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| 2 December 2019 | 45 Pipitea Street, Wellington 6011  Phone +64 4 495 7200  [dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz) |
| D J Blair  fyi-request-11416-c922b03c@requests.fyi.org.nz |

Dear D J Blair

OIA request 19/20 0370 Request for information on birth certificates

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 4 November 2019.

You requested –

1. *Why is ASL (all upper case names) used on government documents when the styles manuals are clear about it? The “GLOSSA” is the all uppercase LATIN-TEXT appearing on any document. It is not English, it is an illustrative text (Picture-Symbol) and not a descriptive text such as English. It has no jurisdiction with other written text such as English Descriptive Text unless agreed. It is a deception, is it not? Blacks law dictionary describes it as dog-latin, language of the illiterate, debased and criminal.Immoral.*
2. *Why is the childs name entered onto the printout as stillborn?*
3. *Is a cestui que trust set up in the name on the birth certificate?*
4. *Why does the birth certificate have a warning: This certificate is not evidence of the identity of the person presenting it?*
5. *If it is not evidence of identity why is it the required document by banks to open an account?*
6. *If this BC is not evidence of my living identity is it evidence of a corporate fiction?*

In response to your request I can provide you with the following information.

1. Why is ASL (all upper case names) used on government documents when the styles manuals are clear about it? The “GLOSSA” is the all uppercase LATIN-TEXT appearing on any document. It is not English, it is an illustrative text (Picture-Symbol) and not a descriptive text such as English. It has no jurisdiction with other written text such as English Descriptive Text unless agreed. It is a deception, is it not? Blacks law dictionary describes it as dog-latin, language of the illiterate, debased and criminal.Immoral.

The Department is aware of false theories that have appeared on the internet linking birth certificates and capitalization of names to corporations, trusts and other financial institutions. These claims aren’t true and the Department fulfils its obligations under the Births, Deaths, marriages and Relationships Registration Act 1995.

The Department does use capitalisation of names in New Zealand passports as this aligns with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards for machine readable travel documents (ICAO Doc 9303 Machine Readable Travel Documents, Seventh Edition, 2015, Part 3: Specifications Common to all MRTDs, Section 3.4 Convention for Writing the Name of the Holder). Other documents, including birth certificates have the standard formatting of upper case only for first letters of names.

1. Why is the childs name entered onto the printout as stillborn?

A child’s name is never entered into the birth registrations system when the child is stillborn. The reference to a stillbirth is another field in the system which simply indicates whether it was a live birth or stillbirth.

1. Is a cestui que trust set up in the name on the birth certificate?

Birth certificates have no links to corporations, the banking sector or financial institutions.

1. Why does the birth certificate have a warning: This certificate is not evidence of the identity of the person presenting it?

A birth certificate is confirmation of the information held by the Department, not a form of identification. As a public record, a birth certificate can be ordered by anyone. This creates a potential issue for using the birth certificate as evidence of identity of the person presenting it. It does not contain a photographic likeness of the individual, which means there is no link to the individual presenting the birth certificate.

1. If it is not evidence of identity why is it the required document by banks to open an account?

The Department does not prescribe a particular identification process to any individual bank in New Zealand, and notes there may be a difference in policy between individual banks. The particular documentation required to open an account is a business decision for each bank to make, a birth certificate may or may not be used as part of this.

The Department, along with the Reserve Bank and Financial Markets Authority has issued the ‘Identity verification code of practice’ (IVCOP) that provides a suggested best practice for conducting name and date of birth identity verification on customers. The New Zealand birth certificate features in IVCOP as a form of primary non-photographic identification, to be used in conjunction with a supporting form of photographic identification. This inclusion may explain why banks have decided to use a birth certificate as a form of documentation for the account opening process.

1. If this BC is not evidence of my living identity is it evidence of a corporate fiction?

The birth certificate is evidence of a life event taking place; the birth of a child. It details where and when the birth occurred and who the parents are. It is not corporate fiction. A birth certificate can be used in conjunction with other documentation to establish your identity.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Clare Toufexis

Acting Manager Branch Development and Support

Service Delivery and Operations