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Vietnam: Birth registration and Vietnamese birth certificates

Introduction

The following note describes the registration and issuance procedure for Vietnamese birth certificates. The note further describes the technical specifications for the current format of the Vietnamese birth certificate.

The note is based on information obtained during fact-finding missions to Vietnam in January 2019 and April 2023 and open source information.

Birth registrations and issuance of certificates

Civil registrations are regulated by the Law on Civil Status of 2014.¹

Parents must register the birth of their child online or at the local People's Committee where at least one of them resides within 60 days after the birth.² According to the civil status law, the applicant must fill in a birth registration form and submit it along with a hospital note confirming the birth (birth certification paper). In case there is no birth certification paper, two witnesses must testify the birth. If there are no witnesses, there must be a written pledge for the birth.³ The same rules apply when registering a birth online.⁴ Since mid-2022, all Vietnamese provinces and municipalities, have implemented the possibility for online birth registration.⁵

According to the Ministry of Justice, parents must provide their ID card information when registering a birth.⁶ If one parent is foreigner, a declaration of consent stating that the parents choose Vietnamese nationality for the child is required. The parents' written decision of choosing the Vietnamese citizenship should be signed and

¹ Landinfo, 9 November 2020, p. 15.

² Law on Civil Status, November 2014, Article 13 and 15; Vietnamese Ministry of Justice, Hanoi, April 2023.

³ Law on Civil Status, November 2014, Article 16; Vietnamese Ministry of Justice, Hanoi, April 2023.

⁴ Vietnamese Ministry of Justice, Hanoi, April 2023.

⁵ Vietnamese Ministry of Justice, Hanoi, April 2023.

⁶ Vietnamese Ministry of Justice, Hanoi, January 2019.

handed in to the authority issuing the birth certificate before a birth certificate can be issued.⁷

It is possible for parents to send a proxy to receive the birth certificate.⁸ The chairpersons of the commune-level within the People's Committees will issue the birth certificates to the registrant(s).⁹

The personal ID number has been added to birth certificates since 2016. The personal ID number consists of 12 digits and is managed by the Ministry of Public Security. For more information on the Vietnamese ID number see the NIDC note "*Vietnam - Administrative structure and ID number*".

According to the law on civil status, a child born within Vietnam to one foreign parent or one Vietnamese parent residing abroad shall be registered at the district level and not at the People's Committee level. In case a child is born abroad to at least one Vietnamese parent, the child may be registered in Vietnam also at the district level.¹⁰ However, the Ministry of Justice explained, that birth registration and issuance of certificates can be done from embassies abroad.¹¹

There is no penalty for late registration. However, there is a limited fee when registering after 60 days on approximately 10,000 VND. Registration before 60 days is free of charge.¹²

The original birth certificate is issued only once and there is no possibility of reissuance of the original certificate. However, copies can be issued on demand.¹³

Technical specifications of the Vietnamese birth certificate

According to the Vietnamese Ministry of Justice, a uniform format of the birth certificate was introduced for nationwide usage in 2016. The overall appearance of the document referred to by the Vietnamese Ministry of Justice as the uniform format is a blue and green pattern printed on normal paper. The certificate fluoresces with a bluish colour under UV light and contains no watermarks.¹⁴

⁷ Vietnamese Ministry of Justice, Hanoi, April 2023; Law on Vietnamese Nationality [Viet Nam], No. 24/2008/QH12, 13 November 2008.

⁸ Vietnamese Ministry of Justice, Hanoi, April 2023.

⁹ Law on Civil Status, November 2014, Article 16.

¹⁰ Law on Civil Status, November 2014, Article 35.

¹¹ Vietnamese Ministry of Justice, Hanoi, April 2023.

¹² Vietnamese Ministry of Justice, Hanoi, April 2023.

¹³ Vietnamese Ministry of Justice, Hanoi, April 2023.

¹⁴ Vietnamese Ministry of Justice, Hanoi, January 2019. Vietnamese Ministry of Justice, Hanoi, April 2023.

CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM
Độc lập - Tự do - Hạnh phúc

Số:.....



GIẤY KHAI SINH

Họ, chữ đệm, tên:

Ngày, tháng, năm sinh: ghi bằng chữ:

Giới tính: Dân tộc: Quốc tịch:

Nơi sinh:

Quê quán:

Số định danh cá nhân:

Họ, chữ đệm, tên người mẹ:

Năm sinh: Dân tộc: Quốc tịch:

Nơi cư trú:

Họ, chữ đệm, tên người cha:

Năm sinh: Dân tộc: Quốc tịch:

Nơi cư trú:

Họ, chữ đệm, tên người đi khai sinh:

Giấy tờ tùy thân:

Nơi đăng ký khai sinh:

Ngày, tháng, năm đăng ký:

NGƯỜI KÝ GIẤY KHAI SINH
(Ký, ghi rõ họ, chữ đệm, tên, chức vụ và đóng dấu)



Image 1: The front side of the 2016 Vietnamese birth certificate (NIDC reference material).

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