

CHAPTER 57.

REGISTRATION.

9 of 1949.
10 of 1950.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF A CENTRAL REGISTRY AND THE REGULATION OF ALL MATTERS TO BE REGISTERED THEREIN.

[1st June, 1949.]

Short title.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Registration Ordinance.

Definitions.

2. In this Ordinance and any regulations made thereunder, unless the context otherwise requires :—

“ Will ” includes a codicil.

“ Instrument ” means any deed, contract, will or other matter required to be registered.

“ Stillborn ” applies to any child which has issued forth from its mother after the 28th week of pregnancy and which did not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother, breathe or show any other sign of life.

Central Registry.

3. A Central Registry shall be maintained in Stanley for the registration of all matters required by law, and of all matters which the Governor in Council may require, to be registered in the Central Registry.

Registrar General.

4. (1) The Registrar General shall be responsible for the proper registration of all matters required to be registered under section 3 hereof.

(2) The Registrar General shall exercise all the powers, perform all the duties and be subject to the liabilities of a registrar of births, deaths and marriages in the United Kingdom so far as the same are applicable.

Records, &c., to form Central Registry.

5. All registers, records, books, papers, maps and other documents now in the custody of the Registrar General under the Registration Ordinance, 1853, shall be retained by him as part of the records of the Central Registry.

[Note. This Ordinance is declared to be in force in the Dependencies by the Application of Colony Laws Ordinance, Cap. 1 (D.S.).]

6. (1) The father or mother of every child born alive in the Colony, or in the case of the death, illness, absence or inability of the father or mother, the occupier of the house in which to his knowledge the child is born, or one of the persons present at the birth or the person having charge of the child shall, if the child shall have been born in Stanley, give to the Registrar General within ten days of the birth such particulars as he may require to be registered, and if the child shall have been born elsewhere shall give to the Registrar General or a Registrar appointed under this Ordinance such particulars within 42 days of the date of birth, and in every such case shall sign the register.

Registration of particulars of births.

(2) Any person responsible for giving such particulars to the best of his knowledge and belief who shall fail to do so or refuse to sign the register shall commit an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £10.

7. The provisions of section 6 shall apply to the birth of a stillborn child and every person required to give information shall either—

Registration of birth of stillborn child.

- (1) deliver to the Registrar General or nearest Registrar a written certificate that the child was not born alive signed by a registered medical practitioner or midwife who was in attendance at the birth or who has examined the body of such child ; or
- (2) make a declaration to the effect that no registered medical practitioner or midwife was present at the birth, or has examined the body, or that his or her certificate cannot be obtained and that the child was not born alive.

8. (1) The nearest relatives of any person dying in the Colony present at the death or in attendance during the last illness, or in default thereof any relative who has knowledge of any of the particulars required to be registered, or in default of such relatives, any person present at the death, or the occupier of the house in which to his knowledge the death took place, or any person finding or taking charge of the body, or each inmate of the house, or the person causing the body to be buried, shall inform the Registrar or nearest Registrar within five days next after the death or finding the

Information as to death.

body if such death or finding occurred in Stanley or within 14 days if it occurred elsewhere and shall sign the register.

(2) Any person whose duty it is to register a death who shall fail within twelve months of the date of death or finding the body and within seven days of the receipt of a notice from the Registrar General or nearest Registrar calling on him so to do shall commit an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £10.

Ministers to keep registers of baptisms and burials.

9. A Minister of Religion shall keep registers of baptisms and burials and shall record in them the particulars required under the Parochial Registers Acts and sign the same within seven days of the baptism or burial unless prevented by sickness or other unavoidable cause, and shall on or before the 15th day of January in each year forward to the Governor or to the person appointed by him in the form required by him an abstract of the number of baptisms and burials registered during the preceding year. Any minister who shall refuse, or without reasonable cause omit to send such abstract shall commit an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £10.

Offences.

10. Any person who shall—

- (a) wilfully make or cause to be made a false statement for the purpose of it being inserted in any register ;
- (b) knowingly or wilfully insert or cause or permit to be inserted any false statement in a register or abstract required under this Ordinance or any regulations made thereunder, or shall knowingly or wilfully sign or verify any copy or abstract knowing the same to be false ;
- (c) wilfully destroy or injure or cause to be destroyed or injured any register or map being a record in the Central Registry

shall commit an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding £100 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

Refusal by Registrar General, &c., to hand over records.

11. (1) Any Registrar General or Registrar who refuses on ceasing to hold such office to deliver up to the Governor or the person appointed by him to receive the same all registers, records, books, papers, maps, safes, keys, and other docu-

ments and things in his possession relating to his office shall commit an offence and be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £50 and a further fine not exceeding £10 for each day he shall so refuse to deliver up such registers, records, books, papers, maps, safes, keys, and other documents and things after conviction in respect thereof.

(2) If a justice is satisfied by information on oath that an offence under this section has been committed he may grant a search warrant authorising any constable named therein to enter at any time any premises or place named in the warrant, if necessarily by force, and to search the premises or place and any person found therein and to seize any register, record, book, paper, map, document, safe, key, or anything which is evidence of an offence under this section.

12. The Governor in Council may make regulations for the administration of this Ordinance and impose penalties for any breach thereof. Regulations.