CIVIL REGISTRATION SERVICES LAW

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PART ONE General Provisions

CHAPTER ONE Aim, Scope and Definitions

Aim

ARTICLE 1- (1) The aim of this law is to identify and establish the natural and legal matters related to a person's personal and civil status, nationality, and the changes that may occur from birth to death and to ensure their entry into the civil registers prepared for this purpose, the establishment of a national address database in electronic format, and to establish a link between civil registration and address information.

Scope¹

ARTICLE 2- (1) This Law contains provisions related to the principles and procedures of regulation, execution and development of civil registration services for Turkish nationals, for persons who acquire Turkish citizenship by means of birth and lose it by obtaining permission to leave and their descendants, and for aliens residing in Turkey.

Definitions

ARTICLE 3- (1) In this Law:

- a) Address: refers to the identification of any part of a land or a building from a geographic location or a functional point of view,
- b) Address declaration form: refers to a form used for declaration of address, the format and the content of which shall be established by the Ministry,
- c) (Amended: 19/10 / 2017-7039 / Art. 1) Address components: refer to the verbal and spatial data required to reach address information such as city, district, village and hamlets, neighbourhood, boulevard, avenue, street, building, outer door number, and inner door number,
 - c) (Repealed: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 1)
- d) Family: refers to people who are registered under the same family register number and their spouses and children,
- e) Family Register: refers to the log where the records related to civil status events are kept in paper or electronic format,
- f) Family register number: refers to a number issued according to the order of entry during the registration of families into the family register,
 - g) Ministry: refers to the Ministry of Interior,
- ğ) Reference document: refers to official documents and their copies such as forms, official reports, court orders, notary bills, birth or death reports, recorded in the family register that constitute the basis for civil status events,
- h) (Amended: 14/1/2016-6661/Art. 8) Valuable papers: refer to identity cards, international family wallets and blue cards,
 - 1) Other address: refers to places other than the domicile address,
 - i) General Directorate: refers to the Directorate General of Civil Registration and Nationality,

¹ With Article 10 of Law No. 6304 dated 9/5/2012, the following text has been added after the phrase "Turkish nationals": "Persons who acquire Turkish citizenship by means of birth and lose it by obtaining permission to leave and their descendants".

- j) Provincial directorate: refers to the provincial directorate of civil registration and nationality,
- k) (Amended: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 1) Identity Sharing System: refers to the system in which records kept in the central database are shared with corporations and legal entities that provide public services.
 - 1) Institution: refers to any public institutions and agencies other than the Directorate General,
- m) (Addendum: 9/5/2012-6304/Art. 11) Blue Card: refers to an official document that is given to persons who acquire Turkish citizenship by means of birth and lose it by obtaining permission to leave and their descendants as stated in Article 28 of the Turkish Citizenship Law no. 5901 dated 29/5/2009, and shows that said persons can benefit from the righst stated in the aforementioned article.
- n) (Addendum: 9/5/2012-6304/Art. 11) Blue Card Holders Register: refers to the records of persons who acquire Turkish citizenship by means of birth and lose it by obtaining permission to leave and their descendants, which are kept electronically, ¹
- o) (Amended: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 1) Central database: refers to the data stored alectronically at the General Directorate.
 - ö) (Amended: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 1) MERNIS: refers to the Central Civil Registration System,
- p) "Numbering" refers to the process of giving names or numbers to address components such as neighbourhoods, districts, squares, boulevards, avenues, streets and buildings,
- r) (Amended: 14/1/2016-6661/Art. 8) Identity card: refers to the Republic of Turkey identity card, which indicates that the person is a Turkish citizen and registered in the family register,
- s) Civil registration services: refer to acts and processes related to civil registration matters, the collection of information related to civil status events and address information of persons, the registration of said information into the register, the protection of this information and, if necessary, the evaluation of this information after it is sorted,
 - s) Civil record: refers to personal information recorded to the family register,
 - t) Copy of civil record: refers to documents showing extracts from the family register,
- u) Civil register: refers to all records consisting of the family register, special register and their back-ups,
 - ü) Civil registration office: refers to the district civil registration offices,
 - v) Head of civil registration office: refers to the Head of the district civil registration office,
- y) Civil status event: refers to an event that constitutes a change in personal status such as birth, death, marriage, divorce, adoption, acknowledgement of paternity, rectification of the record, rectification of the lineage, and events such as disappearance that bring about change to a person's civil status,
- z) Special register: refers to a file where reference documents for birth, marriage, divorce, death, rectification of a record and other events are kept and classified separately,
 - aa) National address database: refers to the central database where the address information are kept,
- bb) International family booklet: refers to an official multi-lingual document covering the identity of spouses and children constituting a family and proving their nationality,
- cc) (Amended: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 1) Power of attorney: refers to a document approved by the notary public which includes representative authority.
- çç) (Amended: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 1) Aliens register: refers to a register in which the records of aliens who were given an identification number are stored electronically,
- dd) Construction documents: refer to Construction License Forms, Construction Usage Permits, forms of burned and demolished constructions and building charts,
 - ee) Domicile address: refers to a person's permanent place of residence,
- ff) (Addendum: 14/1/2016-6661/Art. 8) Biometric data: refers to person-specific data obtained from fingerprints, palm and vein scans received in order to enable identification and authentication by means of electronic systems.
- gg) (Addendum: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 1) Data Sharing Board: refers to the board established to evaluate requests for sharing information contained in the central database,
- ğğ) (Addendum: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 1) Competent Authority: refers to administrations which have the authority and responsibility to set address numbers or issue construction documents.

¹ In accordance with Article 11 of Law No. 6304 dated 9/5/2012, subparagraphs m and n were added to paragraph 1 of Article 3 and other Articles were adjusted accordingly.

PART TWO Execution of Civil Registration Services

CHAPTER ONE Authorities and Civil Registers

Civil registration authorities

ARTICLE 4- (1) Civil registration services shall be carried out by the central and provincial organs of the Ministry and by the diplomatic representations abroad.

Legal nature

- **ARTICLE 5-** (1) Civil registers are official documents which are required to be kept permanently and where the civil status events are recorded according to the district and family principle with the aim to establish the identities of persons, their domicile address, family links, nationality and civil status.
- (2) Records and their back ups that are kept in family and special registers and copies taken from these are with equal legal value. In case of discrepancies between the records, unless otherwise proven, the reference document taken as a basis for the record shall be valid.
- (3) (Addendum: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 2) The ministry is authorized to keep a single record of a person in the family register, which are kept electronically, and to associate personal and civil event records with the Republic of Turkey identity number. Thus, provisions of other laws that are contrary to this article shall not apply.

