

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6804**



Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Legal identity is the cornerstone for establishing one's status in society and a gateway to full participation therein. In the absence of legal identity, individuals may be unable to assert their rights, access essential services, or receive adequate legal protection. In the Philippines, civil registration serves as the State's primary mechanism for establishing legal identity by recording vital events such as birth, marriage, and death.¹

However, the governing framework for civil registration in the country, anchored in Act No. 3753 (1930), the Civil Registry Law of 1930, remains outdated, designed for an era without digital tools or widespread mobility. Nearly a century later, many of its procedures remain manual, fragmented, and inaccessible to millions. This antiquated system fails to keep pace with the needs of a modern population, especially those living in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, indigenous communities, informal settlements, and conflict zones. While the Philippine Statistics Authority and its network of Local Civil Registry Offices perform a crucial role in recording vital events, longstanding procedural bottlenecks and accessibility barriers continue to prevent millions from being registered, especially in marginalized areas.

As a result, many Filipinos, particularly children from remote, impoverished, and indigenous communities, still lack birth certificates.² Without proof of identity,

¹ See PHIL. STAT. AUTH. (PSA), *Civil Registration Facts*, PSA.GOV.PH, <https://psa.gov.ph/civilregistration/facts> (last visited July 22, 2025) (explaining vital registration and its mandatory nature).

²See Jeshamar Villasis & Ken Abante, *Everyone Should Count: Barriers and Opportunities for Birth Registration in the Philippines* (WeSolve Working Paper, 2020).

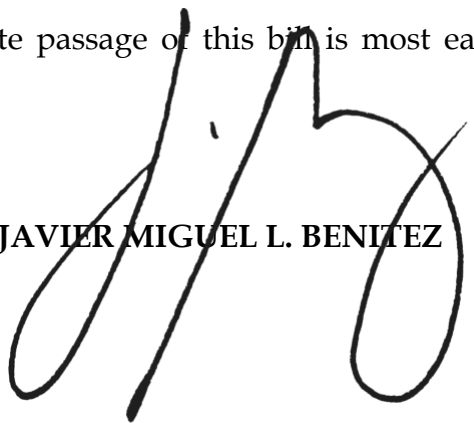
individuals are left vulnerable to discrimination, abuse, and exclusion, where they are unable to enroll in school, apply for jobs, or access health and social services that require this vital document.³

A similar measure was approved by the House of Representatives on third reading in the Nineteenth Congress but stalled in the Senate. That version, developed in consultation with stakeholders including civil society and child rights advocates, serves as the foundation of this bill. This refiled measure builds on the previous version and renews the Legislature's commitment to securing legal identity for all.

By modernizing the Civil Registry System, this measure seeks to simplify, streamline, and digitalize civil registration nationwide. It makes late registration more affordable and accessible, expands mobile and remote registration, strengthens interagency coordination, and ensures inclusive registration regardless of socioeconomic background.

Modern civil registration serves not only to record vital events but also to protect individuals' rights and welfare. By ensuring that every Filipino is granted legal identity from birth, the State affirms the dignity of its citizens. It facilitates their access to education, employment, public services, and legal protections. This measure supports the establishment of a more just, inclusive, and rights-based society.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is most earnestly sought.



JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ

³*Id.*

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**AN ACT MODERNIZING THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM AND
ENSURING UNIVERSAL LEGAL IDENTITY FOR ALL FILIPINOS,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Legal Identity for Every Juan Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to uphold and guarantee every person’s right to legal identity as a foundation of human dignity and access to social, economic, and political rights. The State shall ensure that all births, deaths, marriages, and other civil status events are accurately, promptly, and permanently recorded through an efficient, accessible, and secure civil registration and vital statistics system.

The State recognizes that legal identity is fundamental to social inclusion, poverty alleviation, improved governance, and national development. To this end, the State shall modernize and digitize civil registration procedures, eliminate barriers to registration, and promote universal access to secure, accurate identification for administrative and legal purposes, particularly for marginalized, geographically isolated, indigenous, and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations.

The State further endeavors to prioritize the fundamental rights of its populace and to support good governance, improved education, enhanced health services, and sustained economic growth through a universal and responsive civil registry and vital statistics system, hereinafter referred to as the Philippine Civil Registry Database (“PCRD”). From this perspective, the State shall diligently work towards the realization of the goals enshrined in the Universal Declaration

of Human Rights (“UDHR”), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (“UNCRC”), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (“ICCPR”), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (“CRPD”), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (“ICMW”), and the Declaration of Civil Registration in Southeast Asia, specifically:

- (a) To ensure universal, free, and accessible civil registration of all births, deaths, marriages, and other vital events based on accurate data, thereby guaranteeing the right of all individuals to legal documentation of civil registry records, including necessary updates on personal or civil status, and to claim their identity and ensuing rights; and
- (b) To establish a comprehensive civil registration system capable of providing accurate and timely vital statistics derived from civil registry records, serving as a system validation and a principal instrument for every individual to ensure entitlement in targeting systems and the grant of social programs and services from the government, and in safeguarding the rights of all citizens, particularly children, in terms of education, health, justice, and inheritance.

SEC. 3. *Guiding Principles.* – In the implementation of this comprehensive and responsive Act, the State shall institutionalize and maintain a legal framework that ensures an equally accessible, affordable, efficient, and highly responsive civil registration system. This system shall provide the most reliable and accurate vital statistics from the civil registry database, enabling the equitable distribution of social programs and the timely delivery of government services. The enactment of this Act reaffirms the commitment of the State to international standards and recommendations, adhering to the principles of:

- (a) The universal human right to be recognized everywhere as a person before the law, as provided under Article 6 of the UDHR;
- (b) The rights of the child to nationality and registration after birth, as provided under Article 7 of the UNCRC;
- (c) The right to identity, as provided under Article 8 of the UNCRC;
- (d) The right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, suffrage, equal access to public service, and protection from discrimination based on race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, as provided under Article 25 of the ICCPR;
- (e) The right to nationality of persons with disabilities and to be registered, as provided under Article 18 of the CRPD;

- (f) The right of the child to birth registration during adolescence, as provided under General Comment No. 20, Article 8 of the UNCRC;
- (g) The right of children in street situations to be proactively supported in obtaining legal identity documents, addressing their limited access to education, healthcare, predisposition to poverty, and susceptibility to abuse, exploitation, and trafficking; and
- (h) The right of all Filipino migrant workers to be recognized as a person before the law, as provided under Article 24 of the ICMW.

SEC. 4. Coverage. – This Act shall uphold the best interest of the child. It shall cover all acts, vital events, and judicial and administrative issuances affecting the civil status of persons in the Philippines and of Filipinos living abroad whose reason for staying overseas is employment, whether on a full-time, part-time, or temporary basis, including all children with at least one Filipino parent.

SEC. 5. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) *“Abandoned Child”* – A child who has no proper parental care or guardianship; a foundling; or one whose parents have deserted for a period of at least three (3) continuous months, and has been declared as such by the National Authority for Child Care (“NACC”);
- (b) *“Barangay Civil Registration System (“BCRS”)*” – A scheme designed to facilitate extensive civil registration at the barangay level, involving all barangay officials assisting in local civil registration work, as provided under Section 394 (d) (5) of Republic Act (“RA”) No. 7160 (1991), otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991;
- (c) *“Child”* – Any person below eighteen (18) years of age or older who is unable to fully take care of themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition;
- (d) *“Children in Need of Special Protection (CNSP)”* – All Filipino children who are vulnerable to or are victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, cruelty, discrimination, and nature-induced or human-induced violence, which include:
 - (i) Abandoned, abused, neglected, and exploited, or without a primary caregiver;
 - (ii) Those with mental, physical, learning, and other disabilities;
 - (iii) Victims of prostitution and pedophilia, and other sexual violence;

- (iv) Runaways;
 - (v) Those engaged in the worst forms of labor;
 - (vi) Those at risk or in conflict with the law;
 - (vii) Child offenders;
 - (viii) Those affected by the use of illegal substances;
 - (ix) Those living in a street situation;
 - (x) Those in situations of armed conflict;
 - (xi) Those in cultural or indigenous communities;
 - (xii) Children of persons deprived of liberty;
 - (xiii) Those affected by the war on drugs;
 - (xiv) Those living with human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or other sexually transmitted infections;
 - (xv) Victims of nature-induced or human-induced disasters;
 - (xvi) Abandoned in a foreign country, and
 - (xvii) Those experiencing any other analogous condition prejudicial to their development.
- (e) *“Circuit registrar”* – The clerk of court of a Shari’a Circuit Court performing as Civil Registrar of Muslim marriages, divorces, revocations of divorces, and conversions within the respective court’s jurisdiction, as provided for under Title VI, Book Two of Presidential Decree No. 1083 or the *“Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines”*;
- (f) *“Civil register”* – Various civil registry books and related certificates and documents, including digital or electronic copies thereof, where registrable acts, events, and judicial and administrative issuances concerning the civil status of a person are recorded and kept in the archives of the Philippine Civil Registry Authority (*“PCRA”*), civil registries in cities and municipalities, district and circuit courts, and Philippine foreign service posts;
- (g) *“Civil Registrar”* – The head of the civil registry in cities and municipalities, the clerk of court in a Shari’a District or Circuit Courts, and consul general in the Philippine foreign service post acting as Civil Registrar and performing civil registration functions;
- (h) *“Civil Registration”* – The continuous, permanent, and accurate recording and documentation of vital events and occurrences in the life of a person, including any modifications thereof during the lifetime of the person, specifically births, marriages, and deaths, including judicial decrees or orders and other legal instruments;
- (i) *“Civil Registry Documents”* – All certificates or legal papers concerning vital events occurring in the life of a person, as well as court decrees and legal instruments affecting the civil status of a

person, in digital or electronic copy, recorded and kept in the archives of the civil registries in cities and municipalities, Shari'a District and Circuit Courts, Philippine foreign service posts, and the PCRA;

- (j) *"Clerical or Typographical Error"* – A mistake committed in the performance of clerical work in writing, copying, transcribing, or typing an entry in the civil register that is harmless and innocuous, visible to the eyes or obvious to the understanding, and can be corrected only by reference to other existing record or records:

Provided, That no correction must involve a change of nationality, age, or status of the petitioner;

- (k) *"Consul General"* – The head of a Philippine foreign service post entrusted to act as Civil Registrar and perform the civil registration functions involving Filipinos in a foreign country, which may be delegated to and performed by the Consul or Vice Consul, in the exigency of public service;
- (l) *"Delayed Registration"* – Process to register vital events after prescribed deadlines, particularly for marginalized individuals;
- (m) *"Foundling"* – A deserted or abandoned child or infant with unknown facts of birth and parentage, or those who have been duly registered as a foundling during infancy, but have reached the age of majority and have not benefited from adoption pursuant to RA 11767 (2022), or the "Foundling Recognition and Protection Act";
- (n) *"Informant"* – The person responsible for providing the facts of birth, death, or marriage, who shall certify the accuracy of the personal information recorded for purposes of civil registration;
- (o) *"Live Birth"* – A complete expulsion or extraction from its mother, of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, that after such expulsion or extraction, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached;
- (p) *"Local Civil Registry ("LCR")"* – The civil registry offices in cities and municipalities, and the Shari'a District and Circuit Courts;
- (q) *"Legal Identity"* – Recognition of legal existence by the state, evidenced by civil registry documents.
- (r) *"Modernization Fund"* – A dedicated fund supporting the Philippine Statistics Authority's ("PSA") Civil Registration and Vital Statistics improvements.

