



Republic of the Philippines

NATIONAL
STATISTICS
OFFICE
Manila

Office of the
Civil Registrar General



Ref. No. 987000-0344
(Please cite in your reply.)

08 July 1998

MEMORANDUM

To : All City/Municipal Civil Registrars

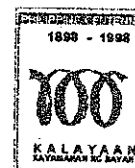
Subject : STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS
GOVERNING DELAYED REGISTRATION OF BIRTH

Attached is a letter from the Research and Investigation Group of the Department of Foreign Affairs expressing its concern and apprehension on the increasing number of cases concerning double registration of the same birth. There is suspicion that some individuals are resorting to delayed registration of their births to deliberately change some information in their original records of birth.

In view of this finding, you are hereby enjoined to implement strictly the rules and regulations governing delayed registration of birth especially in the submission of the required supporting papers by the interested parties. In addition to what are provided in Administrative Order No. 1, S. 1993, here are some tips to prove certain items of information in the Certificate of Live Birth (COLB):

In many cases of double registration of the same birth, the item which is usually found altered is the date of birth of the individual. Almost all the required supporting papers show the date of birth of the applicant but there are times when the civil registrar cannot determine whether or not these papers are genuine or authentic. In case of doubt, the civil registrar should require the applicant to submit authenticated copies of the COLBs of his or her brothers and sisters. The reference point is the "birth order". For example, if the applicant is one of five children and his birth order is "3rd", test the correctness of the date of birth of the applicant by comparing it with the dates of birth of the "2nd" and "4th" children. If the gap between dates of birth is only few months or unusually many years, the civil registrar should deny registration.

P.O. Box 779 Manila, Philippines
Cable Address: NSOPHIL
E-mail: T.Africa@mail.census.gov.ph
Web: <http://www.census.gov.ph>
Telephone: (632)716-3924 (632)713-7068
Fax: (632)716-0454 (632)713-7079



The fact that the births of his or her brothers and sisters are timely recorded in the civil register is sufficient ground for the concerned civil registrar to entertain doubt as to the true intention or motive of an individual who is applying for the delayed registration of his or her birth. The civil registrar in this case is given the leeway to ask probing questions or to conduct investigation until his doubt is cleared or resolved.

In accepting application for delayed registration of birth, it is also important to consider the social standing of the parents. For example, if the parents of the applicant are professional, it is very unlikely that the birth of the applicant was not medically attended to. The civil registrar, therefore, should examine the entry in Item 19a (Attendant at Birth) and Item 19b (Certification of Birth). Professionals rarely employ services of traditional midwife.

In case the applicant declares that the birth took place in a hospital, maternity clinic or the attendant at birth is a well-known physician or professional midwife in the community, the civil registrar should exert extra effort to verify the declaration of said applicant.

There are still other means on how the civil registrar may ascertain the veracity of information given in the COLB by the applicant. What is important is that in case of doubt, the civil registrar should not allow such doubt to remain unresolved before accepting the application for delayed registration of birth. The fact that the duty to register birth is ministerial should not be a hindrance for the civil registrar to dig for the truth especially when fraudulent registration seems apparent in a particular case.

Records of birth from 1975 to 1993 have already been computerized. If the year of birth of the applicant falls within this period, the concerned civil registrar may verify from this office for possible prior registration of the same birth.

We have already gained grounds in improving the credibility and integrity of civil registry documents. Let us strive for more.


TOMAS H. AFRICA
Civil Registrar General

tpa/cbl/...

Encl.: a/s

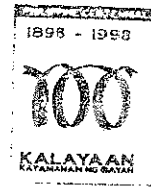
Copy furnished:

All Regional Administrators

All Provincial Statistics Officers



REPUBLIKA NG FILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS



OFFICE OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS
RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION GROUP

04458

08 June 1998

Sir:

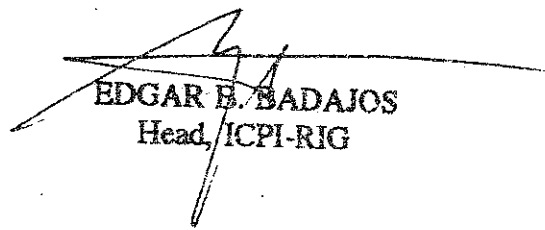
This Office would like to bring to the attention of the National Statistics Office and its local civil registrars the increasing number of individuals with delayed birth registration who are subsequently found to possess timely registered birth certificates (BCs) and in SECPA at that. In most cases, the 2 BCs contain discrepant data. Further, the discrepancy or incorrect data appear in the late registered BCs.

The RIG suspects that these individuals are deliberately applying for late registration of birth with fraudulent birth details, perhaps, to obviate the difficulty of obtaining a birth certificate in their correct birth place, or, perhaps, to reflect a birth date different from their correct date of birth.

It would be appreciated if the NSO could do something about the above-described problem.

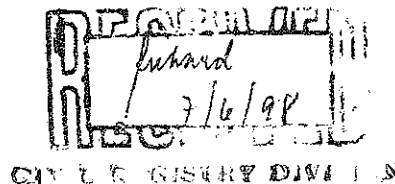
Very truly yours,

For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:


EDGAR B. BADAJOS
Head, ICPI-RIG

MR. CARLITO LALICON
Civil Registry Coordinator
National Statistics Office
Magsaysay Blvd., Sta. Mesa, Manila

NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE


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CIVIL REGISTRY DIVISION
7/6/98