Keeping of civil register records

- **ARTICLE 6-** (1) Civil status events shall be entered in the family registers in the civil registration offices and in the central database using a communication network.
- (2) In order to ensure uninterrupted services in cases of a natural disaster and state of emergency, the Ministry shall ensure that the back-up of the central database is kept in a different location.
- (3) Volume and page numbers shall be added to all pages of the family register kept in paper format. On the end of the register the total number of pages shall be written. The binding places of pages shall be sealed and the end of the register shall be approved by a civil court of first instance.
- (4) The Ministry is authorised to establish the principles and procedures related to the maintenance of civil registers, to modify them according to the developments in legislation and the system, and to abolish the practise of maintaining the family register in paper format.

Personal information that shall be included in family registers

ARTICLE 7- (1) For each neighborhood or village separate family registers shall be kept. The following information shall be included in the family register:

- a) The Republic of Turkey identity number,
- b) The name of the province, district, village or neighboorhood, the volume, family and person sequence number,
- c) The name, surname, and gender of the person, the names and surnames of the father and the mother, and the maiden surname of married women,
- ç) The place of birth and the date of birth in day, month and year and the date of entry to the register,
- d) Changes in civil status such as marriage, divorce, establishment or denial of filiation, death, acquisition or loss of nationality or rectifications made by competent authorities,
 - e) Religion.
 - f) Marital status,
 - g) Domicile address,
 - ğ) Photograph,
 - h) (Addendum: 14/1/2016-6661/Art. 9) Biometric data,
 - 1) (Addendum: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 3) Information regarding custody and tutelage.

- (Amendment to last sentence: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 3) The records mentioned in paragraphs (a), (g), (ğ), (h), and (1) shall only be kept in electronic format.
- (2) Nationals who do not have a family register in Turkey and reside in foreign countries shall be entered in the family register established in a civil registration office determined by the Ministry.

Civil registration of aliens residing in Turkey

- **ARTICLE 8-** (1) (**Amended: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 4**) The Ministry is authorised to assign an identity number to aliens under the "Law no 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection" dated 04/04/2011, and to register them in the hands of the Ministry. Members of diplomatic missions are outside the scope of this provision.
 - (2) (Repealed: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 27)
- (3) (Addendum: 19/10/2017-7039/Art. 4) Related event forms shall be prepared upon the applications made to the civil registration directorates regarding the population events of aliens occuring in Turkey and a copy of said forms shall be given to the person itself. These forms shall be kept in a special file.

Records of Blue Card Holders

ARTICLE 8/A- (Addendum: 9/5/2012-6304/Art. 12)

(1) Persons who acquire Turkish citizenship by means of birth and lose it by obtaining permission to leave and their descendants, as stated in Article 28 of Law no. 5901, shall be entered into the Blue Card Register, which is kept electronically by the Directorate General. Those who are registered in this Register are obliged to declare all kinds of civil registration events to the population directorates in the country or to the foreign representatives abroad.

CHAPTER TWO Features of Civil Status Records

Confidentiality

ARTICLE 9- (1) Civil records and reference documents used for the registration are confidential. These cannot be viewed and examined by anyone except for the competent and responsible civil servants and those who have the competence to inspect and control. Courts are exempted from this provision.

(2) Civil servants entering information into the civil registers and the other employees, making use of civil status records in the scope of the Identity Sharing System, shall also be under obligation to comply with this confidentiality. This liability continues after the public servants have left their duty.

Basis for official acts

ARTICLE 10- (1) Civil records shall be taken as a basis when conducting acts related to persons. In cases of discrepancies between the records, instead of correcting the civil records, the other records shall be corrected.

CHAPTER THREE Procedure Related to the Maintenance of Civil Registers

Registration requirement

ARTICLE 11- (1) Every person who is a national of the Republic of Turkey is required to get himself/herself registered in the civil register and to obtain an identity card by applying to the civil registration offices or to the diplomatic representations abroad. Parents, guardians or curators, or in case of absence of these, persons who take care of minors and officials who are authorised by the Social Services and Child Preservation Institution Law No 2828 dated 24/5/1983 have the duty of getting registered civil status events of minors and obtaining identity cards for them.

(2) Beginning from the date of acquisition, persons, who have acquired Turkish nationality subsequently, shall also be entered in the civil register.

Reference document requirement for registration

- **ARTICLE 12-** (1) Every record and annotation related to the personal status that is entered in the civil register must be made by officials authorised by this Law and based on reference documents issued in accordance with the procedures and the samples.
- (2) After having been entered in the family register, the reference documents shall be signed by the civil registrars recording the civil status events and a copy of these shall be placed in the special register that is being sent for archiving in the General Directorate.

Registration

ARTICLE 13- (1) Documents and official reports related to civil status events reported by competent officials and institutions shall be registered in accordance with the provisions of this Law. The Ministry shall be authorised to decide on the use of electronic signature for any kind of civil status processes.

Closure and re-opening of a record

- **ARTICLE 14-** (1) Closure of a civil status record is the becoming of the record non-maintainable due to events such as death, absence, loss of Turkish nationality, marriage, divorce, adoption, rectification or denial of filiation.
- (2) The record shall be reopened when the cause related to the closure of a record ceases to exist or when a new cause for the reopening of the record emerges. The personal status events that have happened after the opening of the record shall be entered into the record of the person.

PART THREE Civil Status Events

CHAPTER ONE Birth

Declaration obligation and period

ARTICLE 15- (1) Beginning from the moment of birth, every child born alive must be declared within 30 days to the civil registration offices in Turkey or within 60 days to the diplomatic representations abroad.

- (2) The declaration may be made based on an official document showing the birth of the child or based on a verbal declaration made by the parents, guardians or curators, or in case of absence of these, by the grand parents or the siblings in the age of majority or by the persons taking care of the child.
- (3) The declarations of birth abroad may be made by presenting to the diplomatic representations an official document or report issued by the foreign authorities or by sending a letter showing the name given to the child together with documents showing the full personal information and the place of civil registration of the mother and the father of the child. The diplomatic representation shall be under the obligation to send to the civil registration offices the birth report, issued by taking as a declaration date the date of posting of the documents.
 - (4) Birth-related declarations shall be included in the birth report by the civil registration offices.
- (5) If the person concerned cannot present any documents, the verbal declaration shall be taken as a basis and entered in the reports, and the birth reports shall be signed by the person making the declaration and by the officials.
- (6) Children who were born dead shall not be entered in the family register. Children born in a single birth shall be entered according to the order of their birth.

