

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2206



Introduced by **Hon. Sol Aragon**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Civil registration establishes the identity and records the significant events in the life of a person which are essential in the recognition and protection of his civil rights and liberties. It is a means by which the citizenship of a person is established and given official recognition, and a system in which a person's rights are given due respect.

A system of civil registration collects and collates accurate demographic and other vital data crucial to the crafting of official policy as well as to the delivery of basic services such as health, infrastructure, education and social services.

Given the foregoing, the introduction and implementation of a comprehensive and responsive system of civil registration is highly exigent as the current civil registration system dismally suffers from deficiencies and flaws that deprive individuals of their inherent right to identity and recognition, thereby denying them also of their civil rights.

Present official data shows that we have not achieved 100 percent registration of births. Estimates have it that the births of over 2.6 million Filipino children have not been registered. That number does not include millions of Filipino adults and a significant number of indigenous peoples whose births have also not been registered.

Poverty, illiteracy, and distance have consistently been compounding the problem, exacerbated further by some individuals and medical institutions tasked to register these events but delay or refuse to do so because of unpaid financial obligation. These situations are tantamount to deprivation of rights by reason of poverty.

To address these social injustices, this measure provides for a comprehensive and responsive civil registration, anchored on the establishment of a grassroots-based Barangay Civil Registration System, a Free Delayed Registration Program for unregistered births due to poverty, and a Free Delayed Registration for Indigenous Peoples.

In view of the foregoing, the enactment of this measure is earnestly sought.


HON. SOL ARAGONES

Representative, Third District of Laguna

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2206**

Introduced by **Hon. Sol Aragon**

1 **AN ACT**
2 **PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM**
3 **IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

4 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine Civil*
5 *Registration Act of 2017.*"

6 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State shall promote and maintain a more
7 comprehensive and responsive civil registration system. Towards this end, the standardization
8 and modernization of registration procedures are necessary to establish the identity of the
9 individual for administrative and legal purposes. Moreover, efficient and simplified
10 procedures in recording vital events must be applied in civil registration for the benefit of the
11 general public.

12 **SECTION 3. Coverage** – This Act shall encompass all acts affecting the civil status
13 of persons in the Philippines and all Filipinos living abroad.

14 **SECTION 4. Definition of Terms.** – For the purposes of this Act, the following shall
15 be defined as:

1 (a) "Civil Registration" refers to the continuous, permanent and compulsory
2 documentation of occurrence and characteristics of vital events including any modification
3 thereof during the lifetime of a person, namely births, deaths, marriages, judicial and
4 administrative orders and legal instruments;

5 (b) "Civil Register" refers to the various civil registry books where events and judicial
6 decrees concerning the civil status of persons are recorded, and to related certificates and
7 documents kept in the archives of the Local Civil Registry Office, Philippine Consulates,
8 Philippine Statistics Authority and Shari'a District or Circuit Courts;

9 (c) "Civil Registry Documents" refers to all certificates and documents relating to
10 civil status of persons which are recorded and kept in the archives of the Local Civil Registry
11 Office, Philippine Consulates, Philippine Statistics Authority and Shari'a District or Circuit
12 Courts;

13 (d) "Civil Registrar General" refers to the head of the Philippine Statistics Authority;

14 (e) "Civil Registrar" refers to the head of the Local Civil Registrar Office (LCRO) or
15 the City or Municipal Civil Registrar (C/MCR), the Consul General, Consul or Vice Consul
16 and the Clerk of the Shari'a District or Circuit Courts;

17 (f) "District or Circuit Registrar" refers to the clerk of the Shari'a District or Circuit
18 Court performing civil registration functions with regard to Muslim marriages, divorces,
19 revocations of divorce and conversions under Title VI, Book Two of Presidential Decree No.
20 1083, otherwise known as the Code of Muslim Personal Laws;

21 (g) "Barangay Civil Registration System" refers to a strategy to facilitate civil
22 registration at the barangay level where all barangay officials shall assist the C/MCR in civil
23 registration work, as provided for under Section 394 (d)(5), Republic Act No. 7160,
24 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of the Philippines; and

25 (h) "Legal Instrument" refers to the affidavits/affirmation pertaining to civil
26 registration.

