



UN Statistics
Division



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SESSION 4. CIVIL REGISTRATION AS SOURCE OF VITAL STATISTICS

UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION

Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics
System, Revision 3 for Central American and Caribbean countries

Guatemala City, 30 August - 2 September 2016



- ❑ **Civil registration as a source of vital statistics**
Principles and Recommendations, para 279-299



Definition

- Civil registration is
- Continuous
- Permanent
- Compulsory
- Universal
- Recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events pertaining to the population
- As provided through law, decree or regulation in accordance with the legal requirements of the country

Primary purpose – establishing documents provided by law

Secondary purpose – ideal source of vital statistics



Civil registration method

- Refers to the procedure employed in gathering the basic information on the incidence and characteristics of vital events that occur in the population of the country
- Upon which the preparation of vital records with legal value
- And the production of vital statistics is based
- Mandated by law

Civil registration system

- Institutional, legal and technical settings needed for the performance of civil registration functions in a technical, sound, coordinated and standardized manner
- Functions include
 - Recording vital events
 - Storing, safekeeping and retrieval of vital records
 - Protection of confidentiality
 - Issuing certificates and other customer service
 - Reporting information on vital events for statistical purposes
 - Providing information to other government agencies, such as ministry of health, population registers, pension funds systems, electoral services, personal identification services etc.



Civil registration method and system



- ❑ **Fundamental role of the civil registration system**
 - ❑ Provision of legal instruments to individuals
 - ❑ Facts relating to existence
 - ❑ Identity
 - ❑ Civil status
 - ❑ Family status
- ❑ **Legal and protective function**
 - ❑ Legal identity
 - ❑ Human rights
 - ❑ Directly linked to registration, such as the right to be registered and to have a name, as per Article 7 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child
 - ❑ Derived from the fact that the person is registered, such as the right to vote, pursuant to article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- ❑ **Administrative advantages**
 - ❑ Access to services
- ❑ **Statistical advantages**



Vital events



- Births**
- Deaths**
- Foetal deaths**

- Marriages**
- Divorces**

- Annulments**
- Judicial separations**
- Adoptions**
- Legitimations**
- Recognitions**

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Legal framework - components



Proof of registration

- Authorizing officials to issue documents certifying the facts of registration

Statistical reports

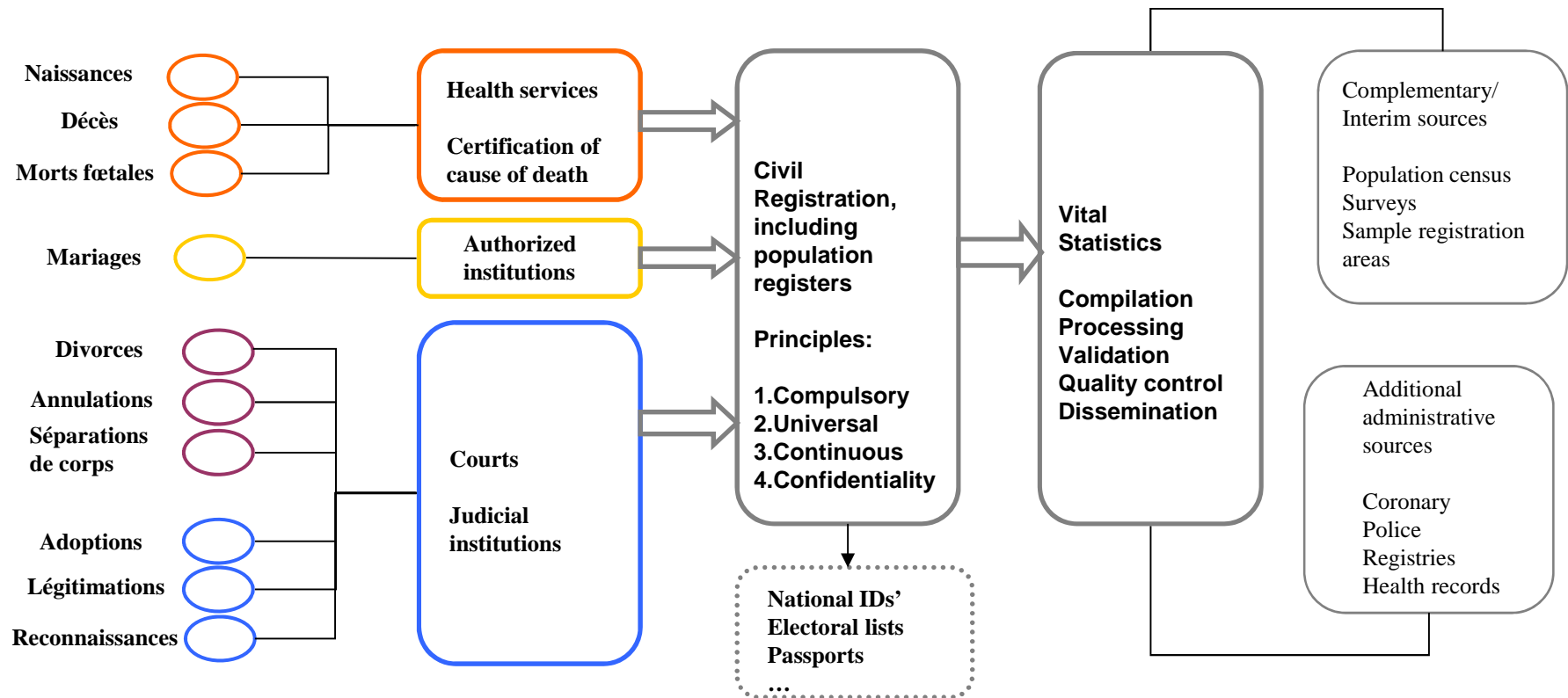
- Specify the agency where statistical forms need to be sent
- Deadlines for submitting statistical forms
- Cooperation and division of labor

Inspection and penalties

- Oversight procedures and authority
- Penalties

Funding

- Designates source of funding
- Funding procedures



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Civil registration principles



Compulsory

- Registration of a vital event is compulsory by law
- Hence the importance of the legal framework
- Consequences for not complying with the law, yet
- Better to rely on incentives rather than penalties

Universal

- Applies to the whole territory
- To all the population
- To all citizens aboard

Continuous and permanent

- Existence of a civil service agency

Confidential

- Integrity of individual information and its protection from misuse
- Limited only by the need to certify individual information



Concluding remarks



- ❑ Civil registration apparatus is government operated
 - ❑ Oriented to provide individual services
 - ❑ Legal protection
 - ❑ Human rights
 - ❑ Legal proof of civil status
 - ❑ Access to services
 - ❑ Production of vital statistics
- ❑ Civil registration method
 - ❑ Registration procedures and protocols
- ❑ Civil registration system
 - ❑ Entity in charge of implementing the method
- ❑ Principles
 - ❑ Compulsory
 - ❑ Universal
 - ❑ Continuous and permanent
 - ❑ Confidential

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