



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**
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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

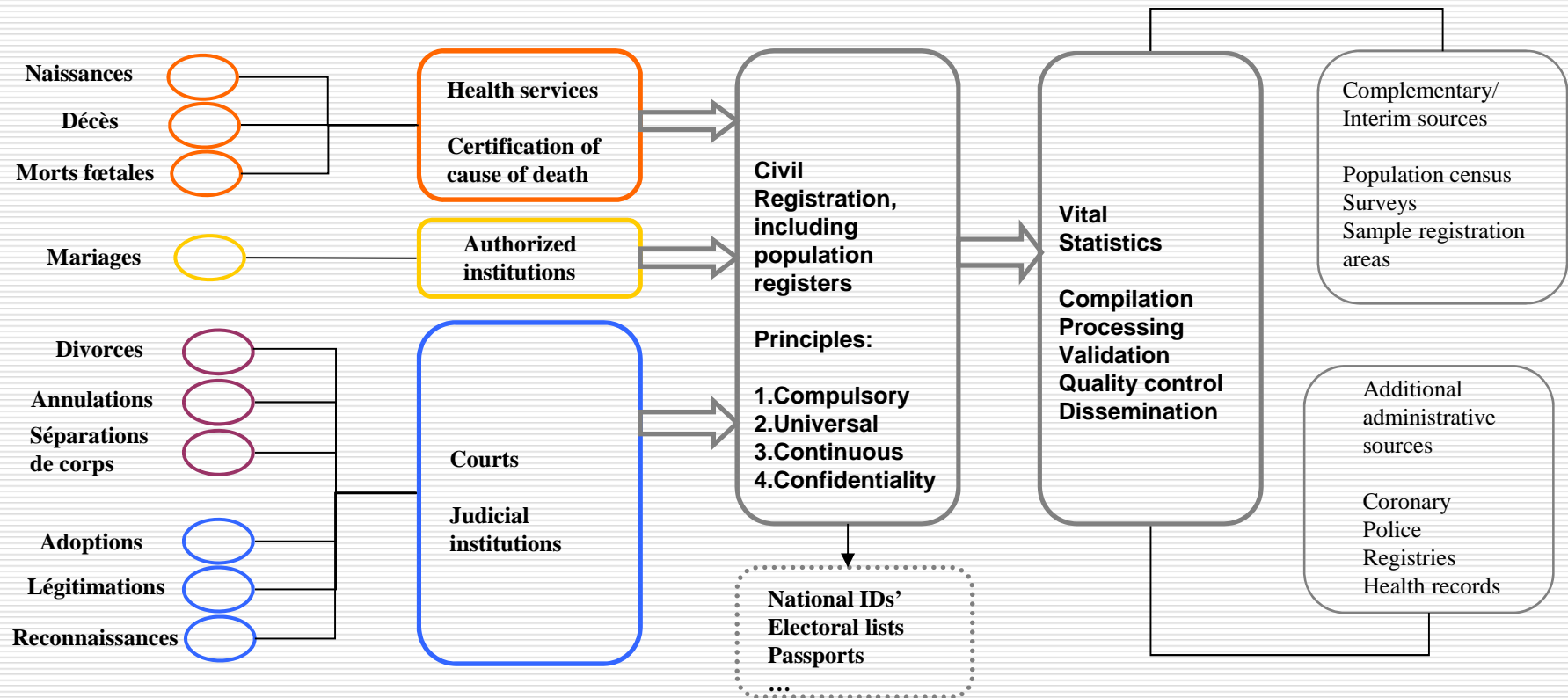
- Specify the agency where statistical forms need to be sent
- Deadlines for submitting statistical forms
- Cooperation and division of labor

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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