- (s) *“Out-of-town Reporting”* – Occurrence wherein the certificate of live birth (“COLB”) or death is presented to the Civil Registrar of a city or municipality which is not the place of birth or death, not for registration but to be forwarded to the Civil Registrar of the city or municipality where the birth or death occurred and where it should be registered;
- (t) *“Philippine Foreign Service Posts”* – The Philippine embassies, consulate offices, and missions or other foreign service establishments maintained by the Department of Foreign Affairs (“DFA”);
- (u) *“Remote, poor, indigenous communities”* – Populations lacking timely access to civil registration services.
- (v) *“Solemnizing Officer”* – A priest, rabbi, imam, or minister of any church or religious sect, or a civil leader such as a municipal or city mayor, court judge, military commander, airplane chief or ship captain, or consul duly authorized to solemnize or officiate marriage in accordance with the law or rites, practices, and ceremonies as prescribed or granted by the church, religious organization, sect, tribe or ethnic group and registered with the CRG; and
- (w) *“Vital Event”* – The occurrences of live birth, death, fetal death, induced termination of pregnancy, adoption, legitimation, recognition of parenthood, marriage, annulment of marriage, legal separation, or divorce.

SEC. 6. *Philippine Civil Registry Authority* – The PCRA is hereby created under the Office of the President to be headed by a Civil Registrar General (“CRG”) and assisted by two (2) Deputy CRG. The three (3) top officials shall have a term of six (6) years, without prejudice to reappointment by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, and subject to the provisions on retirement under RA 8291 (1997), “The Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997”.

The PCRA shall be the primary agency to carry out the provisions of this Act. It shall issue policies and rules for effective implementation and to enhance the PCRD, including registration, copy issuance, and data governance, in accordance with this Act and all other applicable laws and policies. Consequently, the PCRD shall be linked to the Philippine Identification System (“PhilSys”) governed by RA 11055 (2018) or the “Philippine Identification System Act”. The CRG shall, in coordination with the PhilSys Policy and Coordination Council (“PSPCC”), issue guidelines to ensure that the PCRD is securely shared and linked to the PhilSys. The CRG shall assume full responsibilities of the duties of the National Statistician and Civil Registrar General (“NSCRG”) mandated under RA 10625 (2013), or the “Philippine Statistical Act of 2013”, relevant to all civil

registry functions previously provided under Act No. 3753 (1930), or the Civil Registry Law and other laws or issuances affecting vital occurrences and civil registry of individuals. The CRG shall also assume all the mandated duties and responsibilities of the NSCRG in relation to the implementation of and as provided under RA 11055 and its linkage with this “Legal Identity and Civil Registration Modernization Act.”

Affected Philippine Statistics Authority (“PSA”) personnel undertaking all relevant tasks for the Civil Registry and PhilSys Registration offices shall be transferred to the PCRA, along with the records, properties, all PhilSys registration kits, and corresponding appropriations for the affected year. They shall continue to perform their respective duties and responsibilities in a holdover capacity to ensure the regular operation of the civil registry and PhilSys programs. Personnel not interested in undertaking a transfer may opt to retire subject to the retirement gratuity provisions of RA 7699 (1994) or the “Portability Law,” RA 1616 (1957), entitled “An Act Further Amending Section Twelve of Commonwealth Act Numbered One Hundred Eighty-Six, As Amended, By Prescribing Two Other Modes Of Retirement, and for Other Purposes,” or RA 660 (1951), entitled “An Act To Amend Commonwealth Act Numbered One Hundred And Eighty-Six Entitled “An Act To Create and Establish a Government Service Insurance System”, to Provide for its Administration, and to Appropriate the Necessary Funds Therefor”, and to Provide Retirement Insurance, and for Other Purposes,” and other applicable laws and policies.

SEC. 7. *Civil Registration System Modernization.* – The Philippine Civil Registry Authority (PCRA), as the central implementing agency for civil registration under this Act, shall, in coordination with the Local Civil Registry Offices (LCROs) and other relevant government agencies, undertake the following modernization measures:

- (a) Digitize all civil registry records and establish an interoperable and secure national civil registry database;
- (b) Develop and deploy mobile civil registration units in remote and underserved areas;
- (c) Simplify and streamline late, delayed, and deferred registration procedures;
- (d) Implement a fee-reduction or waiver mechanism for indigents and marginalized groups;
- (e) Integrate civil registration services with health centers, barangay halls, schools, and other public service delivery units;
- (f) Promote public awareness on the importance of legal identity and civil registration procedures; and

- (g) Strengthen inter-agency coordination with the DSWD, DepEd, DOH, NCIP, NCMF, and LGUs to support inclusive registration.

The specific mechanisms, standards, and timelines for implementing these modernization measures shall be set out in subsequent sections of this Act and the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SEC. 8. *Functions and Qualification of the CRG.* – The CRG, as the head of the PCRA, distinct from the National Statistician, shall have a rank equivalent to an Undersecretary and shall have the same privileges as an Undersecretary in other national government agencies.

The CRG shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines from among the Civil Registrars in the country. The person must have acquired experience as a Civil Registrar for at least twelve (12) years, and must possess two (2) of the following degrees:

- (a) Doctoral Degree;
- (b) Bachelor of Laws Degree or Juris Doctor; or
- (c) Master's Degree

The CRG shall be responsible for central registry document management and archiving; modernization of the PCRD; policy development; advocacy on civil registration matters; and implementation of RA 11055, including oversight of the performance and efficient delivery of civil registration and PhilSys services.

The CRG, as the head of the PCRA, shall issue appointments of PCRA personnel below the rank of a CRG, including Civil Registrars and staff. The CRG shall exercise technical supervision over the Civil Registrars, other civil registry personnel, and partners on matters of civil registry. The CRG shall have the following duties and functions:

- (a) Manage the PCRD archiving;
- (b) Issue rules and regulations and enforce the provisions of this Act, policies, all other applicable laws on civil registry, and the prescribed standard guidelines for proper compliance with these laws;
- (c) Issue rules, regulations, and guidelines for the efficient performance of civil registration functions, in consultation with the Civil Registrars, Shari'a District and Circuit Registrars, Consuls General, and other partners performing the civil registry functions, and other officers designated by law;
- (d) Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the processes and policies on civil registration to determine proper compliance of the civil

registry system rules, regulations, and guidelines, identify problem areas and urgently resolve as needed, for a reliable civil registry database;

- (e) Exercise technical supervision over Civil Registrars, Shari'a District and Circuit Registrars, Consuls General, other foreign service officers, and partners in civil registry in the performance of civil registration functions and conduct periodic review and assessment of the civil registration records and relevant functions;
- (f) Exercise visitorial functions through authorized representatives to conduct an extensive assessment of late, delayed, and deferred registration of birth records in the LCRs;
- (g) Promulgate and issue separate guidelines under exceptional circumstances, as may be determined by the CRG, such as the occurrence of a state calamity, pandemic, and other birth registration assistance programs, to aid in the expedient registration of births in the vulnerable sectors of society;
- (h) Issue civil registry certificates, and certification of entries in the civil registers maintained by the PCRA in accordance with this Act;
- (i) Assign a PhilSys Number upon registration of birth, which shall be used by the registrant for the registration and reporting of all vital events;
- (j) Act on or report any violation of the provisions of this Act, and other issuances relating to civil registration services and the PhilSys registration, including acts or omissions of Civil Registrars, Shari'a District or Circuit Registrars, and foreign service officers, insofar as civil registration functions are concerned;
- (k) Take action on policy matters involving registration of solemnizing officers pursuant to Article 7 of Executive Order No. 209 (1987), otherwise known as "The Family Code of the Philippines," pursuant to Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2008;
- (l) Develop modules and training programs for stakeholders involved in providing services for civil registration and the PhilSys Act, and establish and implement strategies and mechanisms to ensure the accessibility of both civil and PhilSys registration services;
- (m) Establish and implement strategies and mechanisms, and adopt appropriate technology for a modernized civil registry to facilitate and improve accessibility and efficiency of civil registration services;
- (n) Issue guidelines on reconstruction of burned, destroyed, and lost civil registry records;
- (o) Organize and conduct regular coordination activity with:

- (i) The Supreme Court Administrator on concerns involving civil registration of Muslim Filipinos as provided for under Executive Order No. 157 (1987), entitled "Providing for Absentee Voting By Officers And Employees Of Government Who Are Away From The Places Of Their Registration By Reason Of Official Functions On Election Day" and Presidential Decree No. 1083 (1977), entitled "A Decree to Ordain and Promulgate a Code Recognizing the System of Filipino Muslim Laws, Codifying Muslim Personal Laws, and Providing for its Administration and For Other Purposes" pursuant to Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2005;
- (ii) The Consul General of the Philippine foreign service posts on issues concerning civil registration of Filipinos abroad, whether as a permanent resident or a visitor;
- (iii) (iii) The national, regional, or local disaster risk reduction and management council to ensure uninterrupted civil registration services in cases of national calamity or disasters;
- (iv) The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples ("NCIP") on the civil registration of indigenous peoples as provided for under Rule VI Section 8 of RA 8371 (1997), or "The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997" pursuant to Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2005; and
- (v) The Department of Social Welfare and Development ("DSWD") on the civil registration of CNSP;
- (p) Decide on petitions of administrative corrections in the civil registry pursuant to RA 9048 (2001), entitled "An Act Authorizing the City or Municipal Civil Registrar or the Consul General to Correct a Clerical or Typographical Error in an Entry and/or Change of First Name or Nickname in the Civil Register Without Need of a Judicial Order, Amending For This Purpose Articles 376 And 412 Of The Civil Code Of The Philippines" as amended by RA 10172 (2012) pursuant to Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2001 and Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012, respectively;
- (q) Perform inspection and visitorial functions over LCRs nationwide;
- (r) Represent the Philippines in regional and international conferences and meetings and act as signatory to all contracts, research, and awards relevant to civil registry and PhilSys Identification matters;
- (s) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Act and make policy recommendations to Congress to improve the delivery of civil registration services;