Births not declared within the specified period

ARTICLE 16- (1) When making a declaration after the period specified in Article 15 of the present Law, the declaration shall be taken as basis for the establishment of the date of birth of children who are under six years of age. If the child has completed the age of six, the child shall be taken to the civil registration office and shall be ensured that the age of the child is determined by a official health agency. If an official document related to the birth of the child is presented, the determination of age is not necessary.

Competence of civil registration offices

ARTICLE 17- (1) Upon learning about the existence of unregistered children or persons in the age of majority, the civil registration offices shall be authorised to invite the persons concerned in the age of majority, the parents, or guardians or curators, or in case of absence of these, the grand parents or siblings or personswho take care of children or the mukhtars to make a declaration. The persons concerned shall be under the obligation to apply to the civil registration offices and make a declaration within 30 days of the receipt of such an invitation.

(2) In case of not making a declaration within the specified period, in order to ensure the registration of the child in the family register, if deemed necessary by the Governor, the necessary acts shall be carried out to forcibly bring the responsible people by the police forces.

Other officials under declaration obligation

ARTICLE 18- (1) The officials of institutions, and the curators of protectorates, old people's homes and alike, and persons authorised by the Law No 2828 shall be under the obligation to check the identity cards of children or persons in the age of majority whom they employ or house, and of declaring to civil registration offices and conducting the necessary procedures in order to ensure the registration of those who are not entered in the family register.

- (2) Police officials shall be under the obligation to hand over to the local civil registration office the document they issue after conducting the necessary acts about persons who cannot prove their identity and those whom they found not entered in the civil register.
- (3) Directors of schools shall be under the obligation to report to the local civil registration office, from the children applying for school registration, the declaration based identity information of children that do not have civil registration and the identity information, and the addresses of the father, mother, guardians or the curators.
- (4) The public or private institutions shall be under the obligation to request from the persons they are about to employ their identity cards and to report to the civil registration offices the declaration based identity and address of persons found to be without civil registration.

Foundlings and mentally impared persons

ARTICLE 19- (1) The civil registration of foundlings who are unable to express themselves shall be carried out by the civil registration office of the place they had been found by the police officials or the institutions concerned by taking as a reference the report stating the condition of the foundlings or the declaration of the persons concerned.

- (2) The appointed by the court curators of mentally impaired foundlings older than eighteen years of age shall be under notification obligation. The notification shall be made to the civil registration office after obtaining a health council report from a fully equipped state hospital.
- 3) When preparing reports related to these persons, in cases where the date of birth, the name and surname of the person and the names of the mother and the father are not stated, the name and the surname of the person, and the names of the mother and the father shall be given by the civil registration office. If the birth date was not determined, it shall be ensured that the birth date is determined by a public health institution.

Persons who have acquired Turkish nationality

Persons who have acquired Turkish nationality in accordance with the Law shall be registered in the family register in line with the issued forms upon the decision of competent authorities or councils.

Civil status events of aliens

Upon applying to the civil registration offices related to the civil status events in Turkey of aliens who are outside the scope of Article 8 of this Law, the relevant event forms shall be filled in and the applicants shall be issued with a copy of them. These forms shall be kept in a special file.

CHAPTER TWO Marriage

Competence to conduct marriages

ARTICLE 22 – (1) The ministry shall take and implement all the necessary measures for carrying out the marriage procedures within the completeness of civil registration and nationality services.

(2) Where applicable, the mayor of the municipality or the civil servants empowered by the mayor, or mukhtars in the villages, shall act as marriage registrars. The Ministry may commission and empower the provincial directorates, civil registration offices and the diplomatic representations abroad to conduct marriages. In the event of one of the spouses being an alien, the province and district marriage registrars and the heads of the civil registration offices shall have the competence to conduct marriages.

Notification and registration of marriage

ARTICLE 23 - (1) Persons conducting marriage by virtue of Article 22 shall be, within ten days of the date of marriage, under the obligation to send the issued marriage notification to the civil registration office, and the civil registration office shall be under the obligation to register the marriage.

(2) The record of the married woman shall be transferred to the section of her husband. Unless remarried, the register of a woman whose husband has died shall remain in the family register of the dead husband. However, if requested, the register of the woman concerned may be returned to the register of her father.

Marriages performed by the diplomatic representations abroad shall be notified to the civil registration offices within 30 days of the date of marriage.

(4) Marriages that had not been entered in the civil registers and were conducted according to the old provisions prior the entry into force on 4/10/1926 of the abrogated Turkish Civil Law No 743, shall be entered in the family register after obtaining court order by the persons concerned.

Marriages conducted abroad

ARTICLE 24- Marriages of Turkish nationals performed before foreign competent officials abroad shall be valid provided that they conform to the provisions of the Turkish Civil Law No 4721 dated 22/11/2001 and do not posses a condition that necessitates their annulment and invalidity. The declaration of these marriages shall be made by presenting or sending by the husband, or in the case of an alien husband, by the wife, the document issued by the foreign officials conducting the marriage to the diplomatic representations at the place of marriage. The diplomatic representation receiving the declaration shall be under obligation to send the notification, prepared according to the procedures of marriage, to civil registration offices.

(2) In cases where there is not a diplomatic representation at that place or it is not possible to make a notification, the marriage notification may also be made to the civil registration office in Turkey provided that the approved certificate of marriage obtained from the foreign officials is translated into Turkish according to the procedures and is legalised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The entry in the register shall be made using the notification of marriage prepared based on this document.

Registration of persons who acquire Turkish nationality by virtue of marriage

ARTICLE 25- (1) A woman who acquires Turkish nationality shall be registered under the section of her husband. In the case where the marriage ceases to exist, except in case of a death, the entry of the woman registered in this way in the family register shall be transferred to the end of that register.

(2) A man who acquires Turkish nationality by virtue of marriage shall be registered under the section of his wife that has been transferred after marriage. In the case where the marriage ceases to exist,

except in the case of a death, the register of the woman shall be transferred to the section prior to marriage, whereas the register of the man shall remain under the section where he is registered.

