

L.N. 134 of 1967

THE MIDWIVES DECREE 1966  
(1966 No. 79)

**The Midwives Decree 1966 (Commencement) Order 1967**

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 26 (2) of the Midwives Decree 1966, and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Federal Executive Council hereby makes the following order :—

- |                                                                                        |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. The Midwives Decree 1966 shall come into operation on 1st January 1968.             | Commence-<br>ment.<br>1966 No. 79. |
| 2. This Order may be cited as the Midwives Decree 1966 (Commence-<br>ment) Order 1967. | Citation.                          |

MADE at Lagos this 11th day of October 1967.

A. TATARI ALI,  
*Permanent Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Health*

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L.N. 136 of 1967

# THE MIDWIVES DECREE 1966 (1966 No. 79)

## The Midwives Regulations 1967

*Commencement : 1st January 1968*

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 18 of the Midwives Decree 1966, and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Federal Executive Council has made the following regulations :—

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Midwives Regulations 1967 and shall apply throughout Nigeria.

(2) These regulations shall come into operation on 1st January 1968.

(3) The Midwives Rules and the Midwives (Amendment) Rules 1962 are hereby revoked.

2. In these regulations—

“approved” means approved by the board ;

“Decree” means the Midwives Decree 1966 ;

“functions” includes powers and duties ;

“supervisory authority” means a supervisory authority appointed under section 13 of the Decree.

### *The Midwives Board*

3.—(1) A person who is a member of the board otherwise than by virtue of occupation of a particular office shall, subject to the following provisions of this regulation, hold office for the period of three years beginning with the date of her appointment as a member.

(2) A nominated member shall vacate her office, notwithstanding that her term of office has not expired, if—

(a) she gives notice of her resignation to the board ; or

(b) the board gives notice to the Ministry stating that the member has—

(i) become incapable by reason of mental or physical infirmity of discharging her duties, or

(ii) been absent from two consecutive ordinary meetings of the board without the leave of the board ; or

(c) she is convicted by a court of record in Nigeria of an offence involving dishonesty and the conviction still stands at the time when no appeal or further appeal is pending or may (without extension of time) be brought in connection with the conviction.

(3) A member holding office by virtue of occupation of a particular office shall vacate her office as a member if she ceases to occupy the particular office outside the board.

(4) A person who has ceased to be a member of the board otherwise than by reason of infirmity or conviction, shall be eligible again to become a member.

(5) As soon as may be after a person ceases to hold office as a member but subject to the next succeeding subparagraph, the Federal Executive Council shall fill the vacancy from any list of names submitted by the board ; but the board shall not be deemed to be improperly constituted by reason only of the failure to nominate or appoint any particular member.

(6) Where a member of the board ceases to hold office before the date when her term of office would have expired by the effluxion of time, the body or person by whom she was appointed shall as soon as may be appoint a person to fill the vacancy for the residue of the term aforesaid so, however,

Citation,  
extent,  
commence-  
ment and  
revocation.  
Vol. IX of  
Laws of  
Nigeria etc.  
1958 P. 1412.  
LN 148 of  
1962.  
Interpre-  
tation.

Tenure of  
office of  
members of  
the board.

that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply where a person holding office as a member of the board ceases to hold office at a time when the residue of her term does not exceed six months.

**Powers of the board.**

4.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph and to any directions of the Federal Executive Council under the Decree, the board shall have power to do anything which in its own opinion is calculated to facilitate the carrying on of its activities.

(2) The board shall not have power to borrow money or to dispose of any property except with the prior consent of the Federal Executive Council, and shall not have power to pay remuneration (including pensions), allowances or expenses to any member, officer or servant of the board or to any other person except in accordance with scales approved by the aforesaid Council.

**Meetings and proceedings of the Board.  
1964 No. 1.**

5.—(1) The board shall ordinarily meet twice in each calendar year and at such other times as are hereafter provided in this regulation.

