

## Appendix to certificates issued by Registers Iceland.

For explanation only.

### National registry

The national registry system is the basic register of the Icelandic population. It provides current information about Icelandic citizens and foreign citizens who are or have been domiciled in Iceland. The national registration system is intended to meet society's need for basic information on population, i.e. information of identity (name, sex, birth place, personal identity no., nationality etc.), family relationships (marital status, children etc.), domicile and place of abode (residential address etc.), of people who are or have been resident in Iceland. All individuals that are resident in Iceland longer than 6 months must be registered in the national registry. Majority of the registered particulars in the national registry are by law sent to Register Iceland from other governmental authorities within Iceland, for example information about birth, death, marriage, divorce, custody of children etc. A person is obliged to report certain particulars for inclusion in the national registry such as changes of domicile, name of children, changes of names, registration of cohabitation and etc. Registers Iceland can't certify changes in person's registration particulars in cases where the person is living abroad and has not informed Registers Iceland about those certain changes.

### Icelandic alphabet

Generally, Icelandic shall be written with Icelandic letters. If this is not supported by the available facilities, the following table shall be used as guidance for fallback notation for Icelandic characters.<sup>1</sup>

Original letter	Fallback notation
Á - á	A - a
Ð - ð	D - d
É - é	E - e
Í - í	I - i
Ó - ó	O - o
Ú - ú	U - u
Ý - ý	Y - y
Þ - þ	Th - th
Æ - æ	Ae - ae
Ö - ö	O - o

### Icelandic surnames

In Icelandic, names are spelled with the full given name; the initial is not used, and given names are always written ahead of surnames. Example: Helgi Jónsson but not H. Jónsson and never Jónsson, Helgi.<sup>1</sup>

Upon request, Register Iceland may issue a certificate that indicates surname with capital letters. Example: Helgi JÓNSSON

According to the Icelandic Personal Names Act, No. 45/1996, surnames are of two types: patronymic or metronymic and family surnames. All persons bear a patronymic or metronymic surname unless they have the right to bear a family surname and choose to do so. It is furthermore permitted to bear both a patronymic and a metronymic surname and to bear a family surname, when one has right to do so.

Patronymic or metronymic surnames are formed as follows: after a person's forename or forenames, and family name, as appropriate, stands the name of his or her father or mother, in genitive case, with the suffix *son* in the case of a man or *dóttir* in the case of a woman.

Example: Jónsson and Jónsdóttir, son and daughter of Jón (male); or Guðrúnarson and Guðrúnardóttir, son and daughter of Guðrún (female)

The right to bear a family name is recognised for those who according to the National Registry bore a family surname on the date of commencement of the Icelandic Personal Names Act, No. 45/1996, or who bore a family surname during the period of validity of Act No. 37/1991. The same applies to his or her descendants, in both the male and female lines.

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**Icelandic surnames cont.**

A child whose paternity has not been established shall carry his/her metronymic surname or his/her Mother's family name until a legal recognition of the child's paternity has been obtained in accordance with the Icelandic Children's Welfare Act, No. 76/2003. When a child's paternity has been established, the child's surname is determined by his/her custodian(s). A child whose paternity has not been established may also bear a surname based on his/her grandfather's name.

**Explanation of marital status in the national register***Unmarried (ógift(-ur))*

A person who is registered as unmarried, is considered as never having married according to the records of Registers Iceland. A person, registered as unmarried is entitled to marry according to Icelandic law, if other conditions according to law are fulfilled.

*Married (gift (-ur))*

A person who is registered as married, is considered as being married according to Icelandic law.

*Widow/widower (ekkja/ekkill)*

A person who is registered as widow or widower, is a person who has been married and the spouse is deceased. A person, registered as widow or widower is entitled to marry according to Icelandic law, if other conditions according to law are fulfilled.

*Separated (Skilin (-n) að borði og sæng)*

A person who is registered as separated, is considered as being in the process of gaining a full legal divorce. A person, registered as separated is not entitled to marry according to Icelandic law.

*Divorced (lögskilin (-n))*

A person who is registered as divorced, means that the person has gained a full legal divorce. A person, registered as divorced is entitled to marry according to Icelandic law, if other conditions according to law are fulfilled.

*Registered cohabitation (Skráð sambúð)*

Registered cohabitation is not a marital status. It is a legal status of two persons who are living together with a joint household. A person that is registered as in registered cohabitation with another person can also be registered as unmarried, widow/widower and divorced but not married to another person nor separated.

**Identification number - Kennitala**

In Iceland, persons and enterprises are issued a unique identification number which is recorded in the National Register and Register of Enterprises. ID numbers are composed of ten digits.

For a personal ID number, the first six of these are the individual's date of birth in the format DDMMYY. The seventh and eighth digits are randomly chosen when the ID number is allocated, the ninth is a check digit (modulus (11)) and the tenth indicates the century of the individual's birth: '9' for 1900–1999, '0' for 2000 and beyond. ID numbers are often written with a hyphen following the first six digits, e.g. 120174-3389.<sup>1</sup>