Birth registration in South Africa is a legal right. Accessing it in reality can be difficult, especially for children born to non-South African parents. The Department of Home Affairs issues only unabridged or long birth certificates. This birth certificate includes the child's date and place of birth, name, and the parents' names, birth date, and place of birth. It can be obtained in person or by post. Children who do not qualify for citizenship are issued a certificate that does not include an ID number, and the child is not entered onto the National Population Register.

WHAT IS BIRTH REGISTRATION?

Birth registration is the registration of a person's birth. It includes the recording of the date and place of birth, the child's name, and the names of the parents. This is done by a branch of a government or state. Normally, this is done at a local registration office. Birth registration is required by law, and it is a way to prove a person's identity and nationality. Without a birth certificate, there is no way to prove a child's nationality, and statelessness.

WHAT DOES A BIRTH CERTIFICATE LOOK LIKE IN SOUTH AFRICA?

Birth certificates in South Africa are issued by the Department of Home Affairs. They come in two forms: an unabridged birth certificate and a long birth certificate. An unabridged birth certificate is a complete record of the child's birth, including the date, place of birth, name, and parents' names. A long birth certificate is an excerpt from the child's medical record.

WHAT IS THE RIGHT TO NATIONALITY?

The right to nationality is a fundamental human right that allows a person to have a national identity. Every child has the right to a name, the right to acquire a nationality, and the right to access services such as education, health, and social security. Children born in South Africa are automatically citizens of the country unless they are born in a non-South African asylum office or detention center. Children born in South Africa who do not qualify for citizenship are entitled to a birth certificate under this Act.

WHAT DO SOUTH AFRICAN LAWS SAY ABOUT BIRTH REGISTRATION?

In South Africa, any birth that is not registered after thirty days is considered a Late Registration of Birth. There are several extra requirements in addition to those needed for a birth certificate. This birth certificate includes the child's date and place of birth, name, and the parents' names, birth date, and place of birth. It can be obtained in person or by post. Children who do not qualify for citizenship are issued a certificate that does not include an ID number, and the child is not entered onto the National Population Register.

WHAT IS A LATE REGISTRATION OF BIRTH?

A Late Registration of Birth is a birth that is registered after thirty days of the child's birth. In South Africa, any birth that is not registered after thirty days is considered a Late Registration of Birth. There are several extra requirements in addition to those needed for a birth certificate. This birth certificate includes the child's date and place of birth, name, and the parents' names, birth date, and place of birth. It can be obtained in person or by post. Children who do not qualify for citizenship are issued a certificate that does not include an ID number, and the child is not entered onto the National Population Register.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I CAN'T FIND THE BIRTH RECORD?

If you cannot find the birth record of a child born in South Africa, you can request a birth certificate. To request a birth certificate, you will need to provide proof of identity, such as a passport or driver's license, and proof of residence in South Africa. You can also request a birth certificate for a child born outside of South Africa. To request a birth certificate for a child born outside of South Africa, you will need to provide proof of identity and proof of the child's birth.

WHAT DO INTERNATIONAL LAWS SAY ABOUT BIRTH REGISTRATION?

Birth registration is a fundamental human right. Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall be given a name. This is a way to ensure that children are recognized as members of society and have access to their human rights.

WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO BIRTH REGISTRATION

There are several barriers to birth registration in South Africa. First, the process can be complex and difficult, especially for non-South African parents. Second, the process can be time-consuming and expensive. Third, the process can be discriminatory, as children born to non-South African parents may face barriers to accessing birth registration.

WHAT ARE THE RIGHTS OF A CHILD?

Every child has the right to a name, the right to acquire a nationality, and the right to access services such as education, health, and social security. Children born in South Africa are automatically citizens of the country unless they are born in a non-South African asylum office or detention center. Children born in South Africa who do not qualify for citizenship are entitled to a birth certificate under this Act.

WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO BIRTH REGISTRATION

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I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS. WHO CAN I ASK?

For more information about birth registration in South Africa, you can contact one of the following organizations:

- Lawyers for Human Rights
- The Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town
- The Department of Home Affairs
- The National Population Register
- The National Health Laboratory Service
- The National Centre for Birth Registration
- The South African Red Cross Society
- The South African Health Informatics Association

Visit the website www.genderjustice.org.za/explainers for more information on birth registration.

WWW.SCALABRINI.ORG.ZA
WWW.GENDERJUSTICE.ORG.ZA