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Ontario
10. STATISTICS.

CHAPTER 88.

The Vital Statistics Act.

PRELIMINARY.

1. In this Act,—

(a) "Cemetery" shall mean any plot of ground in which "Cemetery." bodies of deceased persons are interred;

(b) "House" shall include a part of a house and tenement, building, room or dwelling place;

(c) "Inspector" shall mean the Inspector of Vital Statistics or his deputy or other person authorized to act;

(d) "Municipality" shall not include a county;

(e) "Nurse" shall mean that person who attends at the birth of a child, but shall not mean the attending physician;

(f) "Occupier" shall include the governor, keeper, warden or superintendent of a gaol, prison, penitentiary, mental hospital, institution for the poor, hospital, industrial home, and house of refuge, and of a public or private charitable institution;

(g) "Prescribed form" shall mean the form prepared by the Registrar-General and approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council;

(h) "Registrar-General" shall mean that member of the Executive Council who for the time being is charged with the administration of this Act;

(i) "Sub-registrar" shall mean any person appointed under section 38 to carry out the provisions of subsection 2 of that section;
(j) "Undertaker" shall mean any person who engages in the burial of the body of a deceased person. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 1.

2. This Act shall apply to lands reserved for the Indians which for the purposes hereof shall be deemed territory not within a municipality. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 2.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint an Inspector of Vital Statistics whose duty it shall be to inspect the registration offices and examine the schedules prepared under this Act to see that the entries and registrations are made and completed in a proper manner and in legible handwriting. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 3.

4. The Registrar-General shall annually collate, publish and distribute for the use of the Legislature a full report of the births, marriages and deaths of the preceding year, giving such details, statistics and information as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may deem necessary. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 4.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make such regulations as he may deem necessary for the purpose of obtaining the information required by this Act. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 5.

6.—(1) Any person shall be entitled at all reasonable hours on payment of the prescribed fee and on signing an application in the prescribed form, to have search made of the record of a birth, marriage or death kept in the office of the Registrar-General for any one county or district for not more than three years.

(2) The Registrar-General shall, when requested, give a certificate of the details of any birth, marriage or death of which there is a record in his office on payment of the prescribed fee. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 6 (1, 2).

(3) The certificate shall be prima facie evidence in any court of the facts certified to be recorded. 1930, c. 19, s. 2.

(4) The fees to be paid for searches and certificates shall be prescribed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 6 (4).

7. The Registrar-General shall cause such schedules and forms to be prepared as may be approved by the Lieutenant-
Governor in Council in order to obtain correct statistical information, and he shall distribute them to the division registrars, and the cost of and incidental thereto and of the distribution thereof shall be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 7.

8.—(1) The Registrar-General shall prepare and issue such detailed instructions as may be required to procure the uniform observance of the provisions of this Act and the maintenance of a perfect system of registration, and no forms shall be used other than those supplied by the Registrar-General.

(2) The Registrar-General shall examine the forms received monthly from the division registrars, and if any such are incomplete or unsatisfactory he shall require such further information to be supplied as may be necessary to make the record complete and satisfactory. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 8.

9. Every physician, clergyman, nurse, undertaker or other person having knowledge of the facts respecting any birth, marriage, or death shall supply personally, or by mail, or through the division registrar, such information as the Registrar-General may require, by filling up forms provided by the Registrar-General, or by adding such particulars as may be required upon an original certificate, but no certificate of birth, marriage or death after its acceptance for registration by a division registrar, nor any other record made in pursuance of this Act, shall be altered or changed in any respect except by amendments properly dated, signed and witnessed. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 9.

10. The Registrar-General shall arrange, bind and permanently preserve the forms after the same have been received from the division registrars in a systematic manner, and shall prepare and maintain an index of births, marriages and deaths. R.S.O. 1297, c. 78, s. 10.

11.—(1) Any cemetery company or association, or any church or historical society or association, or any corporation or individual in possession of any record of births, marriages or deaths which may be of value in establishing the genealogy of any resident in Ontario, may file such record or a duly authenticated transcript thereof with the Registrar-General without charge.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Registrar-General to preserve such record or transcript and to make an index thereof, and such record and index shall be open to inspection by the
public, subject to such conditions as the Registrar-General may prescribe. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 11.

REGISTRATION DIVISIONS.

12.—(1) All territory within Ontario shall be a part of some registration division.

(2) Every municipality shall be a registration division.

