

No. 7—1923.

I ASSENT,

[L.S.]

S. H. WILSON,  
*Governor.*

10th April, 1923.

AN ORDINANCE to provide for the Registration of Firms and Persons carrying on business under Business Names and for purposes connected therewith.

[By Proclamation.]

**B**E it enacted by the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Registration of Short Title. Business Names Ordinance, 1923.

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise Interpreta-  
tion. requires—

“Firm” means an unincorporate body of two or more individuals, or one or more individuals and one or more corporations, or two or more corporations, who have entered into partnership with one another with a view to carrying on business for profit :

“Business” includes profession :

[Price 6d.]

“Individual” means a natural person and does not include a corporation :

“Christian name” includes any forename :

“Initials” includes any recognised abbreviation of a Christian name :

References in this Ordinance to a former Christian name or surname shall not, in the case of natural-born British subjects, include a former Christian name or surname where that name or surname has been changed or disused before the person bearing the name had attained the age of eighteen years, and, in the case of a married woman, shall not include the name or surname by which she was known previous to the marriage :

References in this Ordinance to a change of name shall not include, in the case of natural-born British subjects, a change of name which has taken place before the person whose name has been changed has attained the age of eighteen years :

“Business name” means the name or style under which any business is carried on, whether in partnership or otherwise :

“Foreign firm” means any firm, individual, or corporation whose principal place of business is situate outside His Majesty’s dominions :

“Showcards” shall mean cards containing or exhibiting articles dealt with, or samples or representations thereof :

“The Court” means the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago, or a Judge thereof :

“Prescribed” means prescribed by rules made in pursuance of this Ordinance.

## 3. Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance :—

Firms and  
persons to be  
registered.

- (a) Every firm having a place of business in the Colony and carrying on business under a business name which does not consist of the true surnames of all partners who are individuals and the corporate names of all partners who are corporations without any addition other than the true Christian names of individual partners or initials of such Christian names ;
- (b) Every individual having a place of business in the Colony and carrying on business under a business name which does not consist of his true surname without any addition other than his true Christian names or the initials thereof ;
- (c) Every individual or firm having a place of business in the Colony, who, or a member of which, has either before or after the commencement of this Ordinance changed his name, except in the case of a woman in consequence of marriage ;

shall be registered in the manner directed by this Ordinance :

Provided that—

- (i) where the addition merely indicates that the business is carried on in succession to a former owner of the business, that addition shall not of itself render registration necessary ; and
- (ii) where two or more individual partners have the same surname, the addition of an s at the end of that surname shall not of itself render registration necessary ; and
- (iii) where the business is carried on by a trustee in bankruptcy or the Official Receiver or a receiver or manager appointed by the Court, registration shall not be necessary ; and
- (iv) a purchase or acquisition of property by two or more persons as joint tenants or tenants in common is not of itself to be deemed carrying on a business whether or not the owners share any profits arising from the sale thereof.

Registration  
by nominee,  
&c.

4. Where a firm, individual, or corporation having a place of business within the Colony carries on the business wholly or mainly as nominee or trustee of or for another person, or other persons, or another corporation, or acts as general agent for any foreign firm, the first-mentioned firm, individual, or corporation shall be registered in manner provided by this Ordinance, and in addition to the other particulars required to be furnished and registered, there shall be furnished and registered the particulars mentioned in the schedule to this Ordinance: Provided that where the business is carried on by a trustee in bankruptcy or the Official Receiver or a receiver or manager appointed by the Court, registration under this section shall not be necessary.

Manner and  
particulars of  
registration.

