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# Civil Registration as Source of Vital Statistics

United Nations Statistics Division

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United Nations Sub-regional workshop on applying *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System* for implementing the Regional Action Framework for CRVS in Asia  
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## Civil registration

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



## Civil registration method and system

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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- Births**
- Deaths**
- Foetal deaths**
  
- Marriages**
- Divorces**
  
- Annulments**
- Judicial separations**
- Adoptions**
- Legitimations**
- Recognitions**



## Legal framework - components

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### **Proof of registration**

- Authorizing officials to issue documents certifying the facts of registration

### **Statistical reports**

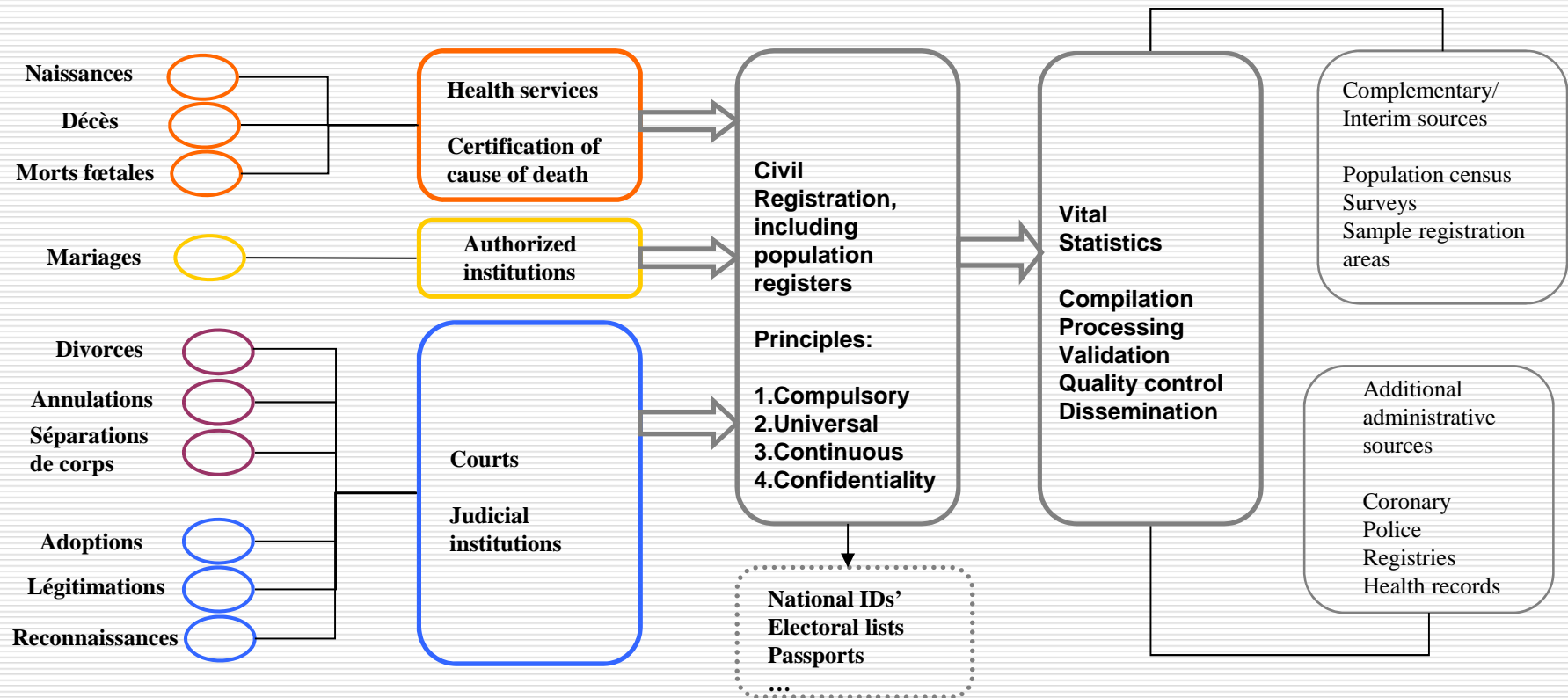
- Specify the agency where statistical forms need to be sent
- Deadlines for submitting statistical forms
- Cooperation and division of labor

### **Inspection and penalties**

- Oversight procedures and authority
- Penalties

### **Funding**

- Designates source of funding
- Funding procedures







## Civil registration principles

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### **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

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- 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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