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China: Birth certificates and proof of birth

Introduction

The following note describes the two versions of Chinese birth certificates: the medical certificate of birth (*chusheng yixue zhengming*) and the notarial certificate of birth.¹

Medical certificate of birth

According to the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, the green official birth certificate was introduced throughout China in 1996, and is regulated under the law on Maternal and Infant Health Care.² The certificate is issued by the Ministry of Health at the hospital where the birth takes place.³

This document is the official birth certificate accepted by the Public Security Bureau as medical evidence for household registration, as well as evidence for the granting of citizenship.⁴

Notarial certificate of birth

The notarial certificate of birth is a document produced at the applicant's request by a local notary public office (公证处) issued by the Notary Public (公证员).⁵ Typically, a notarial certificate of birth will state the applicant's name, date of birth, place of birth and parents' names, together with the name of the notary and place and date of notarisation.⁶ Furthermore, according to the China-based immigration law firm, Chodorow Law Offices, a notarial certificate of birth usually contains a watermark, seal, and red ink stamp.⁷ In most cases, the Chinese language version will be accompanied by an English language translation.⁸

¹ Lawyers China, 16 October 2018.

² Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 8 July 2010, pp. 1-2.

³ Landinfo, 8 January 2015, p. 13.

⁴ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 8 July 2010, pp. 1-2; Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 26 January 2018, pp. 1-2; Landinfo, 8 January 2015, pp. 13-14.

⁵ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 8 July 2010, pp. 1-2; Chodorow Immigration Law, 22 May 2019.

⁶ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 8 July 2010, pp. 1-2.

⁷ Chodorow Immigration Law, 22 May 2019.

⁸ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 8 July 2010, pp. 1-2.

Access to original birth records

According to the Canadian Embassy in Beijing, there is no standardised official birth certificate for Chinese citizens born prior to 1996 and official birth records may be difficult to obtain.⁹

Notarised copies of original birth records

A notarised birth certificate copy is a document including a photocopy of the official medical birth certificate, together with an attestation by the notary that the copy is a true copy of the official birth certificate. An English language translation will also be included. According to the website of the diplomatic missions of the Netherlands in China, Chinese citizens born after 1 March 1996 are able to have certified true copies of their medical birth certificates legalised by the Dutch authorities, whereas Chinese citizens born prior to this date are unable to submit this document for legalisation.¹⁰

⁹ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 8 July 2010, pp. 1-2.

¹⁰ The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, year of issue n/a.

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