CHAPTER THREE Divorce and Annulment of Marriage

Beginning of the waiting period for the woman

ARTICLE 26- (1) The waiting period for the woman shall be effective from the date of the final judgement (*res judicata*).

Particulars that must be included in divorce or marriage annulment decisions

ARTICLE 27- (1) Decisions related to divorce or marriage annulment must contain the following information:

- a) The Turkish Republic identification number, name, surname, place and date of birth, father's and mother's name of the parties, and the surname prior to marriage and place of registration in the family register of the woman.
 - b) Children born inside the marriage and their identity information.
- c) Provisions related to other principles and procedures set out in the procedural legislation for the decision.

CHAPTER FOUR Acknowledgement of Paternity and Adoption

The act of acknowledgement of paternity

ARTICLE 28- (1) If the acknowledgement was made in a court upon the written application of the father, the acknowledgement of paternity shall be notified to the civil registration office by the court within 10 days of the date of acknowledgement, or by the notary public if the acknowledgement was made by issuing a notary bill upon the application of the father to the notary public.

- (2) If the acknowledgement of paternity was made by a declaration included in the will of the father, the notification of acknowledgement to the civil registration shall be made by the judge preparing the will.
- (3) Declaration of acknowledgement of paternity made to the registrar shall be entered directly in the family register.
- (4) The acknowledged children shall be registered under the section of their father by indicating the father's name and surname and the mother's identity and place of registration information.
- (5) Notifications of acts of acknowledgement made abroad shall be made to the diplomatic representations abroad or, provided that they are translated into Turkish and legalised, to the civil registration offices in Turkey.

Act of adoption

ARTICLE 29- (1) The adoption decision shall be notified to the local civil registration office by the court within ten days of the date of decision. The adoption event shall be entered in the family register and the register of the adoptee shall be transferred to the family register of the adopting family.

Acts of adoption conducted abroad

ARTICLE 30- (1) Acts of adoption conducted before the foreign competent officials shall also be valid in Turkey provided they conform in principal requirements to the Turkish legislation.

(2) The enforcement in Turkey of decisions and documents related to adoption events issued by foreign judicial or administrative authorities which, according to the law of the country concerned, were finalised, or have effects as such, shall be subject to the award of order for execution or approval by a competent Turkish court.

CHAPTER FIVE

Death and Absence

Notification period and persons under notification obligation

MADDE 31- (1) The death event shall be notified to the General Directorate or to the civil registration office within 10 days of the occurrence of the event:

- a) In the cities and towns, by officials who by virtue of the Public Health Law No 1593 dated 24/04/1930 are authorised to issue burial certificates,
- b) In the villages, where available, by the state doctors or officials of health agencies, otherwise by the mukhtars.
 - c) In health establishments, such as hospitals and hospices, by the administrations,
- ç) In the armed forces, by the doctors or by the military officials commissioned by the commanderships according to their internal regulations and by the military drafting offices.
 - d) In cases of natural disasters, by civil servants commissioned by the local governors,
 - e) In legal events and incidents, by the relevant public prosecutor's offices,

Whereas the diplomatic representations abroad shall notify the event to the General Directorate or the civil registration office within 10 days of being informed of the event.

- (2) Death reports delivered to the civil registration offices subsequent to the expiry of the legal period shall be accepted and processed by the civil registration office if they were prepared based on the records of official health institutions or other official documents.
- (3) In cases of deaths occurring within the country, deaths shall be registered in the civil registration office of the place of the occurrence of the death; if the place of death could not be determined, the death shall be registered in the civil registration office of the place where the corpse was found; if the death occurred on a vehicle, the death shall be registered in the civil registration office of the place where the corpse was removed from the vehicle.
- (4) Where the deceased person is unregistered, if following the investigation his/her Turkish nationality and family are established, firstly the birth of the person concerned shall be entered in the family register by preparing a birth report, subsequent to which the death event shall be processed.

Presumption of death

ARTICLE 32- (1) If a person disappears in circumstances which necessitate the presumption of that person's death, even if the corpse of that person is not recovered, the death event shall be processed upon the order of the local governor of the place of application by issuing a death report.

- (2) In order to act according to this Article, the event shall be documented by applying to the civil registration office by one of the descendants or ascendants or siblings, in the absence of these, by the heirs, or by a written notification to the civil registration office by the competent authorities.
- (3) If the documents attached to the application, and where necessary the investigation initiated by the civil registration office, are deemed sufficient to prove that at the time of the event the person presumed dead was there, the death event shall be registered upon the order of the local governor.

Deceased individuals who according to the family register appear to be alive

ARTICLE 33- (1) The death reports of deceased persons who appear to be alive in the family register shall be prepared by the civil registration offices provided that it is applied to the civil registration office with documents showing the death event. Where it is not possible to present any documents, the death report prepared by the civil registration office shall be processed upon the order of the local governor following the verification of the truthfulness of the declaration of death by the civil registration office.

Processing absence

ARTICLE 34- (1) Court orders given for absence shall be notified to the civil registration offices within 10 days of the date of decision and shall be entered by the registrars in the family register.

Rectifications of records

CHAPTER ONE

Principles Related to Rectification of Civil Status Records

Rectification of a record

ARTICLE 35- (1) Unless there is a finalised court order, civil status records cannot be rectified and notes that change the meaning of and the information contained in the record cannot be made. However, material errors made during the entry of events to the family register shall be corrected by the civil registration office according to the reference documents.

(2) The information on religion in the family register shall be recorded, changed, left blank or removed according to the written statement of the person concerned.

Civil status cases

ARTICLE 36- (1) When rectifying records based on court orders the following procedures shall apply:

- a) Rectification cases related to civil status records shall be filed by the persons applying for rectification and, if deemed necessary by the relevant official authority, by the public prosecutors in the civil courts of first instance at the place of domicile of the person concerned. Rectification cases shall be heard and decided in the presence of the public prosecutor and the head of the civil registration office or the commissioned by him/her registrar.
- b) A rectification of civil status case on the same matter may only be filed once. In case of a change of name, the civil registration office shall rectify the father's and mother's names of the children and in case of change of a surname, the surnames of the spouse and minor children shall also be rectified.
- c) Declaratory actions shall constitute prima face evidence for the actions for cancellation or rectification of a record.
- (2) Applications related to persons that use records of other people shall be investigated and brought to a conclusion by the Ministry.