- (t) Conduct a comprehensive nationwide information, education, and communication campaign regarding this Act;
- (u) Deny requests for copy issuance of civil registry documents and certificates found to be fraudulent or fictitious, except for investigation purposes from law enforcement agencies and other government offices with investigative power;
- (v) Submit a report to the President of the Republic of the Philippines on the activities of the PCRA in the preceding year, which shall be submitted separately from the annual report to Congress during the deliberation of the President's budget; and
- (w) Perform such other functions in connection with the successful implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Functions and Qualifications of Deputy CRG* – The two (2) Deputy CRGs shall assist the CRG in the exercise of technical supervision over the PCRA, its efficient functioning, and the effective implementation of this Act, RA 11055, and other applicable laws and policies relevant to the Philippine Civil Registry (PCR).

The two (2) Deputy Civil Registrars General shall be appointed by the CRG, also from among qualified Civil Registrars in the country. They must have acquired experience as a Civil Registrar for at least ten (10) years and must possess any of the following degrees:

- (a) Doctoral Degree;
- (b) Bachelor of Laws Degree or Juris Doctor; and
- (c) Master's Degree.

The Deputy Civil Registrar General for PCR shall be designated to assist the CRG in exercising technical supervision to ensure the efficient functioning and effective implementation of PCR. The Deputy Civil Registrar General for PhilSys shall be assigned to assist the CRG in exercising technical supervision to ensure the efficient functioning and effective implementation of RA 11055 and other applicable laws and policies relevant to PhilSys. Both Deputy Civil Registrars General shall also perform such other tasks as may be assigned by the CRG.

SEC. 10. *Duties and Responsibilities of the Civil Registrar*. – The appointment of a Civil Registrar in every city and municipality shall be mandatory for the CRG.

The Civil Registrar shall be responsible for the civil registry programs in the city or municipality of jurisdiction, pursuant to this Act and other existing laws, rules, and regulations.

The Civil Registrars shall develop plans and strategies and, upon approval by the CRG, implement the same, particularly those related to civil registry programs and projects in their respective jurisdictions.

The Civil Registrar in every city and municipality, with the approval of the CRG, shall:

- (a) Accept for registration reports of vital events, court orders and decrees, and legal instruments, and validate the correctness and completeness of information affecting the civil status of persons;
- (b) Receive application for delayed, late, and deferred registration of birth, scrutinize the COLB form upon receipt to check for completeness and accuracy of information contained therein, examine the attached documentary requirements to evaluate the veracity and genuineness of the statements indicated in the affidavits and the completeness of the documents submitted and information supplied, to include the attached civil registry certificates digitized and printed on security paper to validate its authenticity which shall be deemed received after processing, subsequent posting, verified by the concerned Civil Registrar on the completeness and veracity of the documents;
- (c) Classify, digitize, index, and preserve all registered documents in accordance with the appropriate archiving procedure;
- (d) Collate records of inhabitants from barangay secretaries or through the BCRS on an annual basis and seek assistance from barangay secretaries for registration of births, deaths, and marriages;
- (e) Adopt mechanisms to improve access to civil registration services in the respective locality, such as the establishment of secondary registration offices, mobile registration, and BCRS;
- (f) Compile copies of every civil registry document registered and transmit to CRG within the first ten (10) calendar days of the succeeding month or within the prescribed period;
- (g) Act on petitions for revocation of certificates of live birth under RA 11767;
- (h) Apply for cancellation of registration of births, deaths, and marriages in case of multiple registration under this Act;
- (i) Conduct community education campaigns on vital registration and assist in the preparation of demographic and other statistics for the local government unit (LGU) concerned;
- (j) Issue certified transcripts or certified copies of any certificate or civil registry document registered, in accordance with this Act, without payment of the prescribed fees;
- (k) Administer oaths, free of charge, for civil registry purposes;

- (l) File, keep, and preserve in a secure place the civil registry book as required by law;
- (m) Receive all registrable documents and transcribe them in the corresponding civil register; all documents accepted for registration;
- (n) Receive applications for the issuance of a marriage license and, after determining that the requirements and supporting certificates and publication thereof for the prescribed period have been complied with, issue the permit upon payment of the authorized fee to the local treasurer;
- (o) Recommend to the legislative bodies and collaborate with administrative agencies in the formulation of systems, procedures, policies, rules, and regulations on civil registration;
- (p) Submit status reports to the CRG on the condition of civil registry documents filed in the LCR of jurisdiction whenever there are substantial changes in the status of files in case of fire, flood, earthquake, and other natural and/or artificial calamities;
- (q) Reconstruct destroyed civil registry records upon compliance with the requirements following the procedures established by the CRG;
- (r) Make civil registry forms available at all times in the LCR; and
- (s) Exercise quasi-judicial functions pursuant to RA 9048, as amended by RA 10172, RA 11642 (2022), or the "Domestic Administrative Adoption and Alternative Child Care Act," and other relevant existing laws.

SEC. 11. *Duties and Responsibilities of the District Registrar of a Shari'a District Court.* – In relation to Muslim Filipino registrants, the clerk of the court of the Shari'a district court shall, in addition to the regular functions, perform the tasks of a Civil Registrar and act as District Registrar of Muslim marriages, divorces, revocations of divorces, and conversions within the territorial jurisdiction of said court.

Every District Registrar shall supervise circuit registrars in every Shari'a District Court and shall, in addition to maintaining an entry book, preserve copies of certificates of marriage, divorce, revocation of divorce, and conversion received from circuit registrars in separate general registers. The District Registrar shall transmit copies of such civil registry documents to the CRG in the form and manner prescribed by the CRG.

SEC. 12. *Duties and Responsibilities of the Shari'a Circuit Registrars.* – The clerk of the court of the Shari'a Circuit Court shall act as the Circuit Registrar of Muslim marriages, divorces, revocations of divorce, and conversions, within the respective territorial jurisdiction. For this purpose, the circuit registrars shall:

- (a) Register and file certificates of Muslim marriages, divorces, revocations of divorce, and conversions, and such other documents presented for registration;
- (b) Issue certified transcripts or copies of any certificate or document registered by the office in accordance with this Act, free of charge;
- (c) Compile certificates of Muslim marriages, divorces, revocations of divorce, and conversions to Islam and transmit the same to the District Registrar in the manner and form prescribed by the CRG; and
- (d) Administer oaths for civil registration purposes, free of charge.

SEC. 13. *Duties and Responsibilities of Philippine Foreign Service Officers.* – The foreign service officers within the Philippine foreign service posts shall:

- (a) Receive reports or records of vital events of Filipinos occurring abroad;
- (b) Submit copies of reported vital events to CRG regularly, as prescribed by the CRG;
- (c) Register vital events occurring to Filipinos within the Philippine foreign service posts or while in transit to a foreign destination;
- (d) Maintain records of such reported and registered vital events of Filipinos; and
- (e) Facilitate the registration of undocumented Filipinos and Filipinos at risk of statelessness abroad, in coordination with the CRG.

SEC. 14. *Local Civil Register.* – Every Civil Registrar shall maintain, keep, and preserve in a secure place in their respective LCR the Books of registry where the acts, events, judicial decrees, or orders concerning the civil status of persons are correctly entered, as follows:

- (a) Register of Births;
- (b) Register of Births of Persons with No Known Parents and Records of Abandoned Children, of Foundlings with No Known Parents;
- (c) Register of Deaths;
- (d) Register of Fetal Deaths;
- (e) Register of Marriages;
- (f) Register of Court Decrees or Orders;
- (g) Register of Legal Instruments;
- (h) Register of Conversion to Islam;
- (i) Register of Muslim Filipino Marriages;
- (j) Register of Muslim Filipino Divorces;

- (k) Register of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) Marriage Dissolutions;
- (l) Register of Solemnizing officers;
- (m) Register of Applications for Marriage License;
- (n) Adoption;
- (o) Rescission of Adoption;
- (p) Annulment of Marriage;
- (q) Declaration of Nullity of Marriage;
- (r) Declaration of Presumptive Death;
- (s) Compulsory Recognition of Illegitimate Child;
- (t) Voluntary Recognition of Minor Illegitimate Child;
- (u) Appointment of Guardian;
- (v) Termination of Guardianship;
- (w) Judicial Determination of Filiation;
- (x) Naturalization-All forms of Naturalization;
- (y) Cancellation of Naturalization;
- (z) Judicial Determination of The Fact of Reappearance, if Disputed;
- (aa) Separation of Property;
- (bb) Revival of Former Property Regime;
- (cc) Foreign Court Orders Decided Abroad.

Provided, That the CRG may prescribe additional registers for other registrable documents, when the need arises

SEC. 15. Registrable Acts and Events. – The registrable acts and events of occurrences of an individual for recording and safekeeping are as follows:

- (a) Birth;
- (b) Death;
- (c) Application for Marriage License;
- (d) Marriage;
- (e) Court Orders or Decrees; and
- (f) Legal Instruments.

The registrable orders or decrees of courts and other competent authorities to be recorded and kept for safekeeping are as follows:

- (a) Adoption;
- (b) Rescission of Adoption;
- (c) Annulment of Marriage;
- (d) Declaration of Nullity of Marriage;
- (e) Declaration of Presumptive Death;
- (f) Compulsory Recognition of Illegitimate Child;

- (g) Voluntary Recognition of Minor Illegitimate Child;
- (h) Appointment of Guardian;
- (i) Termination of Guardianship;
- (j) Judicial Determination of Filiation;
- (k) All forms of Naturalization;
- (l) Cancellation of Naturalization;
- (m) Judicial Determination of the Fact of Reappearance, if Disputed;
- (n) Separation of Property;
- (o) Revival of Former Property Regime;
- (p) Repatriation;
- (q) Foreign Court Orders Decided Abroad; and
- (r) Other orders or decrees that pertain to the civil status and vital statistics of a person.

