

Chapter 3 annex A

Interpretation of the entries on a United Kingdom birth certificate

1. The following advice has been received from the General Register Office and its counterparts in Scotland and Northern Ireland:

2. England and Wales

The birth certificate of a child born in England and Wales on or after 1 January 1983 will show that the child is not of the marriage if:

- Box 4 of the certificate is blank
- Box 4 is completed and there are in Box 14 two signatures (i.e. of both mother and father)
- Box 4 is completed and there is in Box 14 one signature (i.e. of either parent) together with an additional note viz:
 - i. Statutory Declaration made by (either parent) on (date); or
 - ii. Pursuant to s.10(c) of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953; or
 - iii. Pursuant to s.10(1)(d) to (f) or s.10A(1)(a) to (g) of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

3. Scotland

The birth certificate of a child born in Scotland on or after 1 January 1983 will show that child to be illegitimate if:

- the birth certificate is a full and not an abbreviated birth certificate; and
- that certificate does not show the date and place of parents' marriage

4. Northern Ireland

The birth certificate of a child born in Northern Ireland on or after 1 January 1983 will show that child to be illegitimate if:

- Space 7 of the certificate is blank
- Space 7 is completed and there are in Space 15 two signatures (i.e. of both mother and father)
- Space 7 is completed and there is in Space 15 one signature (i.e. of mother) together with an additional note viz: Statutory Declaration made by (father) on (date)

5. For a birth on or after 1 January 1983 registered in the Channel Islands or Isle of Man, if there is doubt whether the birth certificate can be regarded as indicating that the birth was illegitimate, consideration should be given to seeking advice from the Constitutional and Community Policy Directorate.