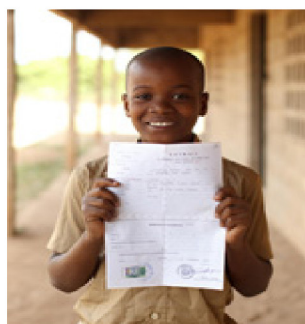




What you need to know about Child Birth Registration in Rwanda.



1. What is a birth registration?

Birth registration is the process by which a child's birth is recorded in the civil register by the applicable government authority. It provides the first legal recognition of the child and is generally required for the child to obtain a birth certificate.

It is important that the registered child receives a birth certificate, since it is this that provides permanent, official and visible evidence of a state's legal recognition of his or her existence as a member of society.

Birth registration in Rwanda is a one process. When a mother gives birth, she must register her child within 15 days at a nearby sector office. Once the birth is registered, a birth certificate or certified copy of the birth registration can be obtained and used as proof of identity or to request documents such as Passports.

2. Is birth registration important to my newborn baby?

Birth registration is a key event in a child's life. This is because of its importance in providing legal proof of the identity of the child. Unregistered children find it difficult to access their human rights. These include the right to a name and nationality, the right to be free from all

- A new baby born MUST BE registered within 15 days of the date of birth with the nearby Sectors Office.
- A child's birth can be registered with either one or two parents named on the birth registration.
- Child's "other parent", where the biological father is unknown.
- A family member or a friend authorized / acknowledged by the mother can assist mother to register a

forms of exploitation, the right to protection in the juvenile justice system, the right to education and the right to health care.

- **It can help provide an inheritance.** If an unregistered child's parents pass away, they need to legally prove they are related to inherit their family property. But with birth registration, a child will have the legal proof of their family ties, ensuring they receive what belongs to them.
- **It creates a permanent record of existence.** If a disaster strikes and a child is separated from his or her family, a reunion could be next to impossible without proper identification. But with birth registration, government officials can safely unite families and prevent any child from going unaccounted for.

3. When must a birth be registered in Rwanda?

Under the *law*, the birth of every child born in Rwanda must be registered within 15 days of the date of birth with the nearby Sectors Office.

If you didn't register the birth and your child was born more than one year ago, you need to contact the Sector's Office.

4. Who is eligible to register a birth in Rwanda?

A child's birth can be registered with either one or two parents named on the birth registration. For the purposes of this form, a parent must be one of the following:

- The child's mother, who is the woman who gave birth to the child;
- The child's father, if he is the biological father and if he is acknowledged by the mother and agrees to be named on the birth registration;
- The child's "other parent", where the biological father is unknown. A family member or a friend authorized / acknowledged by the mother can assist the mother to register a child.

In case of adoption and foster care, a child can be registered by the family that adopted her.

5. What is the difference between a birth registration and a birth certificate?

A birth registration contains information about a newborn and is used to create his or her permanent identity record. The birth registration form cannot itself be used as proof of identity or to request documents such as Passports or Health Cards. Information found on the birth registration is used to create a birth certificate.

6. Are there fees associated with registering a birth in Rwanda?

There are no fees paid for birth registration. It is free of charge.

For further information, please contact us on Telephone: 0787397560 email: info@ncc.gov.rw, twitter: @nccrwanda, facebook: NCCRwanda.