The Civil Registrar shall correctly enter the registrable events and court orders or decrees onto the books of registry.

SEC. 16. *Free Registration of Vital Civil Registry Events.* – In recognition of the registration of births, deaths, and marriages as a national policy, no miscellaneous or computer fees or other charges shall be imposed and collected in the registration of these vital events, on time or up to thirty (30) calendar days from birth, death, or marriage. All supporting documents and other documents required for registration shall also be issued free of charge for the initial issuance, digitized, and printed on security paper for easy authentication.

Upon the initial issuance upon registration of the vital event, the applicant shall be given a personal copy of the civil registry certificate free of charge. Request for replacement due to loss or damage, and reissuance upon presentation of a Certificate of Indigency from the DSWD, shall also be free of charge: *Provided*, That the Certificate of Indigency shall be based on the DSWD Listahanan in the subsequent reissuances. Subsequent reissuances of civil registry documents shall be subject to applicable payment of relevant and affordable fees prescribed by the CRG, LCRs, Shari'a District and Circuit Courts, and Philippine Foreign Service Posts, as provided under RA 11909 (2022), or the "Permanent Validity of the Certificates of Live Birth, Death, and Marriage Act."

For registration of registrable judicial orders, administrative issuances, and legal instruments, a standard fee shall be collected.

SEC. 17. *Registration and Certification of Birth.* – The physician, midwife, nurse, birth attendant, or finder has the primary responsibility to declare a report of birth, or secondarily, either or both parents or any person who knows the facts of

birth of the newborn child, and shall be sufficient for the registration of birth in the civil register.

The COLB containing the above declaration shall be submitted for registration to the LCR in the city or municipality where the birth occurred within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of birth by the persons above, declaring the following when available:

- (a) Full name of the child;
- (b) Sex;
- (c) Date of birth;
- (d) Place of birth or where found;
- (e) Name of mother;
- (f) Citizenship of the mother;
- (g) Name of father;
- (h) Citizenship of the father;
- (i) Date and place of marriage of parents; and
- (j) Such other data as may be identified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act.

Birth certificates and other civil registry records of persons digitized and printed on security paper issued, signed, certified, or authenticated by the LCRs, the PSA, and its predecessor, the National Statistics Office, shall have permanent validity and equal acceptability regardless of the date of issuance and shall be recognized and respected before all government, public, private, commercial, and business transactions where these documents are presented, as provided under RA 11909, even when any or some of the information hereafter mentioned are missing, as follows:

- (a) Usual middle initial or middle name;
- (b) Citizenship, if stateless;
- (c) Names of parents, if unknown;
- (d) Date of marriage, if not applicable;
- (e) When an individual has only one birth name, or
- (f) Any analogous circumstances.

All cases of birth on board a vessel or airplane en route to the Philippines shall be recorded in the civil register of the city or municipality where the mother habitually resides if either of the parents is a citizen of the Philippines or both are. When both parents are foreigners who are not residents of the Philippines, the birth may be recorded in any LCR in the Philippines, if they so desire.

The CRG, in partnership with the LGUs and the LCRs, shall provide mobile birth registration services, particularly in all geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas within their respective jurisdictions.

SEC. 18. *Place of Registration and Reporting.* – Vital events occurring in the Philippines shall be registered in the city or municipality where said vital event occurred. The CRG shall issue guidelines on out-of-town reporting and the registration of vital events in exceptional cases as defined in this Act.

SEC. 19. *Mandatory Registration of Live Birth.* – All live births occurring in the Philippines shall be registered in accordance with this Act: *Provided*, That the birth of a fetus with an intra-uterine life of less than seven (7) months that dies within twenty-four (24) hours after its complete delivery from the maternal womb, shall be reported to the Civil Registrar for statistical purposes, but shall not be entered in the register of live births: *Provided, further*, That a fetus with an intrauterine life of seven (7) months or more and born alive at the time it was delivered entirely from the maternal womb, but died later, shall be considered a live birth and shall be registered in the register of deaths, accordingly.

SEC. 20. *Free Delayed Registration Program.* – The LCRs are mandated to implement a free delayed registration program for infants up to one (1) year of age whose births have not been registered and certified due to such factors as poverty, distance, or lack of literacy. The Sangguniang Barangay shall assist in implementing the program through the BCRS.

The PCRA, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the NCIP shall jointly establish a Free Delayed Registration Program for Indigenous Peoples, which the LGUs and the NCIP regional or local offices in the concerned localities shall implement.

The applicant who is over one (1) year of age but not over twelve (12) years of age may avail of the late registration, subject to compliance with the following:

- (a) Personal appearance of the applicant with the parents before the concerned or receiving Civil Registrar;
- (b) In case of default of any parent, the judicially appointed guardian or any person exercising substitute parental authority as provided under Article 216 of Executive Order No. 209, shall personally appear before the Civil Registrar;
- (c) An affidavit or sworn statement stating the rationale for late registration, and the non-appearance of parents and their present whereabouts;
- (d) Submission of four (4) copies of the duly accomplished COLB form, signed by the proper parties or required signatories;

- (e) Negative certification of birth record from the CRG;
- (f) Payment of the applicable penalty for every year of delay in registration from birth;
- (g) Certificate of death in case of the deceased document owner; and
- (h) Certification for waiver of payment of penalty signed by the Civil Registrar in case of a deceased document owner.

The applicant who is over twelve (12) years of age may avail of the deferred registration, subject to compliance with the following:

- (a) Personal appearance of the applicant with the parents before the concerned or receiving Civil Registrar;
- (b) In case of default of any parent, the judicially appointed guardian or any person exercising substitute parental authority as provided under Article 216 of Executive Order No. 209, shall personally appear before the Civil Registrar;
- (c) An affidavit or sworn statement stating the rationale for deferred registration, and the non-appearance of parents and their present whereabouts;
- (d) Submission of four (4) copies of the duly accomplished COLB form, signed by the proper parties or required signatories;
- (e) Negative certification of birth record from the CRG;
- (f) Payment of the applicable penalty for every year of delay in registration from birth;
- (g) Certification of death in case of deceased document owner; and (h) Certification for waiver of payment of penalty signed by the Civil Registrar in case of deceased document owner.

The illegitimate applicant may avail registration, subject to submission of the foregoing additional documents, *Provided*, that the basic requirements based on age have been complied with:

- (a) Front-facing photo of the registrant to be attached to the application;
- (b) Sworn statement of the parents' present whereabouts;
- (c) Affidavit of admission of paternity or affidavit to use the surname of the father, if applicable;
- (d) Affidavit of acknowledgement in case of an illegitimate child born before 03 August 1988;
- (e) Baptismal Certificate, if applicable;
- (f) School records;
- (g) Income tax return of the parents, if applicable;
- (h) Medical records;

- (i) Documentary evidence and proof showing the identity of parents and distinctive relationship to the child, to include COLB digitized and printed on security paper, government-issued ID, marriage certificate of the parents, if applicable, or the certificate of death for the deceased parents;
- (j) Barangay captain's certification of parentage and to prove residency; and
- (k) Affidavit of two (2) disinterested persons who have witnessed or known the birth of the child.

The applicant may request an out-of-town registration, subject to the submission of the requirements for delayed, late, or deferred registration, as applicable. *Provided*, That the application for out-of-town registration shall be endorsed and transmitted to the concerned LCR for record-keeping of the civil registry data.

A party whose one of the parents is a foreign national may register, subject to the submission of the following documents:

- (a) Certificate of marriage of parents;
- (b) COLB of Filipino parent digitized and printed on security paper; and
- (c) Valid passport, a foreign government-issued clearance certificate, or a Bureau of Immigration ("BI") Clearance Certificate or Alien Certificate of Registration Immigration ("ACRI") card in the case of a foreign parent.

For non-marital children who will be availing of RA 9255 or acknowledgement under the Civil Code, in addition to the abovementioned requirements, subject to submission of the following:

- (a) Affidavit of Admission of Paternity or Affidavit to Use the Surname of the Father ("AUSF") under RA 9255; or
- (b) Affidavit of Acknowledgement in case of a non-marital child born before 03 August 1988.

SEC. 21. *Persons and Institutions Responsible for Reporting a Live Birth.*

- The persons and institutions responsible for reporting to the Civil Registrars the live birth that occurs within the Philippines are:

- (a) The administrator of a health facility, physician, or midwife who attended the birth, in such order, for live births that occur in a health facility;

- (b) The physician, nurse, midwife, or any person who attended to the birth, for live births that occur outside a health facility, such as at home or in a community setting; and
- (c) In the absence of the health facility administrator or attendant at birth, the mother or the father of the child, or the next-of-kin.

The declaration of the following persons shall be sufficient for purposes of registration:

- (a) Either parent of the newborn child born within a valid marriage;
- (b) The mother, or in her absence, the guardian, in case of a child born outside a valid marriage;
- (c) Any responsible person who knows the facts of birth, or
- (d) The person is eighteen (18) years of age or over.

SEC. 22. *Other Persons Responsible for Informing Live Births Under Special Circumstances.* – The responsibility to inform the LCR of the fact of a live birth that occurs under exceptional circumstances shall be the obligation of:

- (a) The driver of a vehicle, captain of a vessel, or pilot of an airplane, as the case may be, and the parents of the child, in case of a live birth that occurs aboard a vehicle, vessel, or airplane while in transit;
- (b) The imam, priest or religious leader, village chief, community or tribal leader, as the case may be, for a live birth that occurs within the spiritual or indigenous cultural community, or in default thereof, either parent of the child in accordance with this Act; and
- (c) The head of the facility that has custody over the mother for live births that occur while she is in state custody.

SEC. 23. *Duty to Inform the Civil Registrar of a Live Birth.* – It shall be the duty of the informants mentioned under this Act to inform a live birth within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of a live birth, or from when they came to know of the live birth, to the LCR of the place where the birth occurred.

SEC. 24. *Duty to Keep Record of Births.* – All health facilities shall submit to the Civil Registrar a record of all births occurring in such facility, which shall contain information required for registration, such as the name of the child, the parents, the medical attendant at birth, and the date of submission of registration documents to the Civil Registrar, or other information that the CRG may prescribe.

