

REGISTRAR GENERAL ACT

CHAPTER 19:03

Act

49 of 1921

Amended by

31 of 1922

3 of 1933

14 of 1935

19 of 1939

12 of 1974

8 of 1977

45 of 1979

51/1980

*24 of 1981

10 of 1986

6 of 1993

3 of 1994

70 of 2000

7 of 2003

2 of 2012

*20 of 2020

(*See Notes on page 2)

Current Authorised Pages

<i>Pages (inclusive)</i>	<i>Authorised by L.R.O.</i>
1-10	..

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Note on Subsidiary Legislation

This Chapter contains no subsidiary legislation.

Note on Amendment

This Act has been amended by Act No. 24 of 1981. However, Act No. 24 of 1981 had not, up to the date of the last revision of this Act, been brought into operation.

Note on Adaptation

Certain fees in this Chapter were increased by the Commission under paragraph 4 of the Second Schedule to the Law Revision Act (Ch. 3:03). Where this occurs, a marginal reference in the form normally indicating an amendment is made to LN 51/1980 (the Legal Notice by which the President's approval was signified).

Note on Act No. 20 of 2020

The amendments made to this Act by Act No. 20 of 2020 took effect on 21st July 2020 by LN 275/2020.

CHAPTER 19:03

REGISTRAR GENERAL ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

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CHAPTER 19:03

REGISTRAR GENERAL ACT

An Act relating to the Registrar General.

1950 Ed.
Ch. 28. No. 1.
49 of 1921.
Commencement.

[10TH NOVEMBER 1921]

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Registrar General Act.

Registrar
General.
[8 of 1977].

2. (1) There shall be a Registrar General and one or more Deputy Registrars General, and one or more Assistant Registrars General.

(2) The office of the Registrar General, the office of a Deputy Registrar General and the office of an Assistant Registrar General shall be public offices.

(3) The Registrar General shall have an official embossing seal with the words "Registrar General Trinidad and Tobago" upon it.

Exercise of
powers of
Registrar
General.
[8 of 1977
45 of 1979].

3. (1) Whenever by any law for the time being in force in Trinidad and Tobago anything is appointed to be done by the Registrar General, it may, in the absence of express provision to the contrary, be lawfully and for all purposes effectually done by a Deputy Registrar General or by an Assistant Registrar General or any officer of the Registrar General's Department authorised in writing by the Registrar General personally.

Ch. 6:52.

(2) The Registrar General and every Deputy Registrar General and every Assistant Registrar General shall be *ex officio* Commissioners of Affidavits under the Commissioners of Affidavits Act.

(3) The Registrar General may, in the instrument whereby authority is given under subsection (1) to any officer—

(a) require that such authority shall be exercised in accordance with the general or specific directions of the Registrar General;

(b) specify the period for which such authority shall be valid, so, however, that any such period may be extended from time to time and any authority given under this section may be revoked at any time.

(4) Any thing signed by any officer to whom authority is given under this section shall be as valid and effectual as if it were signed by the Registrar General.

(5) Notice of every authority given under this section and of every extension thereof or the revocation thereof shall be published in the *Gazette* but failure so to publish notice of the giving or extending of such authority shall not affect the validity of the authority conferred or any extension thereof, as the case may be.

4. (1) The Registrar General shall keep four separate and distinct indexes of—

Indexes.
[8 of 1977
45 of 1979
70 of 2000].

- (a) Deeds;
- (b) probates of Wills and Letters of Administration;
- (c) judgments, decrees, orders and rules; and
- (d) memoranda of *lis pendens*.

(2) The Registrar General shall cause—

- (a) every Deed registered with him to be entered in the Index of Deeds under the letter of the alphabet corresponding with the initial letter of the surname of each person named as a party to such Deed, with the given names and the surnames at full length of all persons named as parties to such Deed;
- (b) every Will registered with him to be entered in the Index of Probate of Wills and Letters of Administration under the letter of the alphabet corresponding with the initial letter of the surname of the testator, together with the given names and the surnames at full length of such testator;

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- (c) every grant of Letters of Administration registered with him to be entered in the Index of Probates of Wills and Letters of Administration under the letter of the alphabet corresponding with the initial letter of the surname of the intestate together with the given names and surname at full length of such intestate;
 - (d) every judgment, decree, order and rule registered with him to be entered in the index of judgments, decrees, orders and rules under the letter of the alphabet corresponding with the initial letter of the surname of every person whose estate is intended to be affected by such judgment, decree, order or rule, with the given names and surname at full length of every such person;
 - (e) every memorandum of *lis pendens* registered with him to be entered in the Index of Memoranda of *lis pendens* under the letter of the alphabet corresponding with the initial letter of the surname of every person whose estate is intended to be affected by such *lis pendens*, with the given names and surname at full length of every such person and a description of the property thereby affected.
- (3) The Registrar General shall keep a separate index of all Deeds of gift and settlements registered with him, and he shall continue to keep in their present form, or in such other form as may be prescribed, the separate indexes now known respectively as the “Town Books” and the “Country Books”.
- (4) The Registrar General shall also keep such other books, indexes, photographic film reproductions and other records as may be—
- (a) required to be kept by rules made under this Act or by any other written law;
 - (b) directed to be kept by the Minister;
 - (c) necessary or expedient for giving effect to any written law or generally for the efficient discharge of his functions.

