



# PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

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## REGISTRATION OF DEATHS (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) ACT, No. 58 OF 1998

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[Certified on 15th December, 1998]

*Printed on the Order of Government*

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Published as a Supplement to Part II of the **Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka** of December 18, 1998

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PRINTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, SRI LANKA

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TO BE PURCHASED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS BUREAU, COLOMBO 01

Price : Rs. 5.75

Postage : Rs. 3.50

*Registration of Deaths (Temporary Provisions)*  
*Act, No. 58 of 1998*

[Certified on 15th December, 1998]

L. D. — O. 14/98.

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF DEATHS OF PERSONS  
REPORTED MISSING ; AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH  
OR INCIDENTAL THERETO**

**WHEREAS** several persons have died in the course of the civil disturbances that took place due to terrorist and subversive activities in Sri Lanka; and whereas there are certain practical difficulties impeding the registration of such deaths under the provisions of the Births and Deaths Registration Act (Chapter 110);

**AND WHEREAS** it has now become necessary to make provision enabling the registration of such deaths:

**NOW THEREFORE** be it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows :—

**1.** This Act may be cited as the Registration of Deaths (Temporary Provisions) Act, No. 58 of 1998. The provisions of this Act shall be in operation for a period of two years from the date of its commencement.

Short title and duration of the Act.

**2.** Where any person is reported missing and presumed to be dead as he has not been heard of for a period exceeding one year by those who would naturally have heard of him had he been alive, a next of kin of such person if he verily believes such person to be dead, may, apply in the manner hereinafter provided, to register the death of such person under the Births and Deaths Registration Act (Chapter 110) and to have issued to him, a Certificate of Death in respect of such person.

Who may apply for death certificates.

**3.** Every application under this Act to register the death of a person shall be made either to the Registrar-General or to the District Registrar of Births and Deaths of the district in which such person was last residing, and shall be in the form set out in the Schedule to this Act.

Procedure for application.

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**Additional  
material to be  
supplied.**

**4.** Every application under this Act shall be supported by an affidavit of the applicant setting out the grounds for his belief that the person whose death is sought to be registered, is dead, and shall be accompanied by, a report from the Grama Niladhari of the Grama Niladhari Division in which the person whose death is sought to be registered, was last resident, confirming the fact that such person has not been seen alive or heard of, for a period of over one year, and any other evidence in support of such application.

**Display of  
application.**

**5.** Upon receipt of an application under this Act, the Registrar-General or the District Registrar as the case may be shall cause a copy of such application to be displayed for a period of two weeks on the Notice Board kept at his office and in the office of the Grama Niladhari in whose division the person whose death is sought to be registered, was last resident or had his permanent residence.

**Objections to  
registration.**

**6.** Any person may within one month of the date on which a copy of an application under this Act is first displayed as provided for in section 5, forward to the Registrar-General or the District Registrar, as the case may be, his objections in writing, to the registration of the death of the person to whom such application relates, and such objections shall be supported by an affidavit of the objector and of any other person, setting out the grounds for their objections.

**Registration of  
death.**

**7. (1)** On the expiry of the period of one month allowed for the forwarding of objections to an application, the Registrar-General or the District Registrar as the case may be shall consider the application together with the evidence in support of the application and the objections, if any, and the evidence in support of such objections, and after such inquiry as he may deem necessary, if satisfied as to the truth of the matters stated in the application, allow such application and shall send to the Registrar-General a Certificate under his hand setting out such of the particulars of the death as are required to be registered, under the Births and Deaths Registration Act (Chapter 110) as he has been able to ascertain after such inquiry as aforesaid.

**(2)** On receipt of the certificate under subsection (1), the Registrar-General shall, except in a case where he cancels a certificate in the exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 8, make order directing the appropriate Registrar to

enter in the Register of Deaths maintained by such Registrar under the Birth and Deaths Registration Act (Chapter 110), the particulars specified in such certificate.

(3) On receipt by a Registrar of an order under subsection (2) directing him to enter the particulars relating to a death in the Register of Deaths maintained by him, under the Births and Deaths Registration Act (Chapter 110), the Registrar shall forthwith enter those particulars in such register and sign the register in the appropriate place.

(4) Every written order under subsection (2) shall be attached to the duplicate of the relevant registration entry and shall be sent together with that duplicate, by the Registrar to the appropriate District Registrar for transmission to the Registrar-General for custody in his office.

8. An applicant who is dissatisfied with the decision of the District Registrar refusing to issue a certificate to him under section 7, or a person who has objected under section 6 to the issue of a certificate under this Act and who is dissatisfied with the decision of the District Registrar to issue such certificate, may within one month of the notification of such refusal or issue, as the case may be, appeal to the Registrar-General against such refusal or issue, as the case may be. The Registrar-General may after review of the material before him, affirm the decision of the District Registrar or direct the District Registrar to issue a certificate under section 7 or cancel a certificate issued by that District Registrar under section 7, as the case may be.

Appeal against refusal to issue certificate or issue of certificate.

Special procedure relating to registration of deaths of persons in respect of whom there are findings by a Commission of Inquiry or a Special Presidential Commission of Inquiry.

9. (1) Where a Commission appointed under the Commissions of Inquiry Act (Chapter 393) or a Special Presidential Commission of Inquiry established under the Special Presidential Commissions Law, No. 7 of 1978 finds that a person has disappeared or is missing, the next of kin of that person may apply, to the Registrar-General or to the District Registrar of Births and Deaths of the district in which that person was last residing, in the form set out in the Schedule to this Act, to register the death of that person under the Births and Deaths Registration Act (Chapter 110) and to have issued to him, a Certificate of Death in respect of that person. Every such application shall be accompanied by an affidavit of the

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applicant in terms of section 4 and a certified copy of the finding of the Commission of Inquiry or Special Presidential Commission of Inquiry, as the case may be, relating to that person.

(2) Upon receipt of an application under subsection (1), the District Registrar shall, notwithstanding anything to contrary in the preceding provisions of this Act, forthwith send to the Registrar-General a certificate under his hand, setting out the particulars of the death required to be registered under the Births and Deaths Registration Act (Chapter 110) as he has been able to ascertain from the application and the accompanying affidavit and finding.

(3) Upon receipt of a certificate under subsection (2), the Registrar-General shall make order directing the appropriate Registrar to register in the Register of Deaths maintained by such Registrar under the Births and Deaths Registration Act (Chapter 110), the particulars specified in such certificate.

(4) Upon receipt of an order under subsection (3) directing him to enter the particulars relating to a death in the Register of Deaths maintained by him under the Births and Deaths Registration Act (Chapter 110), the Registrar shall forthwith enter such particulars in such register and sign the register in the appropriate place.

(5) Every order made under subsection (3) shall be attached to the duplicate of the relevant registration entry and shall be sent together with the duplicate, by the Registrar, to the appropriate District Registrar for transmission to the Registrar-General for custody in his office.

(6) Where the application under subsection (1) is made to the Registrar-General, the provisions of subsections (2) and (5) shall *mutatis mutandis* apply as if the reference in those sections to the District Registrar is a reference to the Registrar-General.