

CHAPTER 12. No. 17.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE EARLY NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS. Ordinance. Ch. 12. No. 15-1940.

[28th December, 1916.] Commencement.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Notification of Births Ordinance. Short title.

2. In this Ordinance—
“prescribed”* means prescribed by regulation made by the Governor in Council under this Ordinance. Interpretation.

3. (1) This Ordinance shall have effect in such areas in the Colony as are specified in proclamations† from time to time issued by the Governor in Council. Application of Ordinance.

(2) Every such proclamation may be altered, amended, or revoked by proclamation to be similarly made and published.

4. (1) In the case of every child born in an area in which this Ordinance 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

* See *Royal Gazette* of 22.2.1917, for “prescribed persons.”

† Proclamations 27—1917 and 26—1922 relating to Port-of-Spain and San Fernando.

the birth, within thirty-six hours after the birth, or by delivering a written 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 shall be liable, on summary conviction, before a Magistrate or Justice, to a fine of five dollars: Provided that 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 other person.

(4) The notification required to be made under this Ordinance shall be in addition to and not in substitution for the requirements of any Ordinance relating to the registration of births; and any Registrar of births and deaths, whose district or any part thereof is situate within any area in which this Ordinance shall have effect, shall at all reasonable times have access to notices of births received by a Medical Officer under this Ordinance, 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 Ordinance shall be paid from the Treasury.

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Regulations made under section 4 of the Notification of Births Ordinance.

R.G. 22.2.17.

1. The prescribed person under section 4 (1) shall be one of the following persons, that is to say—

- (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; or
- (b) the nearest relative of the mother present; or
- (c) any person in attendance upon the mother at the time or within six hours after the birth; or
- (d) the Medical Practitioner if any, in attendance; or
- (e) the Licensed Midwife, if any; or
- (f) in default of any of the above mentioned persons, then the occupier of the premises.

2. The prescribed person under section 4 (2) in every area* in which the Ordinance has effect shall be one of the following, viz.—

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

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