SEC. 25. *Registration of Foundlings with No Known Parents.* – The registration of a foundling or person with no known parents shall be governed by the relevant provisions of RA 11767 and other relevant issuances.

The out-of-town registration of birth shall be allowed in the case of delayed registration where the place of application for registration is other than the place of birth of the person requesting civil registration. The Civil Registrars and the CRG shall issue a COLB free of charge regardless of delay.

SEC. 26. *Registration of Children in Need of Special Protection.* – The registration of CNSP shall be made in the LCR where the child was born, if known. If the place of birth is unknown, the registration shall be made in the place where the child was found.

A finder in custody of a CNSP shall, within forty-eight (48) hours, refer the CNSP to any of the following receiving agencies for documentation and evaluation:

- (a) The nearest regional field or provincial office of the DSWD or the local social welfare and development divisions;
- (b) The Punong Barangay of the locality where the CNSP was found;
- (c) The nearest police station, or
- (d) Child-care foundation.

The receiving agency, upon referral and determination that the CNSP needs medical attention, shall immediately bring the CNSP to the nearest medical facility for the necessary treatment.

The receiving agency shall thereafter endeavor to determine whether the CNSP is without a primary caregiver, guardian, or a suitable individual who can have temporary custody of the CNSP. In all instances, the best interests of the CNSP shall be the paramount consideration in selecting a guardian. In the absence of a suitable guardian, the Punong Barangay or the police shall facilitate the commitment of the CNSP to the nearest regional or provincial office of the DSWD, or to the local social welfare and development division, or to a duly licensed and accredited orphanage or charitable institution.

The registration shall be made sixty (60) days from the date of the actual custody of the child by:

- (a) The licensed social worker who has custody of the CNSP; or
- (b) Those persons or institutions who are in immediate and protective custody of the CNSP.

In both cases, a CNSP Certification issued by the nearest Regional Field Office of the DSWD shall be presented by the child's custodian at registration. The custodian should first seek information from anyone knowledgeable about

whether the child has already been registered. Otherwise, data as to the details of the child's birth should be obtained for purposes of filling out the COLB.

For the registration of the birth of a CNSP, the requirements are:

- (a) Negative certification from the LCR or the PCRA, or any proof of declaration from the PCRA or the "Omnibus Certification." The "Negative Certification" is a declaration issued by the PCRA stating that no record of the requested birth exists. At the same time, the "Omnibus Certification" is a list issued by the PCRA indicating that the person whose records are being verified is in the PCRA's custody. The Omnibus Certification is commonly issued upon the request of an organization, agency, or department;
- (b) Child case study report prepared by a licensed social worker; and
- (c) Certification from the nearest DSWD Regional Field Office that the child is a CNSP, indicating the following information:
 - (i) Name of the child;
 - (ii) Sex of the child;
 - (iii) Date of birth;
 - (iv) Place of birth;
 - (v) Name of at least one parent; and
 - (vi) Citizenship of parents.

For unfilled items in the COLB, the word "Unknown" is acceptable. The approximate date of birth of the child may be certified by a medical or dental practitioner as proof of age. Such certification shall be provided by the medical or dental practitioner upon presentation of the requirements listed in this section.

No fees and other related charges, such as processing fees or penalties, shall be imposed on the registration of births of CNSPs within the regulatory period.

In cases of multiple registrations with CNSP, the guidelines on double or multiple registrations shall apply.

For regular reporting, the Civil Registrars shall submit the list of registered CNSPs to the DSWD and the CRG on the 10th day of each month.

No annotations shall be indicated on the COLB of the CNSP. A temporary marking shall be made only for purposes of recording and shall be subsequently erased upon final issuance of the registered COLB.

SEC. 27. *Live Births in Indigenous Cultural Communities or among Indigenous Peoples and Muslim Filipinos.* – The PCRA and the duly recognized

national association of Civil Registrars or the Philippine Association of Civil Registrars (PACR), in collaboration with NCIP, National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), distinguished anthropologists and selected elders and leaders of ICCs/IPs shall establish an Indigenous Peoples Civil Registration System (IPCRS) that is sensitive and appropriate to the unique cultural practices and identification systems of ICCs/IPs: *Provided, That* the CRG shall approve the IPCRS, and the procedures and policies shall be harmonized with existing laws and systems on civil registry: *Provided, further, That* for recording of names of children it is in accordance with the Naming conventions of Muslim Filipinos.

In recording the birth of ICCs/IPs delivered in the traditional customs and practices of the indigenous community, the report as to the circumstances of the birth primarily by the tribal doctor or tribal midwife who attended to the delivery, legitimate birth or not, and secondarily by any of the parents, shall be conclusive upon the CRG, the Civil Registrars, and the district or circuit registrars, without need for further proof. The IPCRS shall take into account the various ethnic affiliations of the ICCs/IPs in the country. In the absence of any identifying document, the self-ascription or ascription by any parent, tribal leader, or elder shall suffice to establish the identity of ICCs/IPs for civil registration and for requests for civil registry documents or certificates.

The CRG shall, in coordination with the NCMF and NCIP, prescribe guidelines for the registration of individuals with religious affiliations and of indigenous peoples' groups or tribes.

SEC. 28. *Mandatory Continuing Education and Training Program.* – To ensure that the efficient delivery of civil registration services meets the demand for quality Civil Registrars who shall perform civil registration functions, the CRG together with the LGUs shall conduct continuing education and training program for Civil Registrars, district and circuit registrars, consuls general, and civil registry personnel, in collaboration with relevant partners in government, academe, industry, and non-governmental organizations. Such training programs shall be initiated, conducted based on a training needs analysis, and evaluated regularly throughout the year to ensure continuous upgrading of the skills of the Civil Registrars, district and circuit registrars, consuls general, and civil registry personnel.

The Department of Health (DOH) shall provide capacity-building for local health officers, physicians, heads of health facilities, and other health sector personnel on their duties and functions related to civil registration.

SEC. 29. *Barangay Civil Registration System.* – The CRG shall, in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), establish a systematic civil registration procedure at the barangay level, to be called the Barangay Civil Registration System or the “BCRS,” where elected and appointed barangay officials shall be mandated to assist in the facilitation of civil registration within the area of jurisdiction, subject to the provisions of this Act.

The Barangay Captain shall submit to the LCR of the city or municipality of residence, the names of the Barangay Secretary as Ex-Officio Civil Registration Officer (CRO) and another deputized barangay official as Civil Registration Assistant, who shall assist in the registration of all vital events of every individual within the area of jurisdiction.

The CRO or Barangay Secretary shall engage the barangay to support the implementation of this Act, including the provision of fiscal and budgetary support to ensure the mandatory registration of all born Filipinos. The CRG shall, in partnership with the LGUs, the PACR, and other accredited government or private institutions, conduct regular training and capacity-building programs to upgrade the knowledge and skills in civil registration functions of all partners in the barangay.

SEC. 30. *Strict Confidentiality of Birth-Record.* – In compliance with RA 10173 (2012) or the “Data Privacy Act of 2012,” the record of a person’s birth shall be kept confidential, and no information relating thereto shall be issued except upon request of the following:

- (a) The concerned person, or any person authorized;
- (b) Spouse;
- (c) Any or both of the parents, direct descendants, the guardian, or institution legally in charge in case of a minor;
- (d) The court or the appropriate public official, whenever necessary in administrative, judicial, or other official proceedings, to determine the identity of the child’s parents or other circumstances surrounding the birth; and
- (e) The nearest kin in case of a person’s death.

SEC. 31. *Registration and Certification of Death.* – No remains shall be buried, cremated, transferred, or otherwise disposed of unless the proper permit or death certificate issued by the municipal or city health officer has been presented and recorded in the LCR. A permit to dispose of remains shall only be issued upon the submission of the duly accomplished certificate of death to the local health officer. In the case of medico-legal deaths, said permit shall only be

issued upon approval of the medico-legal officer conducting the medico-legal death investigation.

The DOH shall, in coordination with the CRG, the DILG, and local health officers, implement measures to ensure uninterrupted service on weekends and holidays. In case the local health officer is not available, the alternate may include:

- (a) A provincial health officer or the local health officer of a contiguous city or municipality;
- (b) A government physician, or
- (c) A barangay secretary, *provided* that the cause of death has been determined in accordance with this Act and the death is immediately reported to the local health officer.

SEC. 32. *Persons Responsible for Reporting a Death.* – The responsibility of reporting to the Civil Registrar that a death occurred within the Philippines, in applicable cases, is:

- (a) The head of the health facility, or the physician who last attended to the deceased, for deaths that occur in a health facility;
- (b) The physician who attended to the decedent during the last illness, or the next-of-kin, or, in default, any person who knows of the death, for deaths occurring outside health facilities;
- (c) The physician who attended the deceased, or in default, the health officer concerned, any member of the family of the deceased, or any person knowing the death shall immediately report the same to the local health authorities, who shall issue a death certificate and shall order the same to be recorded before the LCR where the death occurred; and
- (d) Medico-legal officers of the Philippine National Police (PNP) or the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for medico-legal deaths reported.

It shall be the duty of the funeral parlors, burial facilities, crematoriums, and embalmers to report to the LCR pursuant to this Act, upon becoming aware that the death has not been registered.

SEC. 33. *Duty to Inform the LCR of Death Through the Local Health Officer.* – It shall be the duty of the informants mentioned in this Act to inform the LCR concerned of death occurring within a prescriptive period of forty-eight (48) hours from the time of death, or from the time of acquiring knowledge of the death, to the local health officer of the city or municipality where the death occurred or where the body was found.

SEC. 34. *Informants for deaths under Special Circumstances.* – The persons responsible for informing the LCR of the fact of death that occurs under exceptional circumstances are:

- (a) The driver of a vehicle, captain of a vessel, or pilot of an airplane, as the case may be, or in case there are no survivors, the owner of the moving conveyance, for a death that occurs aboard a vehicle, vessel, or airplane;
- (b) The imam, village chief, or tribal leader, as the case may be, for a death that occurs within the Muslim community, or ICCs/IPs;
- (c) The head of a detention facility for deaths that occur in State custody.

In case of medico-legal deaths, the medico-legal officer of the PNP or the NBI to whom the death is referred shall report the death to the local health officer within ten (10) days from the date of death or receipt of the report of the death.