5.—(1) Every firm or person required under this Ordinance to be registered shall furnish to the Registrar a statement in writing in the prescribed form containing the following particulars:—

- (a) The business name;
- (b) The general nature of the business;
- (c) The principal place of the business;
- (d) Where the registration to be effected is that of a firm, the present Christian name and surname, any former Christian name or surname, the nationality, and if that nationality is not the nationality of origin, the nationality of origin, the usual residence, and the other business occupation (if any) of each of the individuals who are partners, and the corporate name and registered or principal office of every corporation which is a partner;
- (e) Where the registration to be effected is that of an individual, the present Christian name and surname, any former Christian name or surname, the nationality, and if that nationality is not the nationality of origin, the nationality of origin, the usual residence, and the other business occupation (if any) of such individual;

- (f) Where the registration to be effected is that of a corporation, its corporate name and registered or principal office;
- (g) If the business is commenced after the commencement of this Ordinance, the date of the commencement of the business.
- (2) Where a business is carried on under two or more business names, each of those business names must be stated.

6. The statement required for the purpose of registration must in the case of an individual be signed by him, and in the case of a corporation by a director or secretary thereof, and in the case of a firm either by all the individuals who are partners, and by a director or the secretary of all corporations which are partners or by some individual who is a partner, or a director or the secretary of some corporation which is a partner, and in either of the last two cases must be verified by a statutory declaration made by the signatory: Provided that no such statutory declaration stating that any person other than the declarant is a partner, or omitting to state that any person other than as aforesaid is a partner, shall be evidence for or against any such other person in respect of his liability or non-liability as a partner, and that the Court may on application of any person alleged or claiming to be a partner direct the rectification of the register and decide any question arising under this section.

Statement to be signed by persons registering.

7.—(1) The particulars required to be furnished under this Ordinance shall be furnished within fourteen days after the firm or person commences business, or the business in respect of which registration is required, as the case may be: Provided that if such firm or person has carried on such business before the commencement of this Ordinance or commences such business within two months thereafter, the statement of particulars shall be furnished after the expiration of two months and before the expiration of three months from the commencement of this Ordinance, and that if at the expiration of the said two months the conditions affecting the firm or persons have ceased to be such as to require registration under this Ordinance, the firm or person need not be registered so long as such conditions continue.

Time for registration.

(2) This section shall apply, in the case where registration is required in consequence of a change of name, as if for references to the date of the commencement of the business there were substituted references to the date of such change.

Registration  
of changes in  
firm.

8. Whenever a change is made or occurs in any of the particulars registered in respect of any firm or person, such firm or person shall, within fourteen days after such change, or such longer period as the Registrar may, on application being made in any particular case, whether before or after the expiration of such fourteen days, allow, furnish to the Registrar a statement in writing in the prescribed form specifying the nature and date of the change, signed and where necessary verified, in like manner as the statement required on registration.

Penalty for  
default in  
registration.

9. If any firm or person by this Ordinance required to furnish a statement of particulars or of any change in particulars shall without reasonable excuse make default in so doing in the manner and within the time specified by this Ordinance, every partner in the firm or the person so in default shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds for every day during which the default continues, and the Magistrate shall order a statement of the required particulars or change in the particulars to be furnished to the Registrar within such time as may be specified in the order.

Disability of  
persons in  
default.

10.—(1) Where any firm or person by this Ordinance required to furnish a statement of particulars or of any change in particulars shall have made default in so doing, then the rights of that defaulter under or arising out of any contract made or entered into by or on behalf of such defaulter in relation to the business in respect to the carrying on of which particulars were required to be furnished at any time while he is in default shall not be enforceable by action or other legal proceeding either in the business name or otherwise.

Provided always as follows :—

- (a) The defaulter may apply to the Court for relief against the disability imposed by this section, and the Court, on being satisfied that the default was accidental, or due to inadvertence, or some other sufficient cause, or that on other grounds it is just and equitable to grant relief, may grant such relief either generally, or as respects any particular contracts, on condition of the costs of the application being paid by the defaulter, unless the Court otherwise orders, and on such other conditions (if any) as the Court may impose, but such relief shall not be granted except on such service and such publication of notice of the application as the Court may order, nor shall relief be given in respect of any contract if any party to the contract proves to the satisfaction of the Court that, if this Ordinance had been complied with, he would not have entered into the contract ;
- (b) Nothing herein contained shall prejudice the rights of any other parties as against the defaulter in respect of such contract as aforesaid ;
- (c) If any action or proceeding shall be commenced by any other party against the defaulter to enforce the rights of such party in respect of such contract, nothing herein contained shall preclude the defaulter from enforcing in that action or proceeding, by way of counterclaim, set off or otherwise, such rights as he may have against that party in respect of such contract.
- (2) Without prejudice to the power of the Court to grant such relief as aforesaid, if any proceeding to enforce any contract is commenced by a defaulter in a Petty Civil Court, such last named Court may, as respects that contract, grant such relief as aforesaid.