(3) Territory not within a municipality may be attached to any existing registration division, or set apart as a registration division, by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 12.

13. Where a registration division is formed of territory not within a municipality the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint a division registrar therefor and may make such regulations as he may deem necessary to secure a correct record of the births, marriages and deaths occurring therein. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 13.

OFFICE AND DUTIES OF DIVISION REGISTRAR.

14.—(1) The clerk of every municipality shall be the division registrar of the same.

(2) The Registrar-General shall supply to every division registrar schedules in the prescribed form upon which the division registrar shall enter the details of every birth, marriage and death registered in his office.

(3) The division registrar and every sub-registrar shall make every schedule in duplicate and on or before the seventh day of each month he shall transmit to the Registrar-General one duplicate of each schedule down to and including the last day of the month next preceding, and the other duplicate schedule shall be kept by the division registrar on file in his office, and he shall also, on or before the seventh day of each month, transmit to the Registrar-General the original returns of every birth, marriage and death made to him during the month next preceding, and if no birth, marriage or death has been registered in any month he shall, on or before the seventh day of the following month, report the fact to the Registrar-General on the prescribed form.

(4) The duplicate schedule shall be bound up or otherwise arranged from time to time by the division registrar in such manner as may be prescribed.
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(5) It shall be the duty of the division registrar to keep the schedules, forms and documents received by him in a place of safety, and he shall use all available means to obtain the necessary information for the purpose of completing the records required to be made by him. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 14.

15. If the division registrar has reason to believe that a birth, marriage or death has taken place within his division which has not been registered he shall inform the proper person of his duty to register the same, and on the failure of such person to make the registration within seven days the division registrar shall forthwith supply the Registrar-General with such information as he possesses with regard to the matter. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 15.

16.—(1) A division registrar, upon application therefor, and on payment of a fee of twenty-five cents shall give a certificate in the prescribed form as to any registration filed with him during the preceding three months, but shall not give any certificate other than such as is authorized by this section in any other than the prescribed form.

(2) The division registrar shall be entitled to the fee for the certificate for his own use. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 16.

17.—(1) If within one year from the registration of a birth, marriage or death any of the particulars thereof are found to be omitted or incorrect it shall be the duty of the proper division registrar upon the error being reported to him within the time aforesaid to inquire into the same, and if satisfied that the entry is incorrect to correct the error according to the fact, entering the correction in the margin, without any alteration of the original entry, and shall note thereon the fact that the correction has been made and the date thereof.

(2) If the forms containing the original entry have been returned to the Registrar-General, the Registrar-General shall on evidence satisfactory to him correct the error in the margin of the form as well as in the indexed record thereof without altering the original entry, and shall note thereon the fact that the correction has been made and the date thereof. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 17.

18.—(1) Every division registrar shall supply free of charge, any form required by a person in order to comply with the provisions of this Act.
(2) The division registrar shall carefully examine every certificate of birth, marriage or death, in order to ascertain whether or not it has been made out in the prescribed form, and every such certificate of birth, marriage or death shall be written legibly in durable black ink, and shall not be deemed to be complete unless it contains all the items of information called for therein or satisfactorily accounts for their omission.

(3) If a certificate of death is incomplete or unsatisfactory it shall be the duty of the division registrar to call attention to the defects in the return and to withhold the permit for the burial or removal of the body until such defects are corrected.

(4) The division registrar shall number consecutively the registration of births, marriages and deaths in three separate series beginning with "No. 1," for the first birth, marriage and death in each calendar year and shall sign his name as division registrar in attestation of the date of the filing in his office. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 18.

19. Every division registrar shall be charged with the enforcement of this Act in his registration division under the supervision and direction of the Registrar-General and he shall make an immediate report to the Registrar-General of any violation of the law which comes to his knowledge. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 19.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS.

20.—(1) Every legally qualified medical practitioner who attends at the birth of a child shall within forty-eight hours give notice thereof in the prescribed form to the division registrar of the division in which the child was born.

(2) If there is no physician in attendance it shall be the duty of the nurse in attendance or the occupier of the house in which the child was born, to give notice of the birth in the prescribed form to the division registrar. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 20.

