The Role of Health Institutions

Recommended reading

❑ **Role of health institutions**

Principles and Recommendations, para 485-501

Role of health institutions

❑ **Critical role**

  ❑ Informants of the occurrence of birth, foetal deaths and deaths

  ❑ Certification of causes of deaths

  ❑ Health statistics

❑ **Informant**

  ❑ Civil Registration Law often designates the head of the health institutions as responsible for acting as informant of births, foetal deaths and deaths occurring in their institutions

  ❑ In practice, this results in having a secondary civil registration office located in the health institutions, making the information of occurrence fast-flowing

  ❑ The parents (births) or relatives (deaths) are pointed to the registrar's office within the health institutions where the registration of the event as well as certificates are take place

  ❑ Even when the office is elsewhere and the role of informant falls to an individual (parents, relatives) the health institution provides the certification of the occurrence of the event which is then used by the registrar
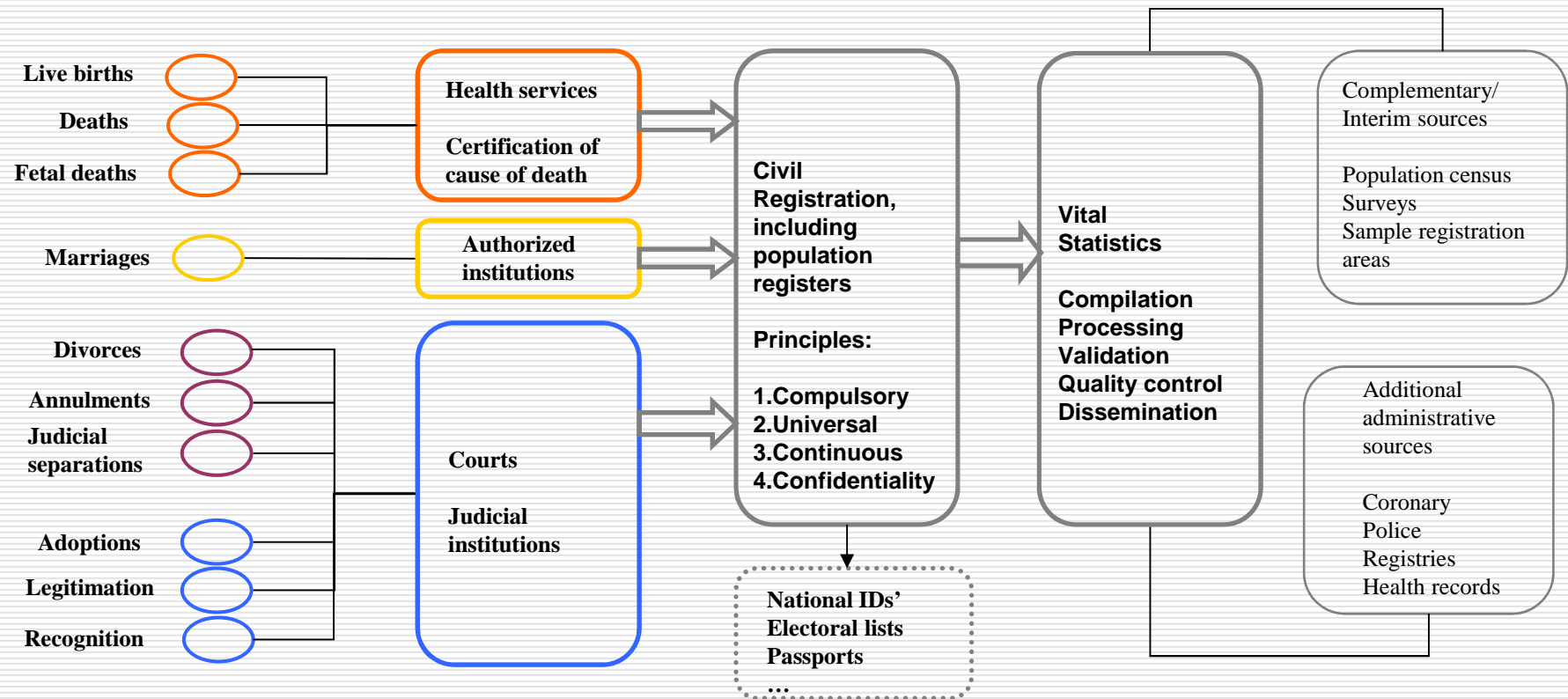
Role of health institutions

- ❑ **Not civil registration**
  - ❑ Health institutions do not have the authority to issue certificates
  - ❑ Only civil registrar has the authority for legitimate registration
  - ❑ Health institutions are not equipped to discharge this function
  - ❑ Adverse impact on their primary function – health services
  - ❑ In certain circumstances health institutions may be tasked to submit statistical reports on vital events resulting in the production of vital statistics

- ❑ **Certification of cause of death**
  - ❑ Death certificate critical for surviving relatives
  - ❑ Equally important from the public health aspect is the cause of death
  - ❑ Registrar should insure that the cause of death form is part of the record and submitted for statistical processing
  - ❑ WHO standards for the cause of death
  - ❑ Presentation by WHO

Live births

Deaths

Fetal deaths

Health services

Certification of cause of death

Marriages

Authorized institutions

Divorces

Annulments

Judicial separations

Courts

Judicial institutions

Adoptions

Legitimation

Recognition

Civil Registration, including population registers

Principles:

1. Compulsory
2. Universal
3. Continuous
4. Confidentiality

National IDs'
Electoral lists
Passports
...

Vital Statistics

Compilation
Processing
Validation
Quality control
Dissemination

Complementary/
Interim sources

Population census
Surveys
Sample registration
areas

Additional
administrative
sources

Coronary
Police
Registries
Health records

Workshop on the *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3* for Caribbean countries
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 1- 4 December 2015

Concluding remarks

❑ **Role of health institutions**

   ❑ Critical

   ❑ Informants

   ❑ Cause of death certification

   ❑ Health statistics