1 **SECTION 5. *Duties and Functions of the Civil Registrar General.*** – The Civil
2 Registrar General shall have the following duties and functions:

- 3 (a) Enforce the provisions of this Act;
- 4 (b) Prepare and issue rules and regulations pertaining to civil registration;
- 5 (c) Exercise technical direction and supervision over the C/MCRs and other local civil
6 registry officers;
- 7 (d) Give orders and instructions to the C/MCRs on civil registration;
- 8 (e) Endorse for investigation any complaint for violation of this Act and all
9 irregularities to the local chief executive and other duly authorized agencies;
- 10 (f) Reproduce and issue documents under its custody and prepare and order the
11 printing of necessary forms; and
- 12 (g) Determine and prescribe standard fees for civil registry documents.

13 **SECTION 6. *Duties of the City/Municipal Civil Registrar.*** – The appointment of the
14 C/MCRs shall be mandatory for city and municipal governments. The C/MCR shall be
15 responsible for the civil registration programs in the local government unit (LGU) pursuant to
16 this Act and other pertinent laws and implementing rules and regulations. The C/MCR shall
17 develop plans and strategies and upon approval thereof by the governor or mayor, as the case
18 may be, and implement the same, particularly those which have to do with civil registry
19 programs and projects which the mayor is empowered to implement and which the
20 Sanggunian is empowered to provide for. The C/MCR shall have the following functions:

- 21 (a) Register all registrable events occurring within their jurisdiction of the LGU;
- 22 (b) File registrable certificates and documents presented to them for entry;
- 23 (c) Compile the registrable certificates and documents monthly and prepare and send
24 any information required of them by the Civil Registrar General;
- 25 (d) Issue certified transcripts or copies of any certificate or documents registered
26 during the year;
- 27 (e) Classify, digitize, bind, and preserve all registered documents in accordance with
28 the appropriate archiving procedures;

1 (f) Send to the Civil Registrar General within the first ten (10) days of each month, a
2 copy of entries made during the preceding month;

3 (g) Index all entries to facilitate search and identification in case any information is
4 required;

5 (h) Administer oaths for civil registry purposes free of charge;

6 (i) Accept all registrable documents and judicial orders affecting the civil status of
7 persons;

8 (j) File, keep and preserve in a secure place the books required by law;

9 (k) Transcribe and enter immediately upon receipt all registrable documents and
10 judicial orders affecting the civil status of persons in the appropriate civil registry books;

11 (l) Receive applications for the insurance of a marriage license and, after determining
12 that the requirements, supporting certificates and publication thereof for the prescribed period
13 have been complied with, issue the license upon payment of the authorized fee to the
14 treasurer;

15 (m) Coordinate with the Office of the Civil Registrar General (OCRG) in conducting
16 education campaigns for civil registration and assist in the preparation of demographic and
17 other statistics for the LGU concerned;

18 (n) Recommend to the Civil Registrar General systems and procedures relative to the
19 formulation of policies, rules and regulations on civil registration;

20 (o) Submit status reports on the condition of civil registry documents filed in the civil
21 registry office whenever there are changes in the previous status of files;

22 (p) Observe faithful compliance to rules and regulations pertaining to civil
23 registration;

(q) Reconstruct destroyed or lost civil registry records upon compliance with the requirements and procedures established by the OCRG; and

(r) Make available at all times the civil registry forms in the C/MCR office.