(2) Subject to the provisions of the Decree and of section 26 of the Interpretation Act 1964 (which provides for decisions of a body to be taken by a majority of the members of the body and for the chairman to have a second or casting vote) the board may make standing orders regarding the proceedings of the board or any committee thereof.

(3) No meeting of the board shall be held unless there are present at least three members from localities outside the Federal territory, and subject thereto the quorum of the board shall be five and the quorum of any committee of the board shall be determined by the board.

(4) The chairman shall preside at any meeting of the board, and if he is absent from Nigeria or is otherwise unable to act and the person discharging his function as chief medical adviser is for any reason unable to act, the Federal Executive Council may appoint a fit person to be temporary chairman of the board.

(5) Subject to the provisions of any standing order of the board, the board shall meet whenever it is summoned by the chairman; and if the chairman is required so to do by notice given to him by not less than one half of the members, he shall summon a meeting of the board to be held within seven days from the date on which the notice is given.

(6) Where the board desires to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the board may co-opt him as a member for such period as it thinks fits; but a member who is a member by virtue of this paragraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the board and shall not count towards a quorum.

(7) The first meeting of the board shall, notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this paragraph be summoned by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health who may give such directions as he thinks fit as to the procedure which shall be followed at that meeting.

(8) A minute book shall be kept by the secretary of the board for use at its meetings and proper entries shall be made therein of all business transacted.

**Committees of the board.**

6.—(1) The board may, in addition to any district committee provided under the Decree, appoint one or more committees to carry out, on behalf of the board for any part of Nigeria, such of its functions as the board may determine.

(2) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of the number of persons determined by the board and not more than one-third of those persons may be persons who are not members of the board; and a



person other than a member of the board shall hold office on the committee in accordance with the terms of the instrument by which he was appointed.

(3) Where a supervisory authority acts with a district committee when conducting a preliminary investigation, the quorum shall be fixed by the board.

(4) A decision of any committee appointed under this paragraph on matters of policy shall not have effect until it is confirmed by the board.

7.—(1) The fixing of the seal of the board shall be authenticated by the signature of the chairman or of some other member authorised generally or specially by the board to act for that purpose.

Authenti-  
cation of  
seal, etc.

(2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal may be made or executed on behalf of the board by any person generally or specially authorised to act for that purpose by the board.

8. The validity of any proceedings of the board or a committee thereof shall not be affected by any vacancy in the membership of the board or committee, or by any defect in the appointment of a member of the board or of a person to serve on the committee, or by reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.

Validity of  
proceedings.

9. Any member of the board, and any person holding office on a committee of the board, who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the board or a committee thereof shall forthwith disclose his interest to the board and shall not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement.

Disclosure  
of interest.

10. A person shall not, by reason only of his membership of the board, be treated as holding an office of emolument under the State.

Membership  
not to be  
office of  
emolument.

#### *District Committees*

11. A district committee established under section 16 of the Decree shall consist of—

Membership  
of district  
Committee.

(a) the chairman who shall be the professional head of the Ministry of Health in the area in which the district committee is established, or if he is absent from Nigeria or is otherwise unable to carry out the functions of chairman the person for the time being carrying out the functions of the professional head of that Ministry of Health :

(b) as members the following persons, namely—

(i) obstetrician/gynaecologist ?

(ii) the principal matron or other nursing officer of the highest rank, by whatever name called, in the area for which the district committee is established,

(iii) a midwife teacher,

(iv) four other persons to be appointed by the Federal Executive Council on the advice of the professional head of the Ministry of Health in the area in which the district committee is established, of whom two shall be nursing sisters serving under the voluntary agencies in that area, and one a Nigerian trained and registered midwife, and

(v) two other persons who are members of the midwifery profession who, if considered necessary for the proper working of the district committee, may be appointed as aforesaid.

Powers of district committee.

12. Subject to any general specific directions by the board the powers of a district committee shall be—

- (a) to conduct enquiries on behalf of the board within the area for which the committee is established, and from time to time to make recommendations to and advise the board on any matters which come to its notice, and
- (b) to perform such other functions as the board may prescribe subject to the directions of the board.

