

At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on Wednesday the first day of July, 1761, and in the first year of His Majesty's Reign.

1 George III – Chapter 4

An Act for the registering of Marriages, Births and Deaths.

For preventing of great uncertainty and inconvenience, that may happen for want of a register of marriages, births and deaths.

Be it enacted, by the Honourable the Commander in Chief, Council and Assembly, that in every township within this Province, where no parish shall be established, the proprietors clerks, who are hereby appointed registers of marriages, births and deaths, in their respective townships, and who are, hereby impowered and required, to take an account of all persons that shall be married, or that shall be born or shall die, within each township respectively, and fairly to register in a book their names and surnames, as also the names and surnames of their parents, with the time of their being married, or of their birth and death; and the register shall demand and receive the fee of six pence, and no more, for each and every registry by him so entered, to be paid by the persons who shall be married, and by the parents or others nearest of kin to, or concerned with the party born or dying. And if any shall refuse or neglect to give notice to the said register, of the marriage by the persons themselves, or of the birth or death of any person that they are so related to or concerned for; or to pay for registering as aforesaid, within the space of thirty days next after such marriage, birth or death, every person so refusing or neglecting, and being (upon the complaint of any register) thereof convicted before one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace within the same county, shall forfeit and pay unto such register, the sum of five shillings; to be levied by distress and sale of the offenders goods, by warrant from such Justice, if payment be not made within four days next after conviction as aforesaid. And every such register shall give forth from the registry a fair certificate under his hand, of persons married, born, or dying in the township, to any who shall desire the same; and he shall receive one shilling and no more, for every certificate so given.

And be it also further enacted, that the registry so kept, shall be sufficient evidence in any Court of Record within this Province.