Competence of civil registration offices

ARTICLE 37- (1) The General Directorate and the civil registration offices shall have the competence to pursue any kind of legal remedy against court orders.

(2) The General Directorate and the civil registration offices shall be exempted from legal duties and any court expenses.

CHAPTER TWO Material Errors and Cancellation of a Civil Status Record

Material Errors

ARTICLE 38- (1) From the information that must be entered in the family register, listed in Article 7 of this Law, the information that is included in the reference document but is incorrectly or incompletely entered in the civil registers or not registered at all, or the double entries, shall be interpreted in the scope of material errors. Such material errors shall be corrected or completed by the General Directorate or the civil registration offices.

Competence for correcting or completing dates

ARTICLE 39- (1) The General Directorate shall be empowered to register in the family register the civil status events of nationals whose events were written according to the Hegira or Julian calendar by converting these dates according to the Gregorian calendar, and also to complete the month and day of the birth dates of those who do not have one.

(2) In cases of calculating the age of persons whose month and day of birth was not stated, the first day of July of the year of birth, where the month of birth is known but the day of birth is unknown, the first day of that month shall be taken as a starting date for the calculation.

Cancellation of a civil status record

ARTICLE 40- (1) If deemed necessary by the General Directorate or the civil registration offices, reference documents based civil status records which are not duly prepared shall be cancelled upon a court order. Cancellations of notes and explanations added to the civil registers shall be subject to the same procedure.

PART FIVE Identity Cards and International Family Booklets

Preparation and distribution

ARTICLE 41- (1) The Cabinet of Ministers shall be empowered to determine the content, form, size and entry into force, change and validity dates of identity cards, to determine security features to be included in identity cards against falsification, alteration and counterfeiting, the system and technology to be applied for the production and issuance of identity cards to Turkish nationals, and the acts to be conducted in cases of loss and change of identity cards.

- (2) Identity cards and the international family booklets shall be produced by the Ministry of Finance in accordance with the form, size and sample determined by the Ministry and shall be sent to the accountant officials of the civil registration offices to meet their needs and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to meet the needs of diplomatic representations abroad.
- (3) Identity cards for women and men and international family booklets, the quantity of which, not exceeding three thousand of each, shall be determined by the accountant officials according to needs of civil registration offices, and shall be handed over in consecutive parties of three thousands each against cash payment. In cases where the notification of birth is made within the legal period, the valuable paper fee shall not be charged when issuing identity cards. The fee for the identity cards and the international family booklets returned due to material errors shall be subtracted from the valuable paper fee.
- (4) Identity card shall be issued by the civil registration offices in Turkey and by the diplomatic representations abroad to the persons concerned, in cases of minor persons, to the parents, guardians or to the persons presenting an official curatorship document or to persons who are under declaration obligation by virtue of Article 17 of this Law.
- (5) To every couple getting married an international family booklet shall be issued by the civil servant empowered to perform marriages. Those who, despite being married, had not obtained an international family booklet, upon their request, shall be issued with one by the civil registration offices. Upon the request of one of them, spouses shall be under obligation to get inscribed changes in civil status of themselves or the family members, and civil registration offices shall be under obligation to inscribe these and the necessary explanations.
- (6) In relation to the fees of identity cards and international family booklets, the General Directorate and the General Consulates shall not be subject to the provisions of the Security Law No 2489 dated 2/6/1934.
- (7) Except the provisioned in this Law, no records or signs can be added to identity cards. These identity cards cannot be withheld by any persons or institutions. However, where necessary, the institutions may keep copies of identity cards.

Identity card request form

ARTICLE 42- (1) When issuing identity cards and international family booklets, identity card request forms shall be used, the form and content of which shall be determined and produced by the Ministry. When issuing identity cards based on birth reports, request forms shall not be required.

(2) The Ministry shall be empowered to put into or abolish the practise of identity card request forms and to determine their safekeeping periods.

PART SIX Giving Information from Civil Status Records

Issuing a copy of a civil status record

ARTICLE 43- (1) Copies of the civil status record issued from the family register of the person and verified by the civil registration offices that they are true with their originals shall be valid until otherwise proven. The copy of the civil status record shall not be issued unless there is a written request stating the reason for its request and for what purpose it is going to be used. However, if the application is made in person by presenting an official document proving the identity of the person concerned, written application is not be required. If the request made by competent persons is not explicit and reasoned, in the copies of civil status, personal information other than the identity information shall not be included. Erasure and defacement on these documents is not permitted.

(2) Copies of civil status records that have not been used within 180 days of their issuance shall lose their validity. The Ministry shall be authorised to shorten this period to 30 days according to the purpose the copy is going to be used.

People and institutions authorised to receive a copy of a civil status record

ARTICLE 44- (1) The following persons and institutions shall be authorised to receive copies of civil status records directly from the civil registration offices:

- a) The Ministry,
- b) Diplomatic representations abroad,
- c) For military recruitment purposes, the Ministry of Defence,
- ç) Judicial authorities,
- d) Being limited to legal acts, the police forces,
- e) For acts of marriages, persons empowered to perform marriages,
- f) For acts of death, the official health agencies,
- g) The owners of the records or the spouses, parents, guardians, ascendants and descendants or those who present a curatorship document to this effect,
- (2) Institutions and legal personals other than those mentioned in paragraph 1, upon the order of the Ministry or the local governor, may obtain a copy of a civil status record by applying in writing and stating clearly the reason for the request. The Ministry shall establish the Identity Sharing System for the enforcement of the provisions of this Article.
- (3) Giving information related to domicile address and addresses of other residences shall be subject to the will of the person.
- (4) Third persons other than those mentioned in sub-section (g) of paragraph 1 shall not receive a copy of civil status record of a person other than information related to his/her marital status.

Use of Identity and Address Sharing Systems

ARTICLE 45- (1) The Ministry, subject to the principles and procedures set out in this Law, may open to the use of other institutions and persons the information kept in the databases of Identity Sharing System and Address Sharing System. The information related to domicile address may only be open to the use of institutions.