11. If any statement required to be furnished under this Ordinance contains any matter which is false in any material particular to the knowledge of any person signing it, that

Penalty for  
false state-  
ments.

person shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds, or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding three months, or to both such imprisonment and penalty.

Duty to  
furnish parti-  
culars to  
Registrar.

12.—(1) The Registrar may require any person to furnish to him such particulars as he thinks necessary for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not such person or the firm of which he is partner should be registered under this Ordinance, or an alteration made in the registered particulars, and may also in the case of a corporation require the secretary or any other officer of a corporation performing the duties of secretary to furnish such particulars, and if any person when so required fails to supply such particulars as it is in his power to give, or furnishes particulars which are false in any material particular, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds, or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding three months, or to both such imprisonment and penalty.

(2) If from any information so furnished it appears to the Registrar that any firm or person ought to be registered under this Ordinance, or an alteration ought to be made in the registered particulars, the Registrar may require the firm or person to furnish to him the required particulars within such time as may be allowed by the Registrar, but, where any default under this Ordinance has been discovered from the information acquired under this section, no proceedings under this Ordinance shall be taken against any person in respect of such default prior to the expiration of the time within which the firm or person is required by the Registrar under this section to furnish particulars to him.

Registrar to  
file statement  
and issue  
certificate of  
registration.

13. On receiving any statement or statutory declaration made in pursuance of this Ordinance, the Registrar shall cause the same to be filed, and he shall send by post or deliver a certificate of the registration thereof to the firm or person registering, and the certificate or a certified copy thereof shall be kept exhibited in a conspicuous position at the principal place of business of the firm or individual, and if not kept so exhibited, every partner in the firm or the person, as the case may be, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds.

14. The Registrar shall keep an index of all the firms and persons registered under this Ordinance. Index to be kept.

15.—(1) If any firm or individual registered under this Ordinance ceases to carry on business, it shall be the duty of the persons who were partners in the firm at the time when it ceased to carry on business or of the individual or if he is dead his personal representative, within three months after the business has ceased to be carried on, to deliver to the Registrar notice in the prescribed form that the firm or individual has ceased to carry on business, and if any person whose duty it is to give such notice fails to do so within such time as aforesaid, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds. Removal of names from register.

(2) On receipt of such a notice as aforesaid the Registrar may remove the firm or individual from the register.

(3) Where the Registrar has reasonable cause to believe that any firm or individual registered under this Ordinance is not carrying on business, he may send to the firm or individual by registered post a notice that, unless an answer is received to such notice within one month from the date thereof, the firm or individual may be removed from the register.

(4) If the Registrar either receives an answer from the firm or individual to the effect that the firm or individual is not carrying on business or does not within one month after sending the notice receive an answer, he may remove the firm or individual from the register.

16.—(1) Where any business name under which the business of a firm or individual is carried on contains the word "British" or any other word which, in the opinion of the Registrar, is calculated to lead to the belief that the business is under British ownership or control, and the Registrar is satisfied that the nationality of the persons by whom the business is wholly or mainly owned or controlled is at any time such that the name is misleading, the Registrar shall refuse to register such business name or, as Misleading business names.

the case may be, remove such business name from the register, but any person aggrieved by a decision of the Registrar under this provision may appeal to the Governor, whose decision shall be final.

(2) The registration of a business name under this Ordinance shall not be construed as authorising the use of that name if apart from such registration the use thereof could be prohibited.

Registrar.  
(49-1921.)

17. The Registrar-General appointed under the Registrar-General's Ordinance, 1921, shall be the Registrar for the purposes of this Ordinance.

Inspection of  
statements  
registered.

