

LAWS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT

CHAPTER 44:03

**Act
45 of 1916**

Current Authorised Pages

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**Note
on
Adaptation**

Under paragraph 6 of the Second Schedule to the Law Revision Act (Ch.3:03) the Commission amended certain references to public officers in this Chapter. The Minister's approval of the amendments was signified by L.N. 120/1980, but no marginal reference is made to this Notice where any such amendment is made in the text.

CHAPTER 44:03**NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT****ARRANGEMENTS OF SECTIONS**

SECTION

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Application of Act.
4. Provisions for early notification of births.

An Act to provide for the Early Notification of Births.1950 Ed.
Ch 12. No 17.

45 of 1916

Commencement

[28TH DECEMBER 1916]

1. This Act may be cited as the Notification of Births Act. Short title.
2. In this Act, "prescribed"* means prescribed by regulation made by the Minister under this Act. Interpretation.
3. This Act shall have effect in such areas in Trinidad and Tobago as are specified in Orders made by the Minister. Application of Act.
4. (1) In the case of every child born in an area in which this Act has effect, it shall be the duty of the prescribed person to give notice in writing of the birth to the Medical Officer of the district in which the child is born, in manner provided by this section. Provisions for early notification of births.
- (2) Notice under this section shall be given by posting a prepaid letter or postcard addressed to the Medical Officer at his office or residence, giving the necessary information of the birth, within thirty-six hours after the birth, or by delivering a written

*See Gazette of 22.2.1917, for "prescribed persons."

†See G.N.s 27/1917 and 26/1962 relating to Port-of-Spain and San Fernando.

notice of the birth at the office or residence of the Medical Officer within the same time; and the prescribed person shall supply without charge addressed and stamped postcards containing the form of notice to any person who applies for the same.

(3) Any person who fails to give notice of a birth in accordance with this section is liable, on summary conviction to a fine of forty dollars; but a person shall not be liable to a fine under this section if he satisfies the court that he had reasonable grounds to believe that notice had been duly given by some other person.

(4) The notification required to be made under this Act shall be in addition to and not in substitution for the requirements of any Act relating to the registration of births; and any Registrar of births and deaths, whose district or any part hereof is situated within any area in which this Act has effect, shall at all reasonable times have access to notices of births received by a Medical Officer under this Act, or to any book in which those notices may be recorded, for the purpose of obtaining information concerning births which may have occurred in the district of such Registrar.

(5) This section shall apply in the case of any child which has issued forth from its mother after the expiration of the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy, whether alive or dead.

(6) Any expenses incurred by a prescribed person in the execution of this Act shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament.

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

PRESCRIBED PERSONS REGULATIONS

G. 22.2.17.

made under section 4

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Prescribed Persons Regulations. Citation.

2. The prescribed persons under section 4 ((1) of the Act shall be one of the following persons, that is to say: Prescribed persons under S.4(1).

- (a) the father of the child if he is actually residing in the house where the birth took place at the time of its occurrence;
- (b) the nearest relative of the mother present;
- (c) any person in attendance upon the mother at the time or within six hours after the birth;
- (d) the Medical Practitioner if any, in attendance;
- (e) the Licensed Midwife, if any; or
- (f) in default of any of the above mentioned persons, then the occupier of the premises.

3. The prescribed person under section 4 (2) of the Act in every area* in which the Act has effect shall be one of the following: Prescribed persons under S.4(2).

- (a) the District Medical Officer;
- (b) the District Registrar of Births and Deaths; or
- (c) the Officer in charge of the Police Station.

* Areas proclaimed under the Act—Port-of-Spain, Proc. No. 27-1917. San Fernando, Proc. No. 26-1922.