21.—(1) When a child is born registration of the birth in the prescribed form shall be made with the division registrar in the division in which the child was born,—

(a) by the father if living; or
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(b) in case of inability on the part of the father or if he is dead, then by the mother if living; or

c) in case of inability on the part of both parents or in case both are dead, then by the person standing in the place of the parents of the child; or

(d) if there is no father or mother or other person whose duty it is to register the birth, by the occupier of the house in which the child was born if he has knowledge of the birth, or by the nurse or other person present at the birth.

(2) The registration shall be made within thirty days after the date of the birth.

(3) A certificate of registration shall be given by the division registrar to the person registering, free of charge. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 21.

22. If a living new-born child is found exposed it shall be the duty of any person finding such child, and of any person in whose charge such child may be placed, to give, to the best of his knowledge and belief, to the division registrar of the division in which the child is found, within seven days after the finding of such child, such information of the particulars required to be registered concerning its birth as the informant possesses. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 22.

23. An illegitimate child shall be registered in the name of the mother, and the name of the father shall not be recorded unless the father and the mother request registration in the name of the father. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 23.

24. No child born in wedlock shall be registered as illegitimate. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 24.

25. The division registrar may register a birth at any time within one year after the birth occurred. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 25.

26. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations for the registration of births which have not been registered under the foregoing provisions of this Act, and for the registration of a birth which has taken place while the mother of the child was temporarily absent from Ontario or on her way from some place out of Ontario to some locality in Ontario. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 26.
27.—(1) Where the birth of a child has been registered and the Christian or given name, if any, by which the child was registered has been changed, or, if the child was registered without a Christian or given name, the parent or guardian of the child or the person procuring the name to be changed or given may deliver to the division registrar a certificate signed by the minister, clergymen or other person who performed the rite of baptism upon which the Christian or given name was changed, or, if the child was not baptized, signed by the father, mother or guardian of the child procuring the Christian or given name of the child to be changed, and the division registrar shall upon the receipt of such certificate, make the necessary alteration in the margin of the form containing the original entry and in the transcription thereof without making any alteration in the original entry and shall also make the same correction in the index regarding such child.

(2) If the registration has been transmitted to the Registrar-General, the Registrar-General may make such alteration or addition, and if the certificate cannot be procured from the minister, clergymen or other person who performed the rite of baptism upon which the name of the child was changed or given, the Registrar-General may make any alteration or addition in the registration of the name of the child upon such evidence as he may deem sufficient. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 27.

28.—(1) A child which is not alive at the moment of birth shall be deemed to be a still-born child, and still births shall be registered as births and as deaths and a certificate of birth and of death shall be filed with the division registrar in the prescribed form.

(2) The notice of the birth of still-born child shall contain in place of the name of the child the words “still-born.”

(3) The medical certificate of the cause of death in the case of a still birth shall be signed by the attending physician, if any, in the prescribed form, and where there is no physician in attendance the still birth shall be treated as a death taking place without medical attendance as provided for in section 36.

(4) No child which shows any evidence of life after birth shall be registered as still-born. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 28.
REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES.

29.—(1) Every person who solemnizes a marriage shall report the same to the division registrar of the division within which the marriage was solemnized within thirty days thereafter with the particulars required in the prescribed form, but in the case of a marriage solemnized under the authority of a license or certificate it shall be sufficient to report the same on the form attached to the license or certificate.

(2) The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations for the registration of marriages which have not been registered under the foregoing provisions of this Act. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 29.

INFORMATION AS TO DIVORCES.

30.—(1) The senior registrar of the Supreme Court at Toronto and every local registrar of the Supreme Court shall furnish the Registrar-General with such information as he may require in connection with the granting of divorces throughout the Province and the Registrar-General may prepare forms of return which shall include the names, occupations and addresses of the parties and such other particulars as he may deem necessary. 1931, c. 21, s. 2, part.

(2) Every such officer shall, for the particulars as to each divorce, receive a fee of fifty cents, and such fee shall be payable from time to time by the Treasurer of Ontario on the certificate of the Registrar-General. 1931, c. 21, s. 2, part; 1936, c. 63, s. 2.

REGISTRATION OF DEATHS.

31.—(1) The body of any person whose death occurs in Ontario shall not be removed for burial, interment, deposited in a vault or tomb, cremated or otherwise disposed of or removed from or into any registration division until a permit for that purpose has been properly issued by the division registrar of the division in which the death occurs after notice of the death has been filed with him in the prescribed form.