The local health officer, or another government physician authorized pursuant to this Act shall, upon ensuring that information provided is complete or adequate for purposes of registration, and that the medical certification of cause of death is properly filled-out, report the death to the concerned Civil Registrar by forwarding the certificate of death and other relevant documents within thirty (30) days from the time of or discovery of death.

SEC. 35. *Medical Certification and Determination of the Cause of Death.* – The cause and manner of death of the deceased persons shall be determined and medically certified by the persons, subject to the guidelines to be issued by the DOH, as follows:

- (a) The head of the health facility or the attending physician, in case of deaths occurring in a health facility and deaths pronounced in the health facility;
- (b) The physician who last attended to the decedent during the last illness, in case of deaths occurring outside a health facility but with medical attendance;
- (c) The local health officer, or other physicians authorized, in case of deaths occurring outside a health facility and without medical attendance, upon viewing the body in person or through video conference, and upon reviewing the decedent's medical records; or
- (d) By the medico-legal officer of the PNP or the NBI, pursuant to Section 29 of this Act.

The cause and manner of death shall be reported to the LCR in the same manner as the fact of death. The local health officer may designate other

physicians to determine the cause and manner of death for deaths without medical attendance: *Provided*, That such physician has undergone training on medical certification of the cause of death, as prescribed by the DOH.

SEC. 36. *Verbal Autopsy.* – In cases when a person died outside a health facility and without medical attendance, and no medical records are available to determine the cause and manner of death of the decedent, the local health officer receiving the report of death or other physicians authorized shall view the body in person or through video conferencing and conduct verbal autopsy to determine the most likely cause of death. The local health officer may designate other physicians to conduct a verbal autopsy, *Provided*, That those physicians have received training in its use.

The fact that a verbal autopsy was used to determine the most likely cause of death shall be specified in the certificate of death.

The DOH shall issue guidelines on the conduct of verbal autopsies by local health officers.

SEC. 37. *Medico-Legal Death.* – The following deaths shall be considered medico-legal deaths that must be reported by any person who knows such death to medico-legal officers within the PNP or NBI in cases where it has jurisdiction:

- (a) Deaths due to known or suspected unnatural or external causes, including violent deaths, whether due to homicide, suicide, or accident;
- (b) All potentially unlawful deaths;
- (c) Sudden, unexpected, or unexplained deaths not caused by a readily recognizable disease, including dead-on-arrival cases with improbable or inconsistent medical history or occurring within the 24 hours of confinement;
- (d) Deaths in State custody; and
- (e) Other analogous cases.

Upon receipt of the report, the medico-legal officer to whom the case is assigned shall conduct a post-mortem examination of the decedent and such other examinations as are needed to determine the cause and manner of death. The consent of the decedent's next-of-kin shall not be required for such examinations.

The medico-legal officer shall certify and report the cause and manner of death, in the form and manner prescribed by the CRG, and according to the guidelines to be issued by the CRG in coordination with the DILG, Department of Justice (DOJ), and DOH.

In the absence of a medico-legal officer of the PNP and NBI in the city or municipality where the death occurred, the PNP may authorize a local health officer or government physician to conduct the medico-legal death investigation, *provided* that said local health officer or physician shall act under the supervision of the PNP.

The cause and manner of death determined upon a request for second opinion made to another agency shall not be registered without court order: *Provided*, That in case the jurisdiction is transferred to the NBI or PNP upon order of the Secretary of the DOJ or the Secretary of the DILG, the agency designated to conduct the medico-legal death investigation shall be responsible for reporting the cause and manner of death.

The PNP or NBI medico-legal officer who caused the registration of medico-legal death under this Act may apply for an amendment of the Certificate of Death or Certificate of Fetal Death, based on the following grounds:

- (a) New findings from the medico-legal death investigation warrant an amendment of entries, or
- (b) The death has been determined to be a medico-legal death, but had not undergone a medico-legal death investigation; the entries in the Certificate of Death or Certificate of Fetal Death were found to be erroneous.

SEC. 38. *Duty to Keep Record of Death.* – All health facilities shall annually submit to the LCR a record of all deaths occurring in such facility, which shall contain information required for registration, such as the name of the decedent, the witness who certified to the cause and manner of death, and the date of submission of registration documents to the LCR.

All funeral parlors, embalmers, cemeteries, and crematoriums, shall likewise annually submit to the LCR a record of all deaths referred to their facility for embalming, burial, or cremation services, which shall contain the name of the decedent, the date of issuance of the permit to dispose of the body, the name of embalmer, the date of registration of death, and other information as may be required by the CRG.

SEC. 39. *Classification of Diseases.* – The DOH and the PCRA are hereby mandated to adopt a standard for the classification of diseases, which must be consistent with the classification of diseases adopted by the international community.

SEC. 40. *Registration of Deaths of Unidentified Persons.* – The CRG shall, in coordination with the PNP, NBI, DOH, and other relevant organizations, issue

guidelines for the registration of unidentified persons. The guidelines shall include mechanisms for amending the identity, cause, and manner of death, and other particulars of the decedent, when they become known, in accordance with this Act.

The DOH shall ensure that all funeral parlors, burial facilities, and crematoriums are trained on the disposal of unidentified bodies and remains.

SEC. 41. *Monitoring and Review of the Causes of Death.* – The DOH shall, through its regional offices and provincial health officers, conduct regular and random audits of the causes of death within their territorial jurisdiction, and shall submit reports and recommendations to the CRG to improve the quality, accuracy, and timeliness of the determination of the causes of death and the issuance of a certification.

SEC. 42. *Delayed Registration of Death.* – A deceased person's facts of death that have not been registered within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of death shall be allowed a delayed registration before the LCR at the city or municipality of the place of death.

In any case, out-of-town registration of death may be allowed.

SEC. 43. *Registration of the Application for Marriage License.* – The contracting parties shall apply for a marriage license before the LCR where one of the parties resides. The Civil Registrar shall enter all applications in the Register of Applications for Marriage License strictly in the order of receipt of applications. The Civil Registrar shall record in said register the names of the applicants, the date on which the marriage license was issued, and such other data as may be prescribed by the CRG.

The Civil Registrar shall receive no application unless supporting documents are attached thereto, and no application shall be posted unless the Civil Registrar receives it. The application shall be registered only after the posting period has ended.

The pertinent provisions of Executive Order No. 209 shall govern all applications for a marriage license.

SEC. 44. *Registration of Marriage.* – The solemnizing officer shall register all marriages before the LCR of the place where they were solemnized. Marriage among Muslim Filipinos performed under their customs, rites, and practices shall be registered by the officiating person, or if in default, the parties to the marriage before the district or circuit registrar of the city or municipality where the Shari'a

court exists, or in the absence of a Shari'a Court, at the LCR where the marriage ceremony was held.

- (a) In case of marriages solemnized while in transit:
 - (i) En route to or within the Philippines, the marriage shall be registered at the place of residence of either party; or
 - (ii) Leaving the Philippines, the marriage shall be registered at the consulate of the Philippines in the place of destination of the parties, or in the absence thereof, at the nearest Philippine Consulate Office from the place of destination.
- (b) In cases of registration of traditional marriages and dissolution of marriages among and between ICCs/IPs: The report of marriage among and between ICCs/IPs solemnized in accordance with customary laws, rites, traditions, and practices by the person duly authorized to perform the ritual or ceremony and by the parties to the marriage shall be conclusive upon the LCR or the PCRA without need for further proof. For this purpose, the NCIP shall submit to the CRG a list of ICCs/IPs recognized by each indigenous community for solemnizing marriage in accordance with its customary laws or practices. The CRG shall issue a Certificate of Registration of Authority to Solemnize Marriage (CRASM) to such ICCs/IPs for free. In the case of indigenous communities whose traditional marriage ceremony does not require the presence of a solemnizing officer, as determined by the NCIP, the report by the contracting parties shall be conclusive upon the Civil Registrar or the CRG without the need for further proof except personal confirmation, orally or in writing, by any of the parents or by a tribal leader or elder of the indigenous community to which any of the spouses belong. For this purpose, the NCIP shall furnish the CRG and all Civil Registrars with a list of indigenous communities classified under this paragraph: *Provided*, That pending the submission of such list, the oral or written confirmation of the tribal leader or elder shall be conclusive upon the Civil Registrar concerned and the CRG. The dissolution of marriage of ICCs/IPs following customary indigenous laws and practices shall be directly recorded with the LCR with jurisdiction and the CRG without the need for court intervention: *Provided*, That such facts and information shall be confirmed orally or in writing by a tribal leader or elder of the indigenous community to which any of the spouses belongs.

All marriages shall be registered within thirty (30) days from the date of the marriage. Marriages registered after the stipulated period shall be considered late registration, but no fee shall be imposed.

SEC. 45. *Multiple Registration.* – In cases of multiple registrations of birth, marriage, and death, the first duly registered document shall prevail, unless the court orders otherwise. In no case shall double or multiple registrations of marriages be allowed, except as provided by law. Subsequently, certificates registered for the exact birth or death shall no longer be issued.

For multiple marriages by and between the same parties, the first marriage shall prevail, and not the first registered marriage of such parties.

The CRG shall inform the concerned LCR, Shari’a District or Circuit Court, or the Philippine Foreign Service Post of the multiple registration for proper action. The CRG shall prescribe guidelines for issuing copies of civil registry documents for various registrations.

SEC. 46. *Registration of Solemnizing Officers.* – All solemnizing officers shall file a sworn application for registration of authority to solemnize marriage in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the CRG. The CRG shall review the same to determine that the denomination, church, sect, or religion officially operates in the Philippines and possesses good standing before registration, enlistment, and issuance of the CRASM.

SEC. 47. *Grounds for the Cancellation of CRASM.* – The CRG has the authority to cancel a CRASM awarded to a solemnizing officer, upon due notice and hearing, and based on grounds, as follows:

- (a) The bishop or the head of the religion or religious sect of which the solemnizing officer is a member requests the cancellation;
- (b) The solemnizing officer requested self-cancellation;
- (c) The solemnizing officer ceases to be a member of the religion or religious sect, indicating in the certificate or with an annotation that the officer retires or ceases to be a priest or minister;
- (d) The solemnizing officer is convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude;
- (e) The solemnizing officer becomes permanently incapacitated to discharge the functions of the office;
- (f) The solemnizing officer willfully violates laws or regulations on marriage and willfully does not fulfill duties as a solemnizing officer; and
- (g) The solemnizing officer commits derogatory conduct unbecoming of a solemnizing officer.