SECTION 7. *Civil Registry Book.* – The C/MCR shall keep and preserve in their offices the following books in which they shall accordingly enter the proper record concerning the civil status of person:

- (1) Register of Births;
- (2) Register of Foundlings;
- (3) Register of Deaths;
- (4) Register of Marriages;
- (5) Register of Court Decrees or Orders;
- (6) Register of Legal Instruments;
- (7) Register of Applications for Marriage License;
- (8) Register of Conversions to Islam;
- (9) Register of Muslim Divorces;
- (10) Register of Revocation of Muslim Divorces;
- (11) Register of Indigenous Cultural Communities or Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) Marriage Dissolutions;
- (12) Register of ICCs/IPs Revocation of Marriage Dissolutions; and
- (13) Register of Administrative Orders.

SECTION 8. *Registration and Certification of Birth.* – The declaration of the physician, midwife, attendant at birth, or in the absence thereof, the declaration of either or both parents or any person who has knowledge of the facts of birth of the new-born child shall be sufficient for the registration of birth in the civil register. The duly accomplished Certificate of Live Birth (COLB) containing the above declaration shall be submitted for registration to the C/MCR of the place where the birth occurred within thirty (30) days from the date of birth by the person making the declaration. The COLB shall declare the following:

- (a) name of the child;
- (b) sex;

- 1 (c) date of birth;
- 2 (d) place of birth;
- 3 (d) name of mother;
- 4 (f) name of father;
- 5 (g) citizenship of the mother;
- 6 (h) citizenship of the father;
- 7 (i) date of marriage of parents;
- 8 (j) place of marriage of parents; and
- 9 (k) such other data as required in the regulation to be issued.

10 Abandoned children or foundlings whose parents, guardians or relatives are unknown,
11 or children committed to an orphanage or a charitable institution with unknown facts of birth
12 and parentage, shall be registered by the finder or charitable institution concerned within
13 thirty (30) days from the date of finding or commitment of the child with the C/MCR of the
14 place where such person was born.

15 A deceased person's birth may also be registered on a delayed registration basis by
16 his/her nearest kin. However, the informant and affiant must show authentic proof of the
17 identity of the person registered, the facts of his/her birth and parentage, and other relevant
18 data.

19 Out-of-town registration of birth may be allowed.

20 The record of a person's birth shall be kept strictly confidential and no information
21 relating thereto shall be issued except upon request by any of the following:

22 (a) The concerned person or any person authorized by him/her;

23 (b) The person's spouse, parents or direct descendants, or guardian or institutions
24 legally in charge of him/her, if such a person is a minor;

25 (c) The court or proper public officials, when deemed absolutely necessary in
26 administrative, judicial or other official proceedings to determine the identity of the person's
27 parents or other circumstances surrounding his/her birth; or

1 (d) The nearest kin, in the case of deceased persons.

2 **SECTION 9.** *Barangay Civil Registration System (BCRS).* – There shall be
3 established a Barangay Civil Registration System where elected and appointive barangay
4 officials shall have the mandate of assisting in the facilitation of civil registration within their
5 area of jurisdiction subject to the provisions of this Act.

6 The Office of the Civil Registrar General shall, within ninety (90) days from the
7 effectivity of this Act, issue guidelines in the implementation of the System which shall
8 include a regular program for capacity-building of elected and appointive barangay officials
9 in the performance of their civil registration functions.

10 The penalties provided for in Section 32 of this Act shall apply to elected and
11 appointive barangay officials who shall violate the provisions of this Act, its implementing
12 rules and regulations or the guidelines in the implementation of the Barangay Civil
13 Registration System.

14 **SECTION 10.** *Free Delayed Registration and Certification of Birth.* – Local
15 government units are mandated to implement a free delayed registration program for persons
16 whose births have not been registered and certified due to such factors as poverty, distance,
17 or lack of literacy. The Sangguniang Barangay shall assist in the implementation of the
18 program through the Barangay Civil Registration System.

19 The OCRG, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the
20 National Commission for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) shall jointly prepare a Free Delayed
21 Registration Program for Indigenous Peoples (FDRIP) which shall be implemented by the
22 local government units and the NCIP regional or local offices in the localities concerned.