(2) Where the death has occurred out of Ontario, or the burial or other disposition of the body is to take place in a registration division other than that in which the death has occurred, a certificate, signed by the division registrar or other proper officer of the municipality or place in which the
Duty of medical practitioner.

(1) The legally qualified medical practitioner who was last in attendance during the illness of any person shall within twenty-four hours after having knowledge of the death of such person, deliver or transmit to the division registrar of the division a notice of the death in the prescribed form.

Regulations.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in subsection 1, the Registrar-General may make regulations providing for the issue of a burial permit where a death has taken place and there has been no legally qualified medical practitioner in attendance. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 31.

Duty of occupier of premises.

33. The occupier of the house in which a person dies, or if the occupier be the person who has died, then every adult person residing in the house in which the death took place, or if the death has not taken place within a house, then every person present at the death or having knowledge of the circumstances of the same shall, within twenty-four hours after having knowledge of such death, give notice of the death to the registrar of the division in the prescribed form. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 32.

Registration in division other than that in which death occurs.

34.—(1) Where a death has occurred and it is impracticable to register the same, by reason of distance, with the division registrar of the division in which the death occurred, notice of the death may be given to the nearest division registrar or sub-registrar who, upon the payment of a fee of twenty-five cents by the applicant, shall register the same in the prescribed form and issue a burial permit which shall be sufficient, and such division registrar or sub-registrar shall forward the return to the division registrar of the division in which the death occurred.

Fee.

(2) The division registrar issuing the burial permit shall be entitled to the fee for his own use. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 33.

Sub-registrars.—appointment of.

(3) In a city having a population of 50,000 or over, the division registrar may, with the approval of the Registrar-General, appoint such sub-registrars as may be necessary for the more convenient carrying out of the provisions of this Act with respect to the registration of deaths and for the issuing of burial permits. 1929, c. 26, s. 2; 1930, c. 19, s. 3.

Deaths in mines, camps, etc.

35. Where a death occurs in a camp or mine, before the removal of the body from the camp or mine, or its burial or other disposition, the manager or other person in charge shall,
within twenty-four hours after the death, give notice thereof to the division registrar in the prescribed form, and where further particulars of a death occurring in a camp or mine are required by the division registrar, the same shall be immediately furnished by the owner of such camp or mine, or other person to the best of his knowledge and belief. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 34.

36. Where there is reason to believe that a person has died as the result of violence or misadventure or by unfair means or from any cause other than disease or as the result of negligence or misconduct on the part of others, or under such circumstances as require investigation, no burial permit shall be issued by a division registrar unless and until,—

(a) notice has been given to him by the coroner that he has examined the body and made inquiry into the circumstances of the death as provided by The Coroners Act; or

(b) an inquest has been held and the coroner has furnished the particulars required in the prescribed form; or

(c) notice has been given to him by the coroner that it is impracticable for the coroner to issue a notice of the death in the prescribed form and that he has examined the body and is making inquiry into the circumstances of the death, and that he undertakes to deliver or transmit to the division registrar, a notice of the death in the prescribed form within fifteen days after the date of such notice, nor shall the body be embalmed or cremated nor any embalming fluid or other chemical be applied to it either internally or externally, nor shall any other change or alteration be made thereto until such notice is given or inquest held, unless the coroner so directs. 1936, c. 63, s. 3.

(Note.—As to coroner’s duty in such cases see section 7 of The Coroners Act. Rev. Stat., c. 138.)

37. Except as otherwise provided by this Act a division registrar shall immediately upon registering a death, deliver without charge to any person requiring the same for the purpose of burial or other disposition of a body, a burial permit in the prescribed form. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 36.

38.—(1) When upon proper representation to the Registrar-General, he is of opinion that in any section of Ontario,
the registration of deaths for the purpose of burial would be facilitated he may appoint a sub-registrar for the special purpose of issuing a burial permit upon the payment by the applicant of a fee of twenty-five cents.

(2) The sub-registrar shall register the death upon a special form of schedule provided and shall forthwith transmit the original form to the division registrar of the division in which the death occurred for registration by him, and the sub-registrar shall make monthly returns to the Registrar-General in compliance with the provisions of section 14.
R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 37.

39. In the case of the death of an infant under one year of age the division registrar shall not issue a burial permit until he has ascertained the place of birth of the child, and if the birth has taken place in the division of which he is registrar, he shall not issue a burial permit until he is satisfied that the birth has been registered. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 38.