- (2) No part or whole of the data in the Identity Sharing System can be given in bulk to any institutions or other persons. Institutions and other persons may only obtain information related to persons for whom they keep records essential to their own practises and acts.
- (3) The institutions shall not use the information obtained for any purposes other than the execution of specified services and shall not share the information with anyone other than the person concerned or those specified in Article 44 of this Law. The officials engaged in all stages of the system shall also be bound by these rules. This obligation shall also continue after the public servants have left their duty.

- (4) The liability of legal consequences from the use of information obtained form the General Directorate for practices and acts shall lay with the institution obtaining the information.
- (5) The use of the databases established by this Law for statistical purposes shall be subject to the provisions of Turkish Statistics Law No 5429 dated 10/11/2005.

PART SEVEN The Turkish Republic Identity Number

Identity number

ARTICLE 46- (1) The identity number is a numbering system which establishes a link between the nationals of the Republic of Turkey and their civil status records, enables access to the records of persons and provides a link between the records kept in public institutions. The Turkish Republic identity number shall be allocated only once and shall not be changed.

(2) Aliens registered in Turkey shall also be allocated with an identity number according to the principles determined by the Ministry.

Use of the identity number

ARTICLE 47- (1) The Turkish Republic identity number shall be included in all kinds of forms and declarations, and identification documents such as identity cards, driving licenses and passports issued to persons.

- (2) The Turkish Republic identity number shall be taken as a basis for all kinds of acts and records of institutions and other real and legal personalities.
- (3) For problems occurring during the application of identity number and in case of hesitation the opinion of the General Directorate shall be requested.

PART EIGHT Address Registration System

Maintenance of address information and the standard of address

ARTICLE 48- (1) The establishment, development, and widening of the policy related to the information of the domicile address and other addresses, the determination of the dates for transition to overall implementation by the administrative units, and the acts related to linking the national address database with MERNIS database and sharing the address information shall be carried out by the Ministry. Co-operation requests made by the Ministry with the aim to complete the address records in the civil registers shall be met by the institutions.

- (2) The standard of address shall be jointly determined by the General Directorate, Turkish Statistical Institute, the Institute of Turkish Standards and other agencies, under the supervision and responsibility of the General Directorate of Local Administrations. The General Directorate of Local Administrations shall be responsible of notifying the specified standard to provincial administration and municipalities. Institutions and real and legal personalities shall comply with the address standard in their practices and actions.
- (3) The Ministry shall be empowered to request from the institutions any address related information. Institutions shall be under obligation to reply to the request in question within 20 days.
- (4) The domicile address shall not prejudice the provision of services to persons in their other addresses and the lack of records of other addresses shall not effect the non-provision of services to these addresses.

Address information and update

ARTICLE 49- (1) Provincial administrations and municipalities shall specify in accordance with the address standard the address components in their area of responsibility and shall be under the obligation to establish the address information as to include all addresses in their areas by allocating

unchangeable permanent identification numbers to address components. Any changes made to address components, except the permanent identification number, shall also be monitored and entered in the national address database by the provincial administrations and municipalities.

- (2) The national address database shall be kept in the General Directorate. The General Directorate shall keep updated in electronic format, together with the back up systems, the domicile address information by linking this information with the civil status records.
- (3) The address records of Turkish nationals who are domiciled abroad shall be entered on the basis of their name, and the country and city of residence.

Declaration obligation

ARTICLE 50- (1) Provincial administrations and municipalities shall be under the obligation to enter in the database the address information according to the specified standard and the construction documents establishing the background for the formation of the address, simultaneously with the issuance of these documents.

- (2) When registering the domicile address, the written statement of the persons shall be taken as a basis. The notification shall be made to the civil registration offices and the diplomatic representations abroad using an address declaration form. Members of a family in the age of majority who reside in the same domicile address may make an address declaration on behalf of each other.
- (3) Those who present a representation competence and a written document showing the scope of it may make a declaration related to the addresses of persons.
- (4) The addresses of children and persons placed under judicial disability shall be notified by their parents, guardians, curators, or in the absence of these, by the grandparents or the siblings in the age of majority or by the persons taking care of the child.
- (5) Address notification of persons living in places such as old people's homes, care homes, prisons, and student halls of residences shall be made by the officials of the relevant institution and the address notifications of desolate persons unable to make notifications for themselves shall be made by the mukhtars.
- (6) The addresses of persons placed under guardianship shall be notified by the authority granting the guardianship.
 - (7) The notification of address may be done in person, or by post or electronic mail.

Notification period and update

ARTICLE 51- (1) Persons and institutions listed in Article 50 who are under notification of address obligation shall be under obligation to notify within 20 days to civil registration offices changes related to domicile addresses. However, a declaration related to a change of domicile address made during an application to any official institution for services based on the domicile address, may be handed over to that institution, in order to be forwarded to the civil registration office, by filling out an address declaration form by the person concerned. These address declaration forms shall be sent by the relevant institutions to the local civil registration offices within 10 days.

- (2) Persons shall not have the responsibility of notifying the changes occurring in the address components. Such changes shall be entered by the municipalities in the national address database in electronic format no later than 10 days subsequent to the changes, and where the places lay beyond their borders, by the provincial administrations.
- (3) Owners of detached houses, managers of apartment blocks and building complexes, and officials of halls of residence administrations shall be under obligation to monitor changes occurring in their area of responsibility, in conjunction with mukhtars and persons under declaration obligation listed in Article 50, and to report occurring disparities to mukhtars.
- (4) The listings related to the changes in domicile address shall be sent to the offices of mukhtars by the civil registration offices.
- (5) Mukhtars shall be under obligation to examine the listings of notifications of changes in domicile address sent to them by civil registration offices, comparing these with the changes in domicile address in their area of responsibility, and to notify the undeclared changes to the relevant civil registration office on the last week of every month.

Use of address information

- **ARTICLE 52-** (1) If requested by the institutions, the Ministry may, within the framework of Address Sharing System and Identity Sharing System, provide institutions with address information in electronic format, the principles and procedures of which shall be determined by the Ministry.
- (2) Mukhtars' offices with completed technical infrastructure may access the Identity Sharing System with the purpose of monitoring the update of domicile addresses in their area of responsibility.
- (3) The institutions shall take as a basis in their practices and acts the address information kept in the General Directorate.
- (4) Information and documents related to the address may be obtained from the civil registration offices, the Address Sharing System and form the mukhtars' offices which are able to produce documents by accessing the Identity Sharing System. The security of documents issued in this way shall be provided according to the principles and procedures determined by the Ministry.
- (5) For population census purposes the MERNIS civil status information shall be used when establishing family and vital statistics and when enforcing laws that use as a basis this kind of information.

