) Violation of civil registration laws, including those involving national interest.

The NSCRG shall have the power to enlist the assistance of law enforcement and investigative bodies to determine the existence of the above grounds to cancel civil registry documents. Investigations to determine the existence of the above-cited grounds shall be completed within a period not exceeding fifteen (15) days.

1 The Special Committee shall render its decision not later than thirty (30)
2 days from the completion of the investigation or lapse of the 15-day
3 investigation period, whichever comes first: *Provided*, That the NSCRG may
4 grant the Special Committee extension of time to render its Decision in view of
5 the nature of the case. Such decision shall become final and executory fifteen
6 (15) days after the receipt thereof by the parties to the proceedings, subject to
7 appeal under Section 90 of this Act.

8 **SEC. 89. *Canceled Civil Registration Documents.*** – Upon finality
9 of the decision rendered by the Special Committee under Section 88, the Special
10 Committee shall notify the concerned civil registrar of the finality of the
11 decision, who shall then cancel the affected civil registry document. Copies of
12 civil registration documents canceled in accordance with this provision shall
13 only be issued upon issuance of a court order.

14 **SEC. 90. *Appeals.*** – Any person whose interest is affected by a
15 decision or inaction by a civil registrar or any officer performing civil registration
16 functions under this Act, including the Special Committee under Section 87,
17 may appeal the decision or inaction to the NSCRG, in accordance with
18 guidelines promulgated by the PSA. Appeals from decisions of the NSCRG may
19 be made in accordance with Rule 43 of the Rules of Court.

20 **SEC. 91. *Use of Income.*** – Ten percent (10%) of the income
21 generated from the civil registration services shall be retained for the upgrading
22 of equipment, system, database, physical facilities, and operations of the Civil
23 Registration Office.

24 **SEC. 92. *Transitory Provisions.*** – For the first two (2) years from the
25 effectivity of this Act, the existing rules, guidelines, standard operating
26 procedures, and forms for the registration of vital events shall continue to be
27 in effect to ensure continuity of civil registration services. The NSCRG shall issue
28 guidelines, as necessary, to clarify which procedures shall remain in effect
29 notwithstanding the effectivity of this Act.

1 **SEC. 93. *Appropriations.*** – There shall be an initial appropriation of
2 One Hundred Fifty Million Pesos (Php 150,000,000.00) in the General
3 Appropriations Act, which shall be included in the PSA’s budget, for the
4 digitalization of civil registration processes and the digitization of the national
5 register, local registers, and other civil registration records.

6 **SEC. 94. *Mandatory Review.*** – This Act shall undergo mandatory
7 review at least every five (5) years to integrate global best practices, and
8 accommodate necessary modifications and developments to the CRVS system.

9 **SEC. 95. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The PSA, in
10 coordination with the Civil Registration Inter-Agency Cooperation Committee
11 and other relevant stakeholders, including national professional organizations
12 of LCRs, shall adopt such rules and regulations for the proper and effective
13 implementation of this Act within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

14 **SEC. 96. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act
15 shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, other parts or provisions of this Act not
16 otherwise affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

17 **SEC. 97. *Repealing Clause.*** – Act No. 3753 or the Law on registry of
18 Civil Status, and all other laws, rules, regulations, and issuances inconsistent
19 with any provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

20 **SEC. 98. *Retroactivity.*** – This Act shall have retroactive effect insofar
21 as it does not prejudice or impair vested or acquired rights.

22 **SEC. 99. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23 publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

24 Approved,
25