Procedure of district committee.

13.—(1) The procedure at meetings of a district committee shall be such as the board may prescribe by directions issued for that purpose but subject to such directions a district committee may determine its own procedure.

(2) The chairman or other member presiding at a meeting of a district committee and five other members shall form a quorum at that meeting.

Servants of a district committee.

14. Subject to any general or specific directions of the board, a district committee may employ such persons as it may deem necessary for carrying out its functions under these regulations on such terms as to remuneration as the board may authorise.

*Certificates entitling Registration after Training and Examination*

Power of board to grant certificates.

15. The board may grant a certificate authorising the registration of the holder thereof as a midwife in respect of the Federation of Nigeria.

Qualifications of candidates for training.

16. No person shall be accepted as a candidate for training unless she holds educational qualifications which are satisfactory to the board.

Register of midwives in training.

17.—(1) The secretary of the board shall keep in her possession a register of midwives in training.

(2) The application for registration in the said register shall be as in Form 1 of the Schedule to these regulations.

Conditions of grant of certificates authorising registration for the Federation of Nigeria.

18.—(1) No person shall be admitted to the examination for the certificate granted by the board authorising registration in respect of the Federation of Nigeria unless she produces—

- (a) a certificate of character as in Form 2 of the Schedule, and

- (b) a certificate as in Form 3 of the Schedule indicating *inter alia* that she has undergone a course of training in one or more approved training schools in midwifery for the period specified by the board for her particular category and comprising instruction in the theory and practice according to the approved syllabus.

(2) In the event of the absence, for whatever cause, of any pupil from the course of training referred to in sub-paragraph (b) above for a period exceeding thirty days in one year, the period of such absence shall be made up in full by the pupil concerned and the facts of the case seconded in the certificate mentioned in the said sub-paragraph (b).

Pupils to keep records.

19.—(1) Every pupil undergoing a course of training in one or more approved training schools shall keep careful and detailed records in such form as the board may from time to time prescribe of all the work done and training received during the course.

(2) The records kept by a pupil under this regulation shall include full notes on mother and child.

(3) All such records shall be signed by a teacher or other authority as the board may require.

20.—(1) The notice of entry for an examination shall be submitted to the secretary of the board by the superintendent of the training school to which the candidate for examination is or has been attached.

Provisions  
as to entry  
for examina-  
tions.

(2) The notice of entry must be received by the secretary of the board not later than eight weeks before the date fixed for the examination and must be accompanied by the certificates required by these regulations and an entrance fee of two pounds or of such other amount as the board may direct.

(3) Until the said certificates and fee have been received by the secretary and accepted by the board the entry for the examination will not be deemed to be complete.

(4) Every candidate appearing for the examination must produce to the invigilator—

(a) an entrance card, a passport photograph taken in the pupil midwives uniform endorsed by the tutor and attached to the case book.

(5) The entrance fee of two pounds shall be payable in respect of every re-entry for the examination, but should a candidate be prevented from sitting for the examination after payment of the entrance fee, the board may, in its discretion, allow the candidate to sit at the next examination without payment of any additional entrance fee.

21. The standard to be attained in any examination for any certificate of the board shall be in accordance with the decisions in that behalf of the board.

Standard  
required for  
examina-  
tions.

22.—(1) A candidate who attains the required standard in the examination shall on application to the board and, on payment of a fee of two guineas receive a certificate as in Form 4 of the Schedule (or to the like effect) of having passed the examination and of entitlement to practise as a midwife in accordance with the terms of the certificate.

Grant of  
certificate  
and  
registration.

(2) A candidate who receives a certificate under paragraph (1) of this regulation of having passed the examination and of entitlement to practise as a midwife may make an application as in Form 5 of the Schedule for registration in the register of midwives and shall, on payment of a fee of two guineas, be registered in the said register in respect of the Federation of Nigeria.

(3) The certificate of registration issued by the board under paragraph (2) or (5) of this regulation shall be as in Form 6 of the Schedule.