Coordination and cooperation

ARTICLE 53- (1) The General Directorate shall be responsible for the inter-institutional cooperation for the provision of efficient, fast and up to date establishment and maintenance of the national address database. The institutions shall be under obligation to share with the General Directorate and relevant institutions the information they posses related to address and address components.

PART NINE Common Provisions

Registration duty and period

ARTICLE 54- (1) Civil servants commissioned to register civil status events shall be under obligation to enter in the family register, at the time of processing, the reference documents issued by the civil registration offices that must be entered in the family register, and to enter in the family register within seven days of the date of their receipt the reference documents issued by other authorities and to send a copy of them to the General Directorate.

Duties of head court clerk

ARTICLE 55- (1) The head court clerks shall be under obligation to notify the local civil registration office within 10 days of finalisation or issue of all decisions and acts that necessitate entering in the family register.

Duties of health agencies

ARTICLE 56- (1) In relation to birth and death events under their control, health agencies and doctors shall be under obligation to issue and give to the owner a report showing the nature of the event and the identity information of the person concerned.

(2) The provisions of Law No 1593 are reserved.

Representatives

ARTICLE 57- (1) Taking a declaration by third persons as a basis for an act may only be possible with a letter of attorney approved by notary public that includes special representation competence.

Unregistered persons

ARTICLE 58- (1) Persons who were left out during entering of civil status records in the registers shall apply at home to the local civil registration office and abroad to the nearest diplomatic representation with official documents showing that they are Turkish nationals. If following the scrutiny

there is no obstacle for their registration, they shall be entered by the civil registration offices in the registers of families.

Signing documents

ARTICLE 59- (1) Reference documents issued upon a notification to the civil registration office shall be approved by the civil registration office. The reference documents must be signed by the persons concerned or by their parents, guardians or persons presenting a letter of attorney. Fingerprints of illiterate persons shall be taken.

Suspicious declaration

ARTICLE 60- (1) In case of dubious declarations of civil status events, upon the order of the local governor, the police authorities shall conduct inquiries and examinations and inform the civil registration office.

Calculation of periods

ARTICLE 61- (1) When calculating the periods mentioned in this Law, the day subsequent to the date of the event shall be taken as a starting date. If the last day of the period coincides with an official holiday, the period shall end on the day subsequent to the holiday.

Old or abolished registers

ARTICLE 62- (1) No acts or records shall be entered in the abolished old family register.

- (2) In cases of lack of reference documents related to civil status events, these registers shall not be taken as a basis for any legal acts except for correction of errors in the name, surname, father's name, mother's name, birth date or birth place of the person, or completing incomplete information, or the determination of person's identity and family links.
- (3) Notes stating that they were obtained from old or abolished registers shall be added to the copies of civil status records issued from these registers.

Drafting of persons reaching the conscription age

ARTICLE 63- (1) Every year the General Directorate shall prepare a list of the male population entered in the family register reaching the age of conscription and send this list to the Ministry of Defence within the month of December. The Ministry of Defence may also obtain this list from the Identity Sharing System's database.

Preparation of forms

ARTICLE 64- (1) The Ministry shall be authorised to prepare the forms and documents and to make the necessary regulations for the enforcement of this Law. The forms related to declaration of domicile address to be kept in electronic format shall be destroyed after scanning and converting into electronic format.

PART TEN Miscellaneous Provisions

Remuneration

ARTICLE 65- (1) The information contained in the Identity Sharing System and the Address Sharing System shall be given for a fee to the public institutions and agencies not included in the Public Fiscal Management and Control Law No 5018 dated 10/12/2003 and its annexes, and to other persons. Fees shall be determined jointly by the Ministry and the Ministry of Finance. Collected service fees shall be entered as revenue in the budget.

Overtime pay

ARTICLE 66- (1) The personnel of the central and the provincial organisation of the General Directorate (including contracted personnel) employed in MERNIS, and the Identity and Address Sharing Systems projects who are effectively working overtime shall be paid overtime rate according to the

principles determined by the Ministry, and not exceeding fifty hours per month and three times the overtime rate set out in the central management budget.

PART ELEVEN Penalty Provisions

False declaration

- **ARTICLE 67-** (1) Mukhtars of villages or quarters who issue false domicile address or identity card request forms and persons who make a false declaration to the civil registration office in relation to whatever act and persons who testify to them shall be punished by imprisonment for six months to four years.
- (2) Public officials who do not fulfil the obligations related to the address and acting against the prohibitions shall be punished according to the provisions on the reliability and the functioning of the public administration contained in the Turkish Penal Code No 5237 dated 26/9/2004.

Administrative fines

ARTICLE 68- (1) In this Law:

- a) Public officials who are commissioned to report civil status events and who do not fulfil their duties within the periods specified in this Law, with the decision of the head of the local civil registration office and upon the proposal of the registrar, shall be incurred with a 25 YTL administrative fine, even if the action constitutes another crime.
- b) Persons who despite being under obligation to declare civil status events had not fulfil their obligations within the periods specified in this Law, or who have lost their identity cards and family record booklet or who had not renewed their identity cards 60 days subsequent to the expiration date or the guardians and curators of children in such circumstances, shall be incurred with an administrative fine of 50 YTL at home by the civil registration offices or abroad by the public servants employed in the diplomatic representations.
- c) Persons who had not fulfilled the obligations set out in Article 50 of this Law shall be incurred with an administrative fine of 250 YTL, and those who make a false declaration shall be incurred with an administrative fine of 500YTL by the local governor.
- (2) Administrative fines incurred abroad shall be collected at the time of action in local currency of the country where the consulate takings are collected.
 - (3) According to this Law the administrative fines set out in this Article shall not apply:
- a) Where the identity cards and family record booklets were lost and the obligation of reporting civil status events could not be fulfilled due to any kind of natural disasters, seizure by violence, robbery, fire and terror.
- b) Where identity card requests and birth notifications related to orphans were made by the competent authorities.
- c) To the grandmother, grandfather or siblings or to people taking care of the children and mukhtars,
 - d) To public prosecutors indicated in Article 31 of this Law.

PART TWELVE Miscellaneous Provisions

Regulation

ARTICLE 69- (1) The regulations related to the enforcement of this Law shall be prepared by the Ministry and shall be put into effect by the Cabinet of Ministers within 180 days.