40.—(1) A caretaker or owner of a cemetery or burial ground, whether public or private, or a clergyman or other person having charge of a church to which a cemetery or burial ground is attached shall not permit the interment of the body of any person in the cemetery or burial ground over which he has charge until he has received a burial permit from the proper division registrar.

(2) Every such caretaker, owner, clergyman or other person shall on or before the tenth day of each month in every year transmit to the division registrar of the division in which the cemetery or burial ground is situated, a return in the prescribed form of the burials therein during the previous month up to and including the last day of the month next preceding, for subsequent transmission to the Registrar-General. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 39.

41. Where there is no person in charge of a cemetery or burial ground the undertaker or other person in charge of the burial or other disposition of the body shall write across the face of the burial permit the words, “No person in charge,” and shall append his signature thereto and shall return the burial permit so marked to the division registrar of the division in which the burial took place. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 40.

LATE REGISTRATIONS.

42. Where a birth, marriage or death has not been registered with the division registrar within one year after such birth
or death took place, or such marriage was solemnized, the birth, marriage or death shall not be registered thereafter by the division registrar, but the Registrar-General may register the same upon being furnished with the required information in the prescribed form. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 41.

PENALTIES AND EXPENSES.

43. If a division registrar neglects to make any return, as required by this Act, he shall be notified by registered letter of such neglect by the Registrar-General, and if after notification, he fails to make such return within ten days the Registrar-General may refuse to issue a certificate for the payment of the fees due to the division registrar even though the return should be made at a later date, and such division registrar shall also incur a penalty of $50. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 42.

44. Every person who willfully makes or causes to be made a false statement touching any of the particulars required to be reported and entered under this Act shall incur a penalty of $50, and a legally qualified medical practitioner making a false statement as to the cause of the death of any person, or representing himself as having been in attendance during the last illness of such person when in fact he has not been called in attendance until after the death of such person, shall also be subject to discipline by the Ontario Medical Council. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 43.

45.—(1) A person required by this Act to report a birth, marriage, death or burial to the division registrar who neglects to do so shall incur a penalty not exceeding $10.

(2) If a return required by this Act to be made by more than one person is made by any one of such persons the others shall not be liable to the penalty.

(3) Subsection 2 shall not apply to a return required to be made by a legally qualified medical practitioner. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 44.

46. A person guilty of an act or omission in violation of any of the provisions of this Act for which no other penalty is provided shall incur a penalty of not more than $20. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 45.

47. The Inspector, upon being notified of any violation of this Act, shall make investigation, and where he deems it necessary, or without investigation when directed by the
Registrar-General, he shall institute proceedings against any person guilty of any such violation. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 46.

48. The penalties imposed by this Act shall be recoverable under The Summary Convictions Act. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 47.

49. The penalties shall be payable one moiety to the informant and one moiety to the municipality in which the offence was committed. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 48.

50. Prosecutions for penalties imposed by this Act shall be commenced within one year after the offence or default. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 49.

51. Prosecutions for any penalty imposed by this Act shall be conducted by the Crown attorney when instructed by the Registrar-General. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 50.

52. All expenses of prosecutions under this Act not recovered from the offender, and whether or not conviction is obtained, shall be payable by the municipality in which the offence was alleged to have been committed. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 51.

53. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations,—

(a) prescribing the forms to be used in carrying out the provisions of this Act;

(b) respecting the duties of division registrars and sub-registrars and the information and returns to be furnished to the Registrar-General;

(c) for the registration of births, marriages and deaths and the issue of certificates of registration by the Registrar-General in cases not otherwise provided for in this Act;

(d) for the registration of foundlings, illegitimate children acknowledged by the putative father or any matter or thing affecting the registration of births, marriages and deaths which is not in conflict with the provisions of this Act;

(e) generally for the better carrying out of the provisions of this Act. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 52.
54.—(1) Every municipality shall pay annually, on the 1st day of February, to the division registrar thereof, a fee of twenty-five cents for each complete registration of a birth, marriage or death returned for the preceding year according to the schedules provided under this Act, on the presentation of the certificate of the Registrar-General to the treasurer of the municipality; but a city or town containing more than ten thousand inhabitants may by by-law limit the aggregate compensation allowed to the division registrar.

(2) Fees shall be paid at the rates set forth in this section to every division registrar appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for any registration division not included within any municipality out of any money appropriated for that purpose. R.S.O. 1927, c. 78, s. 53.