23 Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the OCRG shall issue
24 implementing rules and regulations for the free delayed registration and certification of birth
25 covering the foregoing.

26 **SECTION 11.** *Registration and Certification of Death.* – No human body shall be
27 buried unless the proper death certificate has been presented and recorded with the C/MCR.

1 The physician who attended to the deceased or, in his default, the health officer concerned, or
2 in default of the latter, any member of the family of the deceased, or any person having
3 knowledge of the death, shall report the same to the local health authorities who shall issue a
4 death certificate and shall order the same to be recorded with the C/MCR.

5 The death certificate shall be accomplished by the attending physician or, in his or her
6 absence, the proper health officer. It shall contain the following data which may be furnished
7 by the person reporting the death:

- 8 (a) full name of the deceased;
- 9 (b) sex;
- 10 (c) civil status;
- 11 (d) nationality;
- 12 (e) date of death;
- 13 (f) place of death;
- 14 (g) cause of death; and
- 15 (h) such other data that may be required.

16 The surname used by the deceased person, when still living, will be the surname to be
17 used in the death certificate. Registration shall be made within thirty (30) days from the time
18 death with the C/MCR of the place where the death occurred.

19 In the absence of the health officer or his authorized representative in the place of
20 registration, or when it is a nonworking day and the health officer or his authorized
21 representative is not expected to be in his/her office, the death should be reported within
22 forty-eight (48) hours after its occurrence by the nearest kin of the deceased or by any person
23 having knowledge of the death to the mayor, any member of Sangguniang Bayan, or the
24 municipal secretary, who shall issue and sign the medical certification portion of the
25 Certificate of Death for burial and registration purposes.

26 When the death is under medico-legal examination, or where a case of death is under
27 investigation by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) or other investigative agency of
28 the government, and where the body of the deceased is subjected to an autopsy or
29 examination by the medico-legal officers and the deceased has not been registered in the
30 place of death, the head of the NBI or other investigative agency or their authorized

1 representatives shall cause the registration of such death through the health officer of the city
2 or municipality where the death occurred. The medico-legal officer shall accomplish and sign
3 the medical certification of the Certificate of Death.

4 Registration of fetal death shall follow the same procedures in the registration of
5 death. A death not registered within the prescribed thirty (30)-day period may be allowed
6 delayed registration with the C/MCR of the place where the death occurred.

7 Out-of-town registration of death may also be allowed.

8 **SECTION 12. *Registration of Marriage License.*** – The local civil registrar concerned
9 shall enter all applications for marriage licenses filed with him/her in a registry book strictly
10 in the order in which the same are received. He/she shall record in said book the names of the
11 applicants, the date on which the marriage license was issued and such other data as may be
12 necessary.

13 **SECTION 13. *Application for Marriage License.*** – All applications for marriage
14 license shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Executive Order No. 209, otherwise
15 known as the Family Code of the Philippines, as amended.

16 **SECTION 14. *Registration and Certification of Marriage.*** – All civil officers,
17 priests, ministers, wali, imam and tribal leaders authorized to solemnize marriage shall send
18 four copies of the Certificate of Marriage for registration with the C/MCR of the place where
19 the marriage was solemnized within fifteen (15) days after the marriage. Marriages exempt
20 from the license requirement shall be registered within thirty (30) days after the marriage in
21 the city or municipality where it was solemnized.

22 A person whose marriage has not yet been registered with the C/MCR of the place
23 where the marriage was solemnized or celebrated may be allowed delayed registration.

24 Out-of-town registration of marriage may also be allowed.

25 **SECTION 15. *Multiple Registrations.*** – In cases of multiple registration of birth,
26 marriage or death, the first duly registered document shall prevail. However, in cases of

multiple marriages occurring to the same parties, it shall be the first valid marriage that shall prevail.