SEC. 48. *Registration of Court Orders.* – In case of a court issuance or order concerning the status of a person, the clerk of court shall advise the successful petitioner to register such document before the LCR that has jurisdiction over the issuing court.

In cases of legal separation, absolute nullity of void marriages, and annulment of voidable marriages, the prevailing party shall cause the registration of the decree in the LCR where the marriage was registered, in the family court where the marriage was registered, and in the PCRA. Such party shall report to the court compliance with this requirement within thirty (30) days from receipt of the copy of the decree.

If a person other than the petitioner applies to register a court order before an LCR, the Civil Registrar is responsible for verifying the validity of the court order; otherwise, the registration shall be refused.

The LCR where the event was registered shall forward a certified true copy of the order to the LCR where the vital event affected was initially registered. The LCR where the essential event was originally registered shall make proper annotations in the document and in the applicable registry book. The LCR, which has jurisdiction over the original registry document, shall send a certified true copy of the annotated document and the registered court order to the CRG.

All corrected documents shall be reported to the PCRA during the usual reporting month.

All court orders shall be registered within thirty (30) days after their finality; otherwise, they shall be considered as delayed registration.

All court orders shall be affected through annotations in the civil registry document, except in an adoption case, when the child shall be entitled to the issuance of an amended COLB.

SEC. 49. *Duty to Inform LCRs of Divorce Among Muslim Filipinos.* – The court decree of Muslim divorces shall be registered in the Shari’a District or Circuit Court within thirty (30) days after the divorce has become final and executory. The Shari’a District or Circuit Registrar shall register the court decree and shall transmit the same to the LCR, a Shari’a District or Circuit Registrar, or a foreign service officer where the marriage was registered for annotation.

SEC. 50. *Foreign Decree or Judgment.* – Where a marriage between two (2) Filipinos or a Filipino and a foreign national is validly celebrated and a foreign divorce decree or administrative issuance on termination of marriage is thereafter validly obtained abroad by the petitioner spouse capacitating the petitioner to

remarry, the foreign divorce decree or administrative issuance must be reciprocally recognized and judicially enforced or confirmed in the Philippines without the need of judicial process pursuant to Article 26, paragraph 2 of Executive Order 209: *Provided*, That the judicial decree or court order shall be registered and submitted as documentary evidence which shall be annotated in the PCR or the LCR where the affected document is registered, to prove the capacity of the affected spouse to remarry: *Provided*, That these foreign decrees, court orders, or administrative issuances to be legal and binding in the Philippine jurisdiction, must first be authenticated by the Philippine Consulate in or proximate to the foreign country where it was secured prior its subsequent registration and annotation with the PCR or the LCR which has the lawful jurisdiction over the affected document.

SEC. 51. *Registration of Judicial Declaration of Presumptive Death.* – The clerk of court who issues the order or the successful petitioner who declared the presumptive death of a person shall submit a copy of the court order or decree together with the certificate of finality of such decree or order to the LCR where the order was issued, within thirty (30) calendar days from the time of issuance of the order, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and Executive Order No. 209.

SEC. 52. *Reporting of Vital Events Occurring Abroad.* – All vital events of Filipinos occurring abroad shall be reported to the Philippine foreign service post of the country of residence or where none is located thereat, in the Philippine foreign service post of the country nearest the place of residence of the party concerned or where the vital event occurred.

SEC. 53. *Registration of Adoption.* – All adoptions processed and recognized under Philippine law shall be duly registered in accordance with this Act.

The registration of administrative and judicial orders of adoption shall be governed by RA 11642 and other relevant issuances.

SEC. 54. *Rectification of Simulated Birth Records.* – The registration of rectification of simulated birth records shall be governed by RA 11222 or the “Simulated Birth Rectification Act,” as amended by RA 11642, and other relevant issuances.

SEC. 55. *Taskforce on Cancellation of Fraudulent Certificate (TCFC).* – All civil registry certificates or documents, or even substantive documents submitted, processed, and transmitted through the PCRD, are presumed strictly registered in good faith and in accordance with or compliant with the provisions of this Act and relevant existing laws on civil registration. Any of the certificates, documents,

or even relevant substantive documents found to be falsified, fabricated, or spurious and obtained fraudulently by any individual, including a foreign national, shall immediately be temporarily held and blocked, pending investigation by the TCFC and the CRG.

The TCFC is hereby established to safeguard the integrity of the PCRD, which stores the most important basic data of Filipinos. The TCFC is composed of:

- (a) Chairperson – Civil Registrar General;
- (b) Members – Undersecretaries of the DFA, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and DOJ, and the Assistant Solicitor General of the Office of the Solicitor General.

The Legal Service of the PCRA shall serve as the TCFC secretariat and accept complaints involving fraudulent civil registry certificates or documents. The TCFC shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Formulate rules of procedure concerning the investigation, filing, and reception of complaints, conduct hearings, and appeals involving the cancellation of civil registry certificates registered through fraudulent means, especially by any foreign national;
- (b) Conduct clarificatory hearings and investigations on civil registry certificates fraudulently registered;
- (c) Issue summons, subpoena, and subpoena duces tecum to secure the production of all necessary evidence concerning fraudulent cases registered, to include affidavits, records, testimonies, and other substantive documents;
- (d) Promulgate decisions, after due notice and hearing, concerning complaints of cancellation of fraudulent civil registry certificates;
- (e) Recommend to the DFA, DOJ, DILG, the Ombudsman, and other appropriate agencies the filing of criminal, civil, and administrative cases under existing laws against individuals who participated in the fraudulent registration and the corresponding deportation in the case of a foreign national, if cleared of the case; and (f) Perform such other duties and functions necessary to eradicate proliferation of fraudulent civil registry certificate or document.

To protect and vouch for the integrity of the PCRD, upon receipt of a report of a spurious or falsified document, the TCFC shall, within ten (10) days from the filing of the complaint, immediately conduct an investigation and assessment, in accordance with the procedural requirements under Rule 108 of the Rules of Court, in addition to the following:

- (a) TCFC to conduct inquiry and evaluation of the affected records in the PCRD to verify the veracity of the report within ten (10) days from the filing of the complaint;
- (b) TCFC to facilitate the investigation of the individual or personnel involved;
- (c) TCFC to submit a report including case records on the verified details of the evidence and the spurious documents submitted, within thirty (30) days from the submission of a response from the respondent;
- (d) CRG to conduct a second-level investigation and assessment of the case to identify the main reason for the problem;
- (e) TCFC to recommend necessary legal action against any person found guilty of producing the spurious document, and in addition, penalize in accordance with the provisions of this Act; and
- (f) TCFC to recommend the non-appealable blocking or locking of the affected civil registry document on record in the PCRD, to protect its reliability and integrity.

SEC. 56. *Registration of Legal Instruments.* – All legal instruments shall be registered in the LCR of the place where the instrument was executed, except for:

- (a) **Affidavit of Reappearance** – This is a sworn statement of the facts and circumstances of reappearance of a spouse declared to be absent or presumptively dead, which shall be recorded with the LCR where the marriage of the subsequent spouse was recorded, and where the judicial declaration of presumptive death was recorded. The affidavit of reappearance shall be annotated in both the first and subsequent marriages of the spouses.
- (b) **Marriage Settlement** – An agreement signed by the parties before the celebration of marriage to establish their property relations within the limits provided by the family code. The agreement shall be registered in the LCR where the marriage was registered.
- (c) **Admission of paternity or equivalent document, acknowledgment, legitimation, voluntary emancipation of minor, artificial insemination** – These are sworn statements recognizing the paternity of a child. The same shall be registered as prescribed under RA 9255, entitled “An Act Allowing Illegitimate Children to Use the Surname of Their Father, Amending For the Purpose Article 176 Of Executive Order No. 209,” or other relevant laws.
- (d) **Affidavit to use the surname of the Father** – This allows the illegitimate children to use the surname of the father.

SEC. 57. *Registration of Affidavit of Legitimation.* – The joint affidavit of legitimation shall be registered in the LCR where the birth was registered.

SEC. 58. *Registration of Affidavit of Ratification of Artificial Inseminations.* – The registration covers children conceived as a result of artificial insemination of the wife with the sperm of the husband or that of a donor or both who are likewise legitimate children of the husband and the wife: *Provided, That* both of them authorized or ratified such insemination in a written instrument executed and signed by them before the birth of the child. The instrument shall be recorded in the LCR together with the birth certificate of the child.

SEC. 59. *Dissolution of Customary Marriage.* – The dissolution of customary marriage that has been registered as provided for under this Act shall be registered upon observing the processes and requirements of customary law and practice of the concerned ICCs/IPs. It shall be the duty of the parties to the marriage to inform the LCR of the place where the marriage was registered, of the dissolution of the marriage in the form and manner prescribed by the CRG. All certificates of divorce shall be registered in the respective LCR or Shari’a District or Circuit Court within thirty (30) days after the date of divorce by the interested party.

SEC. 60. *Registration of Reacquisition of Philippine Citizenship under RA 9225 or the “Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003.”* – The certificate of reacquisition of Philippine citizenship, together with the oath of allegiance, shall be registered where the instrument was executed.

SEC. 61. *Civil Registry Documents as Prima Facie Evidence of Vital Events.* – The registry books making up the civil register, the office files in hard copies, and their corresponding digital files of the civil registries, certifications or certified copies from these files, and all other documents relating thereto shall be considered public documents. They shall be prima facie evidence of the truth of the facts therein contained.

The Civil Registrar shall not, under any circumstance, permit any document to be removed from the office, except upon lawful order of the court, in which case the proper receipt shall be secured.

SEC. 62. *Data Privacy and Confidentiality of Civil Registration Records.* – All processes, databases, and information gathered through and stored in the PCRD shall be processed in accordance with RA 10173.

The CRG shall adopt such controls and safeguards as are appropriate and necessary to ensure that only authorized personnel have access to its data and records, and that the confidentiality of the information handled and processed by

the civil registration and vital statistics system is protected at all times, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Presidential Decree No. 603 or "The Child and Youth Welfare Code," as amended, and RA 10173.