(2) The regulation related to address and numbering shall be prepared jointly by the Ministry, the Turkish Statistical Institute and the Institute of Turkish Standards and put into effect within 90 days.

Posts

ARTICLE 70- (1) The posts contained in the List 1 of the Annex to this Law were included under the Ministry of Interior's section of Table 1 of the Annex to the Decree-Law on General Posts and Procedures.

Repealed provisions

ARTICLE 71- (1) The Civil Law No 1587 dated 5/5/1972, the General Population Registration Law No 1543 dated 24/2/1972 and the Law on Marriage Papers and Their Registration in the Civil Registers No 3686 dated 5/7/1939, the Article 5, paragraph (a) and (d) of Article 6, and the expression "8" in Article 8, Article 16 and Article 17 of the Declaration of Identity Law No 1774 dated 26/6/1973, and the Law on Numbering Buildings and Naming Streets No 1003 dated 10/4/1927 were repealed.

Amended provisions of other laws

ARTICLE 72- (1) Subsequent to paragraph (c) of Article 6 of Law No 1774, the expression "identity card shall be issued in accordance with the record by the ... and must be handed out to the police forces within three days" was added and the expression "those who are and those resident in places mentioned in paragraph (d)"in the second paragraph of the same Article was amended as "of those".

Provisions added to other laws

ARTICLE 73- (1) The following paragraph was added to Article 28 of the Law on the Organisation and Duties of the Ministry of Interior No 3152 dated 14/2/1985.

"The Ministry may establish civil registration and nationality directorates in the provinces and civil registration offices in the districts for the purpose of carrying out civil registration and nationality services. The Ministry shall be authorised to commission the heads of the civil registration offices and the registrars to places where needed regardless of the post occupied, place of work and the title of the person.

PART THIRTEEN Transitional Provisions

TRANSITIONAL ARTICLE 1- (1) Institutions and legal personalities must use the identity number in their operations by aligning their regulations with the provisions of this Law within two years of its publication.

TRANSITIONAL ARTICLE 2- (1) Subsequent to the publication of this Law, the following acts and procedures related to the preparation for the implementation of entering the address information shall be carried out:

- a) The database shall be established by carrying out the infrastructure works for the national address database within the Turkish Statistical Institute, and subsequent to the completion of the acts and procedures set out in this Article the database shall be handed over to the General Directorate.
- b) The General Directorate of Local Administrations shall monitor the numbering and signing works of the provincial administrations and municipalities according to the regulation on address and numbering.
- c) Simultaneously with the address works, provincial administrations, municipalities and the General Directorate shall establish the technical infrastructure for the national address database. A network infrastructure operating on-line between the provincial administrations, municipalities and the national address database shall be established countrywide by the Ministry of Transport. Central computer software enabling access to the national address database from every settlement shall be developed by the Turkish Statistical Institute. The database shall be opened to the use of provincial administrations and municipalities after completing the necessary encoding and the user training.
- ç) The numbering operation shall be completed following the alignment of the address components of settlement areas by the provincial administrations and municipalities with the standards,

and shall be entered in the central national address database using the software mentioned in subsection (c) no later than 360 days subsequent to the determination of the address standard.

- d) With the aim of establishing the appropriateness of the numbering and signing works to be carried out by the provincial administrations and municipalities, a field control shall be conducted by the Turkish Statistical Institute and the General Directorate of Local Administrations within 90 days subsequent to completion of the works. Results of the control shall be entered in the national address database.
- e) In order to link the domicile address kept in the national address database with the civil registration information and to keep records of the personal domicile address information linked to the Turkish Republic identity number, beginning from settlements with completed numbering and within 630 days subsequent to the entry into force of this Law, field application shall be carried out by the Turkish Statistical Institute. Based on the national address database, the domicile address information determined during the application shall be electronically matched with MERNIS records according to the Turkish Republic identity number principle. In relation to domicile address in Turkey of aliens encountered during the field scan, a different database shall be established.
- f) The obtained records shall be published on the mukhtar's offices in the quarters and villages for 60 days. During the publication period the necessary rectifications of records shall be carried out according to the records obtained from the Turkish Statistical Institute upon the results of investigation of a challenge. The forms used in the field application following the finalisation of records subsequent to this work shall be exterminated by virtue of the provisions of the Law No 3473 dated 28/9/1988.
- (2) The forms to be used in the works shall be prepared by the Turkish Statistical Institute in conjunction with the General Directorate. The records related to the questions added to the forms by the Turkish Statistical Institute with statistical purposes shall be evaluated within the framework of the provisions of the Turkish Statistics Law.
- (3) The field work to be carried out by the Turkish Statistical Institute shall be executed according to the provisions on census and research of the Law No 5429. The relevant institutions may purchase products and services for the execution of the works and acts mentioned in this Article. Regarding the works within the scope of this Article, the provisions of the Public Procurement Law No 4734 dated 4/1/2002 and the Law No 5018 shall not apply, except for the punishment and bid ban provisions. Principles and procedures for product and service purchases conducted within this scope shall be established by the Cabinet of Ministers according to the requirements of the service in line with the principles of transparency, competition, equal treatment, reliability, public control, suitable terms and timeliness, and effective use of resources.
- (4) The principles and procedures related to the execution of sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph one of this Article shall be established by a regulation.

TRANSITIONAL ARTICLE 3- (1) The provision of Article 68 of this Law shall not apply to those who, within the execution period of Transitional Article 2 of this Law, have reported civil status events after the period prescribed in the civil registration legislation and to those who have lost their identity cards and international family booklets.

TRANSITIONAL ARTICLE 4- (1) Provincial administrations and municipalities which could not be connected to the national address database within the period prescribed by this Law shall determine the local addresses information and monitor their up-to-dateness, and shall sent this information in electronic format to the civil registration offices in order to be entered in the national address database.

TRANSITIONAL ARTICLE 5- (1) For the transfer to the father's section of records of children, entered under the mother's section by virtue of declaration of recognition or paternity decision prior to the entry into force of this Law, the presence of one of the parents, if the child is in the age of majority, the presence of the child shall be required.

Entry into force

ARTICLE 74- (1) This Law shall enter into force on the date of its publication.

Enforcement

ARTICLE 75- (1) The provisions of this Law shall be carried out by the Cabinet of Ministers.