SECTION 16. *Registration of Solemnizing Officers.* – Except as may otherwise be provided by law or existing rules, all solemnizing officers shall be registered with the Office of the Civil Registrar General. The C/MCRs may assist the local chief executive in determining documents pertaining to the existence of religious sects.

SECTION 17. *Registration of Court Orders.* – In cases where court issues an order concerning the status of a person, it shall be duty of the clerk of court to advise the successful petitioner to have the order registered with the C/MCR of the place where the court is functioning.

If a person other than the petitioner shall register the order, the C/MCR shall verify if the copy of the order is authentic. Unverified copies shall be refused registration. The LCRO where the event of the order was registered shall forward a certified true copy of the order to the C/MCR where the event affected was originally registered. The latter shall make the proper annotations in the documents and in the applicable registry book. He/she shall likewise send a certified true copy of the annotated document and the registered court order to the OCRG. Each corrected document shall be reported to the OCRG during the usual reporting month.

All court orders shall be registered within fifteen (15) days after its finality. Registration after the prescribed period shall be considered delayed registration.

All court orders shall be effected through annotations in the civil registry document except in adoption cases where the child shall be entitled to the issuance of an amended birth certificate.

SECTION 18. *Registration of Adoption.* – After the court decision on an adoption has become final and executory, the Original Certificate of Live Birth shall be amended. An amended certificate of live birth of the adopted shall be issued by the C/MCR of the place where the birth of the adopted child was recorded. It shall have the same entries as those appearing in the original records of birth, except for the following items of information:

1 (a) Name of the adopted – the first name of the adopted child shall be the same as that
2 in the original certificate of live birth unless the order of adoption carried an order changing it
3 to another name. The middle name of the adopted child shall be the same as the middle name
4 of the adopter, except when the husband and the wife jointly adopted the child, in which case,
5 the middle name of the adopted shall be the surname of the adopting mother. The surname of
6 the adopted child shall be that of the adopter. If the husband and wife jointly adopted the
7 child, the adopted child shall use the surname of the adopting father;

8 (b) Names of parents – the names of the natural parents of the adopted child shall be
9 substituted by the names of the adopting parents whose names shall be indicated in the
10 appropriate spaces in the amended certificate of live birth as the father or mother, as the case
11 may be; and

12 (c) Other information – other information about the adopting parents such as
13 citizenship and religion shall be indicated in the appropriate spaces in the amended certificate
14 of live birth, including the date and place of marriage of the adopting parents, in cases where
15 the husband and wife jointly made the adoption.

16 In case the adopted child is a foundling, the basis for issuance of an amended
17 certificate of live birth shall be the court order.

18 **SECTION 19.** *Registration of Presumptive Death.* – A judicial order or decree
19 declaring a person presumably dead shall be registered with the C/MCR of the place where
20 the first marriage was registered. Annotations for the purpose of contracting a subsequent
21 marriage shall be recorded in the marriage register as well as in the marriage certificate.

22 **SECTION 20.** *Registration of Court Orders Decided Abroad.* – All foreign court
23 orders involving civil status of persons residing in the Philippines shall be registered before
24 the Local Civil Registry Office where the affected document is registered. In order for the
25 foreign court order to be binding in the Philippine jurisdiction the same must be confirmed by
26 the appropriate Regional Trial Court which have the lawful jurisdiction over such case.

1 **SECTION 21. *Registration of Legal Instruments.*** – As a general rule, all legal
2 instruments shall be registered in the civil registry of the place where they were executed
3 except the following:

4 (a) Affidavit of reappearance – where the parties to the subsequent marriage are
5 residing;

6 (b) Marriage Settlement – where the marriage was recorded;

7 (c) Admission of Paternity, Acknowledgment, Legitimation, Voluntary Emancipation
8 of Minor, Artificial Insemination – where the birth of the child was recorded.

9 All legal instruments executed abroad shall be registered in the Office of Civil
10 Registry in Manila including all legal instruments which may be executed in the Philippines
11 if the vital events referred to in the latter instruments occurred in a foreign country and duly
12 registered with the Philippine Consulate.

