

**Subpart B—Vital Statistics Records****§ 9.31 Definitions.**

As used in this subpart:

*Live birth* means the birth of a child who shows evidence of life after the child is entirely outside the mother.

*Stillbirth* means a birth after 20 weeks of gestation which is not a live birth.

*Physician* means a person legally authorized to practice medicine before October 1, 1979, in the area then known as the Canal Zone.

*Vital statistics* includes the registration, preparation, transcription and preservation of data pertaining to marriages, births, adoptions, legitimations, deaths, stillbirths, and data incidental thereto.

*Vital Statistics Unit* means the organizational unit charged by the Administrator of the Panama Canal Commission with the function of vital statistics.

**§ 9.32 Administration.**

The Vital Statistics Unit shall administer this subpart, under the supervision of the Administrator or his designee.

**§ 9.33 Functions of the Vital Statistics Unit.**

The Vital Statistics Unit is the keeper of the vital statistics records of the Canal Zone Government. Some of the functions previously performed by that unit were discontinued on October 1, 1979, when the Canal Zone and its civil government ceased to exist. The Vital Statistics Unit now performs the residual functions of recordkeeping; i.e., it is limited to performing the following:

(a) Maintaining all vital statistics records of the Canal Zone Government.

(b) Performing the vital statistics functions as defined in § 9.31 of this part for those events which occurred in the Canal Zone before October 1, 1979, and which were not previously registered in that unit. This includes the delayed registration of a birth that occurred prior to October 1, 1979.

(c) The alteration of records which are filed in that unit.

(d) The issuance of copies of documents filed in that unit.

(Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 and related agreements and Pub. L. 96-70, 93 Stat. 452)

**§ 9.34 Supplementary certificate upon adoption.**

Upon receipt of a certified copy of an order or decree of adoption, the Vital Statistics Unit shall prepare a supplementary certificate in the new name of the adopted person and shall seal and file the original certificate of birth with such certified copy attached thereto. The sealed documents may be opened only upon the demand of the adopted person, if of legal age, or by an order of court. Upon receipt of a certified copy of a court order of annulment of the adoption, the original certificate shall be restored to its original place in the file.

**§ 9.35 New birth certificate upon legitimation.**

In cases of legitimation the Vital Statistics Unit, upon receipt of proof thereof, shall prepare a new certificate of birth in the new name of the legitimated child. The evidence upon which the new certificate is made and the original certificate shall be sealed and filed and may be opened only upon the demand of the person involved, if of legal age, or by an order of court.

CROSS REFERENCE: Legitimation of child, see 8 P.C.C. 335, 387, 76A Stat. 689, 691. See also 7 P.C.C. 576, 76A Stat. 571.

**§ 9.36 Delayed filing of birth certificate.**

(a) When a live birth occurred in the Canal Zone (prior to October 1, 1979), a certificate of live birth should have been filed with the Vital Statistics Unit within five days after the birth by the physician, midwife, or other legally authorized person in attendance at the birth or, if the birth was not so attended, by one of the parents. If a certificate of live birth in the Canal Zone was not filed during that time, it may still be possible to file a delayed certificate of birth by following the procedure set forth in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) A delayed certificate of live birth may be filed upon the submission to, and receipt by, the Vital Statistics Unit of such evidence, in the form of affidavits or otherwise, as the Vital Statistics Unit deems sufficient to establish satisfactorily the truth of the facts alleged in support of the request