

Schedule 2: Writing Medical Certificates

Subject Matter	Brief summary of the privilege or duty	Legislative Provision
Registration of Births	A Registered Medical Practitioner must certify the medical facts concerned where an application is made for a father to be entered onto a birth certificate in circumstances where fertility treatment was commenced after the father's death.	Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 (Section 10ZA)
Registration of still-births	A still-birth may be registered if a certificate signed by a Registered Medical Practitioner who was present at the birth or examined the body of the child (or failing that a registered midwife) states the cause of the death and the estimated duration of the pregnancy, to the best of the practitioner's knowledge and belief.	Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 (Section 11)
Certificates of cause of death	In the case of the death of any person who was attended to by a Registered Medical Practitioner during his last illness, that practitioner must sign and deliver to the registrar a certificate stating the cause of death, to the best of the practitioner's knowledge and belief.	Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 (Section 22)
Registered Pension Schemes	Upon a Registered Medical Practitioner signing an appropriate certificate, certain entitlements under registered pension schemes may fall due to the beneficiary, for example an entitlement to a serious ill-health lump sum.	Finance Act 2004
Gender recognition	An application for gender recognition must include either a report from two Registered Medical Practitioners (one of whom practices in the field of dysphoria) or a report by a chartered psychologist and a report by a Registered Medical Practitioner.	Gender Recognition Act 2004 (Section 1)
Storage of Embryos	The period for which embryos can be stored may be extended where, amongst other things, two Registered Medical Practitioner's certify that one of the relevant persons or the woman being treated has or is likely to become prematurely	Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos) 1996 (SI 1996/375)

	and completely infertile.	
Administration and Bankruptcy Law	An application that a witness is unfit to be examined in insolvency, bankruptcy or administration proceedings due to a physical affliction or disability must be supported by an affidavit from a Registered Medical Practitioner, save where the application is made by the official receiver.	Insolvency Rules 1986 (SI 1986/1925) PPP Administration Order Rule 2007 (SI 2007/3141) Railways Administration Order Rules 2001 (SI 2001/3352)
Council tax	Severely mentally impaired individuals may be excused from the payment of council tax where such impairment is certified by a Registered Medical Practitioner.	Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Section 75)
Marriages and civil partnerships	Marriages may be solemnised in a venue other than a registered building or approved premises if the person to be married is seriously and terminally ill or housebound; such facts may be evidenced by a certificate from a Registered Medical Practitioner. Similarly, a couple may register their civil partnership at a place where one of them is house-bound if supported by a certificate by a Registered Medical Practitioner. Furthermore, there is a special procedure where one of the proposed civil partners is seriously and terminally ill; a certificate of a Registered Medical Practitioner is sufficient evidence to prove the proposed civil partner is seriously and terminally ill.	Marriage (Registrar's General Licence) Act 1970 (Section 3) Marriage Act 1949 (Section 27A) Civil Partnerships Act 2004 (Sections 18 and 22)
Maternity leave and anti-natal care	An employee has the right to maternity leave and time off for anti-natal care, but the employer may ask her to provide a certificate from a Registered Medical Practitioner, registered midwife or registered nurse evidencing the pregnancy.	Maternity and Parental Leave, etc Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/3312) Employment Rights Act 1996 (Section 55)
Proxy vote by reason of blindness or other disability	Registered Medical Practitioners are one of a number of classes of person who may attest and sign an application for a proxy vote based on blindness or other disability.	Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1741) Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/341) Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001 (SSI 2001/497) Representation of the People (Absent Voting

		at Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/170) National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) Order 2007 (SI 2007/236) Scottish Parliament (Election etc) Order 2007 (SSI 2007/937) European Parliamentary Elections (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1267) European Parliamentary Elections Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/293)
Assistance to vulnerable persons in relation to their water bills	An application for contributions and assistance with water bills may be refused if it is not supported by a certificate from a Registered Medical Practitioner.	Water Industry (Charges) (Vulnerable Groups) Regulations 1999/3441