13 All legal instruments shall be affected through annotation in the civil registry
14 document.

15 **SECTION 22. *Registration of Affidavit of Reappearance.*** – A sworn statement of the
16 facts and circumstances of reappearance shall be recorded in the civil registry office of the
17 residence of the parties to the subsequent marriage at the instance of any interested person,
18 with due notice to the spouses of the subsequent marriage and without prejudice to the fact of
19 reappearance being judicially determined in case such fact is disputed.

20 **SECTION 23. *Registration of Affidavit of Acknowledgement or Affidavit of***
21 *Admission of Paternity.* – It shall be duty of the parents who executed the affidavit of
22 acknowledgment or of admission of paternity to send the original copy of the affidavit to the
23 C/MCR where the birth of the child was registered, for registration in the Register of Legal
24 Instruments and proper annotation in the Register of Births.

25 **SECTION 24. *Authorization or Ratification of Artificial Insemination.*** – Children
26 conceived as a result of artificial insemination of the wife with the sperm of the husband or
27 that of a donor or both shall be considered legitimate children of the husband and wife;
28 *Provided, That both of them authorized or ratified such insemination in a written instrument*

1 executed and signed by both of them before the birth of the of the child. The instrument shall
2 be recorded in the civil register together with the birth certificate of the child.

3 **SECTION 25. *Option to Elect Philippine Citizenship.*** – The option to elect
4 Philippine citizenship in accordance with Section (3), Article IV of the Constitution shall be
5 expressed in a statement to be signed and sworn to by the party concerned before any officer
6 authorized to administer oaths, and shall be filed and registered with the C/MCR of the place
7 where the instrument was executed. Election of Philippine citizenship executed, subscribed
8 and sworn to before a Consular Officer of the Philippine Embassy abroad, together with the
9 oath of allegiance, shall be registered with the LCRO of Manila.

10 **SECTION 26. *Registration of Repatriation.*** – The instrument of repatriation and oath
11 of allegiance to the Constitution and the government of the Philippines shall be filed with the
12 C/MCR of the place where the instrument was executed; *Provided*, That if the Philippine
13 citizenship is reacquired by naturalization, the order of the court granting citizenship shall be
14 recorded in the Register of Court Order.

15 **SECTION 27. *Registration of Muslim Filipinos, Indigenous Cultural Communities***
16 ***(ICCs) or Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Children in Need of Special Protection (CNSP).*** –
17 Muslim Filipinos, ICCs/IPs and CNSP, by reason of their socio-cultural, religious and
18 peculiarities shall be registered as follows:

19 (a) Muslim Filipinos civil registration shall be governed by Presidential Decree No.
20 1083, Executive Order NO. 157 and Administrative Order No. I, Series of 2005;

21 (b) ICC/IP civil registration shall be governed by Republic Act No. 8371 and
22 Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2004; and

23 (c) CNSP civil registration shall follow the procedures provided under the OCRG
24 Memorandum Circular 2004-01 and other promulgations by the OCRG in coordination with
25 the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other concerned agencies.

26 **SECTION 28. *Civil Registry Documents are Public Documents.*** – The registry books
27 of all civil register and all documents relating thereto shall be considered public documents

1 and shall be prima facie evidence of the truth of the facts therein contained. They shall be
2 open to the public during office hours and shall be kept in a secured place that shall be
3 furnished to the civil registrar at the expense or thru the funds of the municipality concerned.

4 The civil registrar shall not, under any circumstances, permit any document
5 entrusted to them and under their care to be removed from his/her office, except upon lawful
6 order of the court, in which case the proper receipt shall be secured. The civil registrar may
7 issue certified copies of any documents filed upon payment of proper fees fixed by municipal
8 ordinance.