18.—(1) At any time after the expiration of six months from the commencement of this Ordinance or of such longer period, not being more than nine months from the commencement of this Ordinance, as the Registrar may direct, any person may inspect the documents filed by the Registrar on payment of such fees as may be prescribed, not exceeding one shilling for each inspection; and any person may require a certificate of the registration of any firm or person, or a copy of or extract from any registered statement to be certified by the Registrar, and there shall be paid for such certificate of registration, certified copy, or extract such fees as may be prescribed, not exceeding two shillings for the certificate of registration, and not exceeding sixpence for each folio of seventy-two words, of the entry, copy, or extract.

(2) A certificate of registration, or a copy of or extract from any statement registered under this Ordinance, if duly certified to be a true copy or extract under the hand of the Registrar (whom it shall not be necessary to prove to be the Registrar), shall, in all legal proceedings, civil or criminal, be received in evidence.

Governor in  
Executive  
Council may  
make rules.

19.—(1) The Governor in Executive Council may make rules concerning any of the following matters:—

- (a) The fees to be paid to the Registrar under this Ordinance, so that they do not exceed the sum of five shillings for the registration of any one statement;
- (b) The forms to be used under this Ordinance;

- (c) The duties to be performed by the Registrar under this Ordinance;
- (d) Generally the conduct and regulation of registration under this Ordinance, and any matters incidental thereto.

(2) All fees payable in pursuance of any such rules shall be paid into the Colonial Treasury.

(3) All such rules shall be published in the *Royal Gazette* and shall be judicially noticed.

20.—(1) After the expiration of three months from the commencement of this Ordinance every individual and firm required by this Ordinance to be registered shall, in all trade catalogues, trade circulars, showcards, and business letters, on or in which the business name appears and which are issued or sent by the individual or firm to any person in any part of His Majesty's dominions, have mentioned in legible characters—

Publication of  
true names, &c.

- (a) in the case of an individual, his present Christian name or the initials thereof and present surname, any former Christian name or surname, his nationality if not British, and if his nationality is not his nationality of origin, his nationality of origin; and
- (b) in the case of a firm, the present Christian names or the initials thereof and present surnames, any former Christian names and surnames, and the nationality if not British, and if the nationality is not the nationality of origin, the nationality of origin of all the partners in the firm or, in the case of a corporation being a partner, the corporate name.

(2) If default is made in compliance with this section the individual or, as the case may be, every member of the firm shall be liable for each offence to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

Provided that no proceedings shall be instituted under this section except by or with the consent of the Attorney-General.

No. 7.

*Registration of Business Names.*

1923.

Offences by  
corporations.

21. Where a corporation is guilty of an offence under this Ordinance, every director, secretary, and officer of the corporation who is knowingly a party to the default shall be guilty of a like offence and liable to a like penalty.

Procedure.

22. Penalties incurred under this Ordinance shall be recoverable on summary conviction before a Magistrate, and the procedure in all such cases shall be according to the Summary Conviction Offences (Procedure) Ordinance, 1918.

(9—1918.)

Commencement.

23. This Ordinance shall commence on a day to be fixed by the Governor by proclamation.

Section 4.

## SCHEDULE.

Description of Firm, &c.	The additional particulars.
Where the firm, individual, or corporation required to be registered carries on business as nominee or trustee.	The present Christian name and surname, any former name, nationality, and, if that nationality is not the nationality of origin, the nationality of origin, and usual residence, or, as the case may be, the corporate name, of every person or corporation on whose behalf the business is carried on: Provided that if the business is carried on under any trust and any of the beneficiaries are a class of children or other persons, a description of the class shall be sufficient.
Where the firm, individual, or corporation required to be registered carries on business as general agent for any foreign firm.	The business name and address of the firm or person as agent for whom the business is carried on: Provided that if the business is carried on as agent for three or more foreign firms it shall be sufficient to state the fact that the business is so carried on, specifying the countries in which such foreign firms carry on business.

Passed in Council this twenty-eighth day of March, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three.

E. F. AANENSEN,  
*Acting Clerk of the Council.*