



Civil Registration as Source of Vital Statistics

United Nations Statistics Division



Civil registration

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



Civil registration method and system

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 and system

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

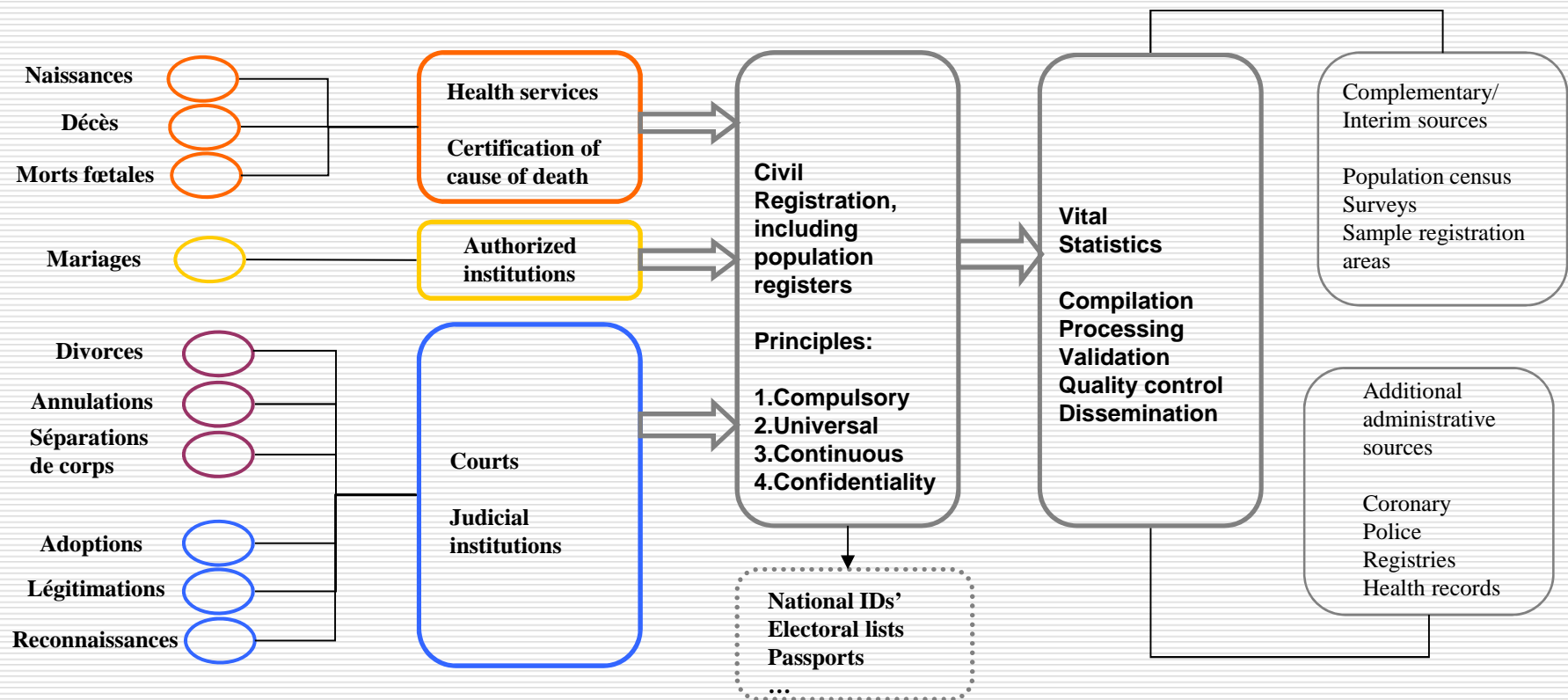
- Specify the agency where statistical forms need to be sent
- Deadlines for submitting statistical forms
- Cooperation and division of labor

Inspection and penalties

- Oversight procedures and authority
- Penalties

Funding

- Designates source of funding
- Funding procedures





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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