(4) Save as provided in paragraph (5) of this regulation, the application of a person applying for registration as a midwife under section 10 (1) (a) and (b) of the Decree shall be as in Form 5 of the Schedule.

(5) The application of a person for registration as a midwife who claims to have been qualified outside Nigeria but is not registered under section 10 (1) (a) and (b) of the Decree shall be as in Form 7 of the Schedule and shall be accompanied by the documents specified in the application.

23.—(1) A pupil midwife who fails to enter for an examination within a period of one year from the date on which she completed her midwifery training may be called upon to undergo such further training as the board may decide before presenting herself for examination.

Failure to  
enter for  
or pass  
examination.



(2) A pupil midwife who has failed one examination of the board and has not succeeded in passing the examination immediately following that, at which she has failed may be called upon to undergo such further training as the board may decide before again presenting herself for examination.

Break in training.

24.—(1) The absence of a pupil midwife from training for whatever cause for a period exceeding three months in a year will be regarded as a break in training.

(2) In the case of a pupil midwife who has completed a full year of her training before having a break in training she will be expected to complete a second period of training of one year only.

(3) In the case of a pupil midwife who had not completed one year of training before having a break in training, she would be required to start the course afresh.

Candidate convicted of crime or misconduct to be refused entry to examination.

25. Should it come to the knowledge of the board that a candidate for entry to any of the board's examinations has been—

(a) convicted of a felony or misdemeanour, or

(b) guilty of conduct which, had she been a registered midwife, would in the opinion of the board have rendered her liable to disciplinary action under these regulations,

the board may, after giving the candidate the opportunity of stating her case and making such other reasonable investigations as may be necessary, refuse to admit her to the examination.

#### *Procedure on Removal of a Name from Register*

Report of malpractice.

26. When it is reported to or otherwise brought to the notice of the board that a midwife has been guilty of malpractice, negligence, or misconduct, or of contravening any regulation made under the Decree, or has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanour or of any offence against the Decree, the board shall, if it thinks it desirable so to do, cause enquiries to be made into the circumstances.

Meeting of board to investigate charges.

27.—(1) If, after considering the facts brought to its notice and the result of any enquiries made, the board decides that such a case in its opinion has been made out as to require an answer from the accused person, the secretary shall notify the accused person of the nature and particulars of the charge alleged against her and shall inform her of the time and place of the meeting of the board at which the enquiry will be held for the purpose of investigating such charges, and further that she may, if she so desires, be present at the enquiry, for the purpose of answering the charges.

(2) The board may, if it thinks fit, suspend the accused person from practice while the allegation against her is being investigated.

Case to be stated to the board.

28.—(1) At the hearing of the case the secretary, or any other person appointed by the board for the purpose, shall first state to the board the facts of the case and the charge alleged against the accused person and shall then submit to the board the evidence which he has received in support of the charge.

(2) The accused person shall be entitled to cross-examine any witness appearing against her on matters relevant to the charge.

29. When the evidence in support of the charge and a statement by the person making the charge are concluded, the accused person if in attendance, shall be invited by the chairman to address the board, and to tender evidence in answer to the charge.

Accused invited to address the board.

30. If the accused person does not attend as required, the board may proceed to hear and decide upon the charge.

Power to hear charge in absence of accused.

31. Upon the conclusion of the whole case the board shall deliberate thereon, and shall after due consideration of all the relevant evidence on either side, whether oral or documentary, pronounce its decision either forthwith or at a subsequent meeting, within a period of not more than four weeks.

The board to pronounce its decision.

32. If the board finds the charges against the accused person to be proved either wholly or in part, it may censure or caution the accused person or may direct the secretary to remove the name of the accused person from the register and to cancel her certificate.

Conduct of board if charges proved.

33.—(1) The secretary shall communicate the decision of the board to the accused person and, if directed to remove her name from the register and cancel her certificate, shall notify her in writing, by registered letter, of the removal of her name from the register and of the cancellation of her certificate and call upon her to return the cancelled certificate.