(5) The records, documents and indexes required to be kept and maintained by the Registrar General under this Act may also be kept and maintained in an electronic system.

5. All persons shall have access to and be permitted to search all indexes of Deeds and other books and documents in the office of the Registrar General and also to inspect, examine and take notes or extracts from any such Deeds, books or documents on payment of the prescribed fee. Searches.

6. All persons may examine and peruse all Deeds and certified copies of Wills registered in the office of the Registrar General, and the Registrar General shall, on the request of any person, cause to be made and delivered to such person a true and correct copy certified under his hand of any such Deed or Will on payment of the prescribed fee. Examination of documents and certified copies.

7. The Registrar General is entitled to charge the fees specified in the Schedule and such fees may be paid by electronic or other means. Fees. Schedule. [20 of 2020].

*7A. Notwithstanding section 7, where the Government is required to pay fees under this Act, there shall be a waiver of the payment of those fees. Waiver of fees. [2 of 2012].

8. The Registrar General shall keep a true account, in electronic or other form, of all fees received by him, and the names of the persons from whom and the service or duty for which the fees respectively shall have been received, and shall, on the expiration of each month, certify a transcript of the account in proof of the correctness of the entries made during that month. Accounts. [20 of 2020].

9. (1) The office of the Registrar General shall be kept open for transaction of business by the public, between the hours Office hours. [70 of 2000
7 of 2003
20 of 2020].

*This section took effect from 1st January 2011.

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of eight thirty in the morning and three fifteen in the afternoon except on—

- (a) Saturdays and Sundays;
- (b) Carnival Monday and Tuesday;
- (c) public holidays; and
- (d) such other days as the Minister with responsibility for legal affairs may direct.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Registrar General—

- (a) shall not accept payment for any transaction after three o'clock in the afternoon except where a member of the public desirous of transacting such business was in the office at the said three o'clock;
- (b) may with the approval of the Minister by notification published in the *Gazette* and at least one daily newspaper in circulation in Trinidad and Tobago—
 - (i) close the office of the Registrar General for the transaction of business on any working day; or
 - (ii) alter the length of the period referred to in subsection (1) for the transaction of business on any working day.

(3) The Minister with responsibility for legal affairs may, by Order, amend the days specified in subsection (1).

Rules.
[8 of 1977
70 of 2000].

10. (1) The Registrar General may with the approval of the Minister to whom the responsibility for the Registrar General's Department is assigned, make Rules—

- (a) for the management of the office of the Registrar General, including the registers, plans, instruments and other books, documents and records to be kept and conferring on the Registrar General such powers as may be considered necessary for carrying out the provisions of any law relating to the duties of the Registrar General;

- (b) prescribing the minimum and maximum dimensions of instruments tendered for registration;
- (c) respecting the quality of writing and material used in instruments tendered for registration;
- (d) prescribing forms and providing for their use;
- (e) governing the making and keeping of registers and indexes;
- (f) prescribing methods and standards of recording by photographic film and providing for the storage thereof;
- (g) respecting the admission of the public to the use of the records in the office of the Registrar General, and the conduct of searches and the making and certifying of copies and extracts in the office of the Registrar General;
- (h) respecting the quality, colour and size of paper in which documents may be submitted;
- (i) respecting the quality, colour of paper and dimension of plans that may be submitted;
- (j) respecting the submission of documents together with cover sheets obtainable from the Registrar General signed by the Attorneys-at-law presenting documents for registration;
- (k) respecting the size of the paper in which the Registrar General may issue certificates;
- (l) respecting any matters necessary or advisable to carry out effectively the intent and purpose of this Act.

(2) Rules under subsection (1) may provide that any person contravening any provision thereof shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of one hundred dollars.

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Section 7.
[70 of 2000].

SCHEDULE

PART A

(a)	standard fee for all documents registered as a Deed	...	\$100.00
(b)	other documents, e.g., <i>lis pendens</i> , judgments, charges, Bills of Sale and releases thereof not registered as a Deed	...	\$ 50.00
(c)	search per day of general index	...	\$ 50.00
(d)	search of single index	...	\$ 10.00
(e)	examining any single Deed or other document	...	\$ 10.00
(f)	for a search conducted by the Registrar General in addition to (d) and (e) above	...	\$ 50.00
(g)	for a copy of each page of document	...	\$ 2.00
(h)	to certify such a copy	...	\$ 5.00
(i)	other certificates	...	\$ 50.00
(j)	each attendance in Court	...	\$100.00

PART B

(a)	general search per day otherwise than in the electronic system	...	\$ 10.00
(b)	search of a single index, Town or Country Book otherwise than in the electronic system	...	\$ 5.00
(c)	examination of any Deed or other document otherwise than in the electronic system	...	\$ 5.00