9 **SECTION 29.** *Expenses of the Office of the Civil Registrar.* – All expenses in
10 connection with the establishment and operations of the civil registrar's office shall be paid
11 out of municipal funds and for this purpose, the Sanggunian of municipalities or cities
12 concerned shall make the necessary appropriation available.

13 **SECTION 30.** *Fees.* – Registration of births, foundlings, deaths, and marriages is
14 mandatory and compulsory and shall be free of charge. For registration of court orders, legal
15 instruments and registrable administrative orders, a standard fee shall be collected.

16 The local government unit may collect reasonable service fees. For issuance of copies
17 of civil registry documents, a standard fee shall be collected.

18 **SECTION 31.** *False Statements.* – Any person who shall knowingly make false
19 statements in the furnished forms and present the same for entry in the civil registers shall be
20 penalized in accordance with law.

21 **SECTION 32.** *Failure to Report and other Violations.* – Any person whose duty is to
22 report any fact concerning the civil status of person and who knowingly fails to perform such
23 duty, or any person violating the provisions of this Act shall be punished in accordance with
24 law.

25 Any violation of the proceeding provisions shall be penalized by imprisonment of one
26 year or a fine ranging from Twenty-thousand pesos (P20,000.00) to Thirty-thousand pesos
27 (P30,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court.

1 The attending physician, nurse, midwife, hospital administrator or any person in
2 charge of the certificate of live birth and other documents necessary in support thereto or in
3 relation therewith who knowingly fails to deliver, or withholds the delivery of, these
4 documents to the C/MCR shall be penalized by imprisonment of not more than six months or
5 a fine of not more than or a fine ranging from Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) to Thirty
6 thousand pesos (P30,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

7 The attending physician, hospital administrator or any other person in charge of the
8 certificate of death and other documents necessary in support thereto or in relation therewith
9 who knowingly fails to deliver, or withholds the delivery of these documents to the C/MCR
10 shall be penalized by imprisonment of not more than six months or a fine of not more than or
11 a fine of ranging from Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) to Thirty thousand pesos
12 (P30,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

13 Any officer, priest or minister who: (1) solemnizes marriage without being authorized
14 by the Civil Registrar General; (2) upon solemnizing marriage, refuses to exhibit his
15 authorization when called upon to do so by the parties, their parents or guardians; (3)
16 solemnizes or authorizes of a marriage that is subsequently declared void by his/her church,
17 religion or sect, due to failure to comply with publications required by the said church,
18 religion or sect as a prerequisite to the solemnization of marriage; or (4) solemnizes marriage
19 in violation of the provisions of this Act, shall be punished with imprisonment ranging from
20 six months to three years, or a fine ranging from Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) to
21 Thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00), or the revocation of his/her authority to solemnize
22 marriage, or all three penalties or combination thereof, at the discretion of the court.

23 Any officer, priest or minister who fails to deliver copies of the certificate of marriage
24 to the C/MCR within the period fixed by law shall be punished by imprisonment of not more
25 than six months, or by a fine of not more than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00), or both, at
26 the discretion of the court.

27 **SECTION 33.** *Withholding of Documents due to Non-payment of Hospital Fees.* – In
28 no case shall the failure to settle hospital bills, in full or in part, be a ground for non-delivery

1 or withholding of the certificate of live birth or certificate of death or documents required in
2 the issuance of the said certificates.

3 **SECTION 34. *Mandatory Review.*** – This Act shall undergo a mandatory review of
4 its by Congress every ten (10) years to make the laws more responsive to the needs of times.

5 **SECTION 35. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held
6 to be invalid or unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected
7 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

8 **SECTION 36. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations, orders, memoranda,
9 circulars inconsistent with this Act are hereby revoked, repealed or modified accordingly.

10 **SECTION 37. *Retroactivity.*** – This Act shall have retroactive effect insofar as it does
11 not prejudice or impair vested or acquired rights.

12 **SECTION 38. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in the Official Gazette or in any two national newspapers of general circulation.

14 Approved,