Secretary to communicate decision of board to accused and the supervisory authority.

(2) The secretary shall also notify, by registered letter, the supervisory authority of the area in which the person found guilty resides of the decision of the board.

#### *Restoration to Register of Name Removed*

34.—(1) An application for restoration to the register of a name removed therefrom under these regulations shall be made in writing to the secretary by the applicant, stating the grounds on which the application is made.

Application for restoration of name to register.

(2) In the cases where the cancelled certificate has not been returned to the board, it must be sent in with the application, or a statutory declaration made of its previous loss or destruction.

35.—(1) The application must be accompanied by a statutory declaration made by the applicant, setting forth the facts of the case and stating that she is the person originally registered.

Documents to accompany application.

(2) The declaration shall be as in Form 8 of the Schedule.

(3) The statements in the application and declaration must also be supported by the certificates of at least two responsible persons, acceptable to the board, who were or are well acquainted with the applicant before and since the removal of her name from the register.

(4) The said certificates must each of them testify to the applicant's identity and present good character and they shall be as in Form 9 of the Schedule.

36.—(1) The application, duly supported by the declaration and certificates required by regulation 35, shall, subject as provided in paragraph (2) of this regulation, be considered by the board at the next meeting thereof held after receipt of the application and the said declaration and certificates.

Board to consider application.

(2) The board may adjourn the consideration of the application to a future date, or require further evidence or explanation from the applicant.

Decision of board to restore name to register.

Copy of rules to be supplied to applicant.

Power of board to restore name on recommendation of supervisory authority.

Supervisory authority.

Report of serious misconduct.

Register of cases.

Notification to district committee.

Midwife to interview patient.

37. If, after consideration of the application, the board decides that the name of the applicant shall be restored to the register, the board shall direct the secretary to restore the name to the register and to issue a new certificate of registration to her on payment of a fee of two guineas.

38. A copy of these rules relating to the restoration to the register of names removed therefrom and of the relevant forms in the Schedule shall be supplied by the secretary to intending applicants on demand.

39. In addition to its power under the foregoing provisions of these regulations to restore to the register the name of any midwife removed therefrom, the board may at any time, on the recommendation of the supervisory authority, restore such name to the register and on payment of a fee of two guineas issue a fresh certificate of registration to the midwife whose name is so restored.

### *Supervisory Authority and the Duties thereof*

40. A supervisory authority shall exercise general supervision over the midwives placed under its control, and shall suspend from practice any midwife when such suspension appears to it to be necessary to prevent the spread of infection, or necessary in any other respect for the welfare or safety of the public, and shall forthwith report such suspension to the board.

41. A supervisory authority shall report at once to the secretary of the district committee who shall inform the board of any instances of serious misconduct on the part of any registered midwife which may come to its notice, if satisfied that a *prima facie* case exists, also the name of any such midwife who is convicted of an offence, and may make such recommendations as it thinks fit with respect to the action to be taken against the midwife.

42.—(1) Every midwife shall keep a register in the form specified by the board containing records of the details of the progress of all cases attended by her (to be called the register of cases).

(2) Every register of cases shall be produced by the keeper thereof for inspection when called upon to do so by the supervisory authority.

### *Regulating, Supervising and Restricting within Due Limits the Practice of Midwives*

Regulations for midwives concerning their person, instruments, their duties to parent and child and their obligations with regard to disinfection, medical assistance, and notification.

43. A woman whose name is on the midwives register, is acting as a midwife, and is subject to these regulations shall notify the district committee of her intention to practise as a midwife under the Decree.

44.—(1) When engaged to deliver a patient the midwife must interview her patient at the earliest opportunity to inquire as to the course of present and previous pregnancies, confinements and puerperium, both as regards mother and child, and to advise as to personal and general arrangements for the confinement, and with the consent of the patient, visit the house where the patient is staying.

(2) The midwife should record in the register of cases the condition of the patient at each pre-natal visit to the house where the patient is staying.