SEC. 63. *Generation and Sharing of Vital Statistics from Civil Registration Information.* – The PCR information shall be the primary source of vital statistics, as needed by the CRG, which may be supplemented by census and other numerical data from the statistical arm of the government, the PSA. The CRG shall, in coordination with the National Statistician, regularly publish vital statistics and reports for the social welfare, health, and education programs of the government, subject to the Data Privacy principles of this Act and RA 10173.

SEC. 64. *Digital or Electronic Reporting of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.*
– The CRG shall, in coordination with the Secretary of the DICT, develop and adopt appropriate technology to facilitate and improve the PCRD that will digitalize civil registration processes and facilitate the digitization of the national register, local registers, and other records. For this purpose, the CRG, in coordination with the Secretary of the DICT, may issue guidelines on:

- (a) The digitalization of civil registration processes and the digitization of the national register, local registers, and other civil registration records;
- (b) The requirements for the adoption of the PCRD or its interoperability or integration with its systems adopted by LCRs, district and circuit registrars, Philippine foreign service posts, health facilities, and BCRS; and
- (c) The use of electronic or digital signatures for registration of vital events in accordance with the provisions of RA 8792 (2000) or the "Electronic Commerce Act of 2000."

All national and local registers, and all civil registration records forming part of said registers, shall conform to the guidelines set by the CRG, in coordination with the DICT, taking into account available new technologies.

The CRG shall prescribe the form of civil registry documents and reports, in electronic or digitized files, printed on security paper, for use by the Civil Registrars, Shari'a District and Circuit Registrars, and Philippine foreign service officers.

SEC. 65. *Digitization of all Civil Registry Files.* – All registered documents under the safekeeping of the CRG and the Civil Registrars shall be digitized. In addition to the usual reports and the forwarding of printed hard-copy files, digitized files shall also be submitted to the CRG as backup files for the PCRD for digital archiving.

SEC. 66. *Electronic Filing System.* – The CRG, through the Civil Registrars, Shari’a District and Circuit Registrars, and Philippine Foreign Service Officers, shall establish an electronic system for filing of petitions, appeals, and other processes under RA 9048, as amended by RA 10172, relevant to civil registration.

SEC. 67. *Development of Software for the PCRD.* – The PCRA, through the CRG and the Secretary of the DICT, shall, in close coordination with the PACR and the Secretary of the DILG, develop official software most responsive to a digitized PCRD implementation. Participation and assistance from international and local private organizations with parallel objectives for the full development of digital civil registration may be sought for this software. Among other features, this software shall include the highest degree of data security to ensure the integrity of its database.

SEC. 68. *Linking of the PCRD and the Philippine Identification System Database.* – The CRG shall, in close coordination with the DICT, link the PCRD to the PhilSys Database as governed by RA 11055. The CRG shall, in coordination with the PSPCC and the DICT, issue guidelines to ensure that the PCRD is securely shared and linked to the PhilSys Database, while maintaining the highest level of data security and database integrity.

SEC. 69. *Digitalization of Linkages and Interconnection of All Participating LCRs and the CRG.* – All capable Civil Registrars, including Shari’a District and Circuit Registrars, Consuls General, and CRG shall be authorized for interconnection to facilitate retrieval, online certifications, and issuance of digitized copies for and on behalf of other Civil Registrars using LGU-linked PCRD digital files, subject to pertinent laws, rules, or regulations on the confidentiality of civil registry records.

SEC. 70. *Immunity from Suit of Civil Registration Officers.* – The CRG, all Civil Registrars, assistant local Civil Registrars, district and circuit registrars, foreign service officers, and other officers who perform civil registration functions shall not be subjected to any action, claim, or demand in connection with any act done or omitted by them in the performance of their duties and exercise of their powers to implement the provisions of this Act, except for actions and omissions done in bad faith or gross neglect of duty.

Unless the actions of the officers mentioned above are found to be in willful violation of this Act or evidently performed with bad faith or gross negligence, the officers mentioned above are held free and harmless to the fullest extent permitted by law from any liability. They shall be indemnified for any costs and expenses of whatever kind and nature that may arise in connection with the lawful exercise of their powers and performance of their duties and functions.

SEC. 71. *Civil Registry Modernization Fund (“CRMF”).* — There is hereby created a CRMF to be administered by the PCRA for the purpose of supporting the modernization and digitization programs provided under this Act. The CRMF shall be managed and disbursed in accordance with existing government budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations, and subject to regular monitoring by the Department of Budget and Management (“DBM”) and the Commission on Audit (“COA”).

SEC. 72. *Free and Inclusive Registration.* — In line with the State’s policy of universal access to legal identity, the registration of vital events — including births, deaths, and marriages — shall, as a general rule, be free of charge for first-time registrants.

Registration fees shall also be waived for indigents and individuals belonging to vulnerable, marginalized, or disadvantaged groups, in accordance with the standards and eligibility criteria outlined in this Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The provisions of this Act granting free or subsidized registration for specific populations shall be construed in a manner consistent with this section.

The PCRA, LGUs, and accredited partners shall jointly provide mobile or barangay-level registration services to enable universal access.

SEC. 74. *Capacity Building and Staffing.* — The Philippine Civil Registry Authority (PCRA), in coordination with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), shall establish its organizational structure, determine and update its staffing pattern, and implement training programs for its personnel. These programs shall focus on modern civil registration systems, including digital records management, data privacy and protection, culturally sensitive registration procedures, and inclusive service delivery.

SEC. 75. *Oversight and Reporting.* — An oversight committee chaired by the Civil Registrar General (CRG) of the PCRA, and composed of representatives from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Health (DOH), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), local government units, and civil society organizations, shall monitor the implementation of this Act, including the utilization of the Civil Registry Modernization Fund (CRMF).

The committee shall submit an annual report to the Office of the President, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Economic Affairs, and the Chairperson of the House Committee on Government Reorganization, covering registration coverage, fund utilization, and program performance.

SEC. 76. Penal Provision. – Any person performing civil registry functions shall be prohibited from:

- (a) Forging civil registration documents, entries, certificates, and registries;
- (b) Doing falsification, alteration, or tampering of civil registration documents, certificates, and registries;
- (c) Submitting false information in registering vital events;
- (d) Using, abetting the use, or processing falsified or illegally obtained certificates and security papers; and
- (e) Profiteering and unauthorized facilitation of registration and copy issuance of civil registry documents.

Any person who is found guilty of committing the foregoing violations shall, upon conviction, be punished with imprisonment of six (6) to twelve (12) years or a fine of not less than five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than one million pesos (P1,000,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court.

Any civil registration officer found to be in willful violation of this Act or who evidently performed with bad faith or gross negligence of duty, specifically involving commission of irregularities in the registration of vital events, to include the use of falsified information, certificates, or security papers, shall be punished with imprisonment of six (6) to twelve (12) years or a fine of not less than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court.

Any government official or employee, solemnizing officer, medical practitioner, or employee of a health facility authorized to prepare civil registry documents but failed to inform or register the vital occurrence shall be punished with imprisonment of six (6) to twelve (12) years or a fine of not less than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court.

In all instances, if a government official or employee commits the violation, the penalty shall include perpetual disqualification from holding any public position or employment in any branch of the government, Government Owned or Controlled Corporation, or its subsidiaries.

It shall be unlawful for health facilities, responsible personnel, and medical practitioners to refuse to report or cause the registration of a vital event due to non-payment of hospital fees.

Any government official or employee, or any medical practitioner or health facility who commits the foregoing violations shall, upon conviction, be

punished with imprisonment of six (6) years but not more than twelve (12) years or fine of not less than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court.

In case of acts committed by private individuals, the penalties imposed in this section shall be in addition to those imposed on acts or omissions punishable by existing penal provisions and other laws.

In the case of acts committed by juridical persons, the penalty shall be imposed on the president, manager, or most senior officer of the juridical person.

This provision shall be without prejudice to other fines and fees that may be imposed on government officials and employees for misfeasance, malfeasance, and other acts and omissions prohibited by different laws.

SEC. 77. *Appeals.* – Any person whose interest is affected by a decision or inaction of a Civil Registrar, a Shari’a District or Circuit Registrar, a Philippine Foreign Service Officer, or any registration officer who performs civil registration functions under this Act, may appeal the decision or inaction to the CRG, in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

Appeals from decisions of the CRG may be made in accordance with Rule 43 of the Rules of Court on “Appeals from the Court of Tax Appeals and Quasi-Judicial Agencies to the Court of Appeals.”

SEC. 78. *Use of Income.* – The ten percent (10%) of the income generated from the civil registration services shall be retained and utilized for the upgrading of equipment, systems, databases, physical facilities, and operations of the civil registries.

SEC. 79. *Appropriations* – The amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the initial operations, institutional development, and administration of the Philippine Civil Registry Authority (PCRA) and the Civil Registry Modernization Fund (CRMF). This amount shall be sourced from available funds of the National Treasury or as may be determined by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Thereafter, the necessary appropriations for the PCRA shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

The DBM, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and in accordance with applicable compensation and position classification laws and regulations, shall rationalize the PCRA’s organizational structure and staffing to ensure effective operation.

SEC. 80. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (“IRR”).* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PCRA shall promulgate the IRR for the effective implementation of this Act. The PCRA, in coordination with the DICT, may consult with the DFA, DILG, DOJ, DSWD, NCMF, Office of the Supreme Court Administrator, University of the Philippines Law Center, PACR, National Privacy Commission, DOH, Office of the Solicitor General, NCIP, Child Rights Network, Commission on Human Rights, Bureau of Immigration, CWC, National Council on Disability Affairs, Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Department of Education, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, NACC, international agencies, civil society organizations, related ministries of the BARMM, and such other agencies in the formulation of the IRR.

After every five (5) years of implementation of this Act, the Congress of the Philippines shall, through the Committee on Population and Family Relations of the House of Representatives and the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, together with the CRG, conduct regular review to assess the accessibility of registration and design of the PCR and the PhilSys databases and implement programmatic interventions to address gaps in civil registration system and the PhilSys for an updated data management and standards.

SEC. 81. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 82. *Repealing Clause.* – Act No. 3753 or the “Civil Registry Law of the Philippines,” RA10625 (2013) or the “Philippine Statistical Act of 2013,” Presidential Decree No. 1083 or the “Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines,” and Executive Order No. 157, entitled “Establishing a Civil Registration System for Muslim Filipinos,” are hereby amended. All other laws, rules, regulations, orders, memoranda, or circulars inconsistent with this Act are also hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

SEC. 83. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,