

4. Register forms

- (1) The Registrar shall cause to be supplied to all register offices set out in the First Schedule register forms of births and register forms of deaths which shall be respectively in the prescribed form. *(See Forms 1 & 2) (Amended 80 of 1997 s. 49; 8 of 2006 s. 10)*
- (2) The particulars required to be registered concerning any birth or death shall be the particulars specified in the said forms.
- (3) The Registrar shall cause to be kept in his department—
 - (a) the register books of births and the register books of deaths kept at the general register office and district registry offices immediately prior to 6 November 1995;
 - (b) a births register, in which shall be recorded the particulars of the birth of any child that are registered under this Ordinance on or after 6 November 1995; and
 - (c) a deaths register, in which shall be recorded the particulars of the death of any person that are registered under this Ordinance on or after 6 November 1995. *(Replaced 80 of 1997 s. 49)*
- (4)
 - (a) The Registrar may cause the register books, whether in the form of paper or microfilm, or any part of them to be recorded in the form of digital image, and for the purposes of subsection (3)(a), the register books, whether in the form of paper or microfilm, or such part of them as the Registrar sees fit may be kept in the form of digital image.
 - (b) The births register and the deaths register shall be compiled from signed register forms which are recorded in the form of digital image in accordance with section 5. *(Replaced 8 of 2006 s. 10)*
- (5) An entry of birth or death in the register shall, in the case of non-Chinese, be in the English language and in the case of Chinese shall be both in the English and the Chinese languages. *(Added 80 of 1997 s. 49)*

14. Information of death to be given in various cases to registrar, etc.

- (1) When a person dies in a house it shall be the duty of the nearest relatives of the deceased present at the death or in attendance during his last illness, and, in default of such relatives, of each person present at the death or in attendance during the last illness, and of any occupier of the house in which, to his knowledge, the death took place, and, in default of any such persons, of each inmate of such house, and of the person causing the body of the deceased to be buried, to give, to the best of his knowledge and belief, to a registrar within 24 hours (exclusive of the time necessary for the journey and of any intervening hours of darkness and of general holidays as defined by the General Holidays Ordinance (Cap. 149)) after such death, information of the particulars required to be registered concerning such death, and in the presence of the registrar to sign and submit to such registrar a register form completed with the information so given, and such death shall be deemed to be registered in the deaths register on the submission of the signed register form: (*Amended 80 of 1997 s. 58; 35 of 1998 s. 5*)
 Provided that where no such informant as aforesaid is forthcoming, the person finding the body shall within 24 hours after such finding proceed as provided in subsection (2). [*cf. 1874 c. 88 s. 10 U.K.*]
- (2) When a person dies in a place which is not a house, or a dead body is found elsewhere than in a house, it shall be the duty of every relative of the deceased, having knowledge of any of the particulars required to be registered concerning the death, and, in default of such relative, of every person present at the death, and of any person finding and of any person taking charge of the body, and of the person causing the body to be buried, to give to the officer in charge of the nearest police station, within 24 hours after the death or the finding, such information of the particulars required to be registered concerning the death as the informant possesses, and such particulars shall be forthwith forwarded by the said officer to a registrar. [*cf. 1874 c. 88 s. 11 U.K.*]
- (3) When an inquest is held by a coroner into the death of any person the coroner holding the inquest shall inquire of the particulars required to be registered concerning the death and shall send to the Registrar within 24 hours after the termination of the inquest, a certificate under his hand giving information concerning the death and specifying the said particulars and the time and place at which the inquest was held and the Registrar shall cause the deaths and particulars to be duly registered. When an inquest is held by a coroner on any dead body no person shall with respect to such dead body or death be subject to any penalty for failing to give information in pursuance of any other provision of this Ordinance. (*Amended 57 of 1967 Schedule; L.N. 374 of 1991; 27 of 1997 s. 70*) [*cf. 1874 c. 88 s. 16 U.K.*]
- (4) (*Repealed 80 of 1997 s. 58*)

20. Provisions as to certificates of cause of death

With respect to certificates of the cause of death, the following provisions shall have effect—

- (a) the Registrar shall, on the application in writing of a registered medical practitioner, furnish him with a book of printed forms of certificates of death in the prescribed form; (*See Form 18*)
- (b) in case of the death of any person who has been attended during his last illness by a registered medical practitioner, that practitioner shall forthwith sign and give to some person required by this Ordinance to give information concerning the death a certificate, in the form prescribed by this section, stating to the best of his knowledge and belief the cause of death, and such person shall, on giving information concerning the death, deliver that certificate to a registrar; and the cause of death as stated in that certificate shall be entered in the register: Provided that the practitioner shall not sign that certificate unless he has personally viewed the body of that person and is satisfied that death has occurred or, if the death has occurred in a hospital, he has received a notice from another registered medical practitioner stating that the other practitioner has personally viewed that body and is satisfied that death has occurred; (*Amended 40 of 1967 s. 2; 27 of 1997 s. 71*)
- (c) where an inquest is held on the body of any deceased person, or where a coroner has issued a burial order, a medical certificate of the cause of death need not be given; (*Amended 57 of 1967 Schedule; 27 of 1997 s. 71*)
- (d) for the purpose of securing uniformity in the death returns, the cause of death certified by a registered medical practitioner, or by any medical officer in any branch of Her Majesty's service, or by a coroner shall, so far as possible, be described in strict accordance with such classification as may be prescribed. If in any certificate the cause of death is not so described, it shall be lawful for a registrar to refuse to register the cause of death as thus certified, and to proceed in the manner provided by section 21 for cases in which that officer suspects that the reported cause of death is not the true cause. (*Amended 1 of 1965 s. 8; 57 of 1967 Schedule*)
[cf. 1874 c. 88 s. 20 U.K.]