45.—(1) The midwife must be scrupulously clean in every way, including her person, clothing, appliances and house. She must keep her nails cut short and preserve the skin of her hands as far as possible from cracks and abrasions.

Condition  
of midwife.

(2) When attending to her patient the midwife must wear a clean dress of washable material that can be boiled such as linen or cotton, and over it a clean washable apron or overall. The sleeves of the dress must be short and must end above the elbow.

46. If a practising midwife, or a midwife acting as a maternity nurse has been in contact with a person, whether or not a patient, suffering from any condition which is or may reasonably be suspected to be infectious, she must without delay notify the local supervisory authority or authorities of the fact using for the purpose a form as in Form 10 of the Schedule and before going to any maternity patient she must, unless the supervisory authority relieves her of the obligation carry out or allow to be carried out to the satisfaction of the local supervisory authority such measures of disinfection as that authority may prescribe.

Dis-  
infection.

47. A midwife must always have in her possession and take with her when called to a confinement, a metal case or bag or basket kept for professional purposes only, and furnished with a removable lining which can be disinfected, containing—

Appliances  
which  
midwife  
must  
possess.

Waterproof apron  
Mackintosh  
Wooden nail stick  
Soap  
Soap dish  
Sterile eye swabs  
Cotton wool swabs (sterile)  
1 dressing bowl (medium)  
1 dressing bowl (small)

Ergot preparation  
Nail brush  
Nail brush container  
Blunt scissors  
Sharp scissors  
Antiseptic lotion  
Antiseptic eye lotion  
Sterile cord ligatures  
Cord powder  
Sterile cord dressing

2 kidney dishes  
2 artery forceps  
2 catheters  
Medicine glass  
Clinical thermometer  
Lotion thermometer  
Pulsometer or watch  
with second hand  
Sphygmomanometer  
Masks  
Apparatus for giving enema  
Enema soap

Protargol 10%

Dettol  
Hibitane  
Anti-malarial drugs  
Bromide mixture or  
chloral mixture  
Authorised antispasmodic  
Drugs and analgesics  
Brandy 2 oz.

48. Before touching the generative organs or their neighbourhood, the midwife must on each occasion disinfect her hands and forearms.

Hands must  
be dis-  
infected.

49. All instruments and other appliances must be washed and disinfected, preferably by boiling, before being brought into contact with the patient's generative organs.

Instruments,  
etc. to be  
disinfected.



*Duties to Patients*

Duties etc.  
of midwife  
in charge  
of a case  
of labour.

50.—(1) A midwife in charge of a case of labour must comply with the provisions of this regulation.

(2) The midwife must not leave the patient without giving an address at which she can be reached without delay.

(3) After the commencement of the second stage of labour the midwife must stay with the patient until the expulsion of the placenta and membranes and for as long a time thereafter as may be necessary.

(4) In a case where the labour is abnormal, or there is threatened danger, the midwife shall send for a doctor or have a doctor sent for and she must await the arrival of the doctor and faithfully carry out his instructions.

(5) If for any reason when a doctor is sent for, the services of a registered medical practitioner are not available, the midwife must, if the case be one of emergency remain with the patient and do her best for her until the emergency is over.

(6) Having complied with the provisions of paragraph (4) (as to the summoning of medical assistance) of this regulation, the midwife shall not incur any legal liability by remaining on duty and doing the best she can for her patient if the services of a registered medical practitioner are not available.

(7) A midwife shall not, except in a case of grave emergency, undertake operative work or give treatment which is outside her province as a midwife.

(8) Where a midwife, in a case of grave emergency, undertakes such work or gives such treatment she shall forthwith inform the local supervisory authority.

(9) The question whether, in any particular instance, such work or treatment was justified will be judged on the facts and circumstances of the case.

Washing  
etc. of  
patient.

51.—(1) The midwife must wash the genital parts of the patient's body with soap and water and then swab them with an antiseptic lotion on the following occasions—

- (a) before making all internal examinations ;
- (b) after the termination of labour ;
- (c) before passