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First Session First Parliament Republic of Trinidad  
and Tobago

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REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**Act No. 8 of 1977**

AN ACT to amend the Registrar General Ordinance,  
Ch. 28. No. 1.

*[Assented to 12th March, 1977]*

ENACTED by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as Enactment  
follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Registrar General Short title  
(Amendment) Act, 1977,

Sections 2, 3 and  
4 of Registrar  
General Ordinance  
repealed and  
replaced.  
Ch. 28. No. 1

2. Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Registrar General Ordinance (hereinafter referred to as "The Ordinance") are repealed and the following sections are substituted:—

"Registrar  
General

2. (1) There shall be a Registrar General and one or more Deputy Registrar 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 the same.

Exercise of  
powers of  
Registrar  
General

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.

Ch. 7. No. 6

(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 Ordinance.

(3) The Registrar General may give Authority in writing to any officer of the Registrar General's department to sign anything authorized or required by this Ordinance or by any other law to be signed by the Registrar General.

(4) The Registrar General may, in the instrument whereby authority is given under subsection (3) 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.

(5) 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.

(6) 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.

Index

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

- (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 christian or given names and the surnames at full length of all persons named as parties to such deed;

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- (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 christian or given names and the surname at full length of such testator;
  - (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 christian or 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 christian or 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*,

- (d) prescribing forms and providing for their use;
- (e) governing the making and keeping of registers and indices;
- (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 any matters necessary or advisable to carry out effectively the intent and purpose of this Ordinance.

(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.”.

Commencement

4. This Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by proclamation of the President published in the *Gazette*.

Passed in the Senate this 25th day of January, 1977.

R. L. GRIFFITH  
*Clerk of the Senate*

Passed in the House of Representatives this 11th day of February, 1977.

J. E. CARTER  
*Clerk of the House*

with the christian or 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 used and kept in and for the purposes of registration of deeds or as may be prescribed".

3. The Ordinance is also amended by adding the following section—

Amendment of  
Registrar General  
Ordinance

"Rules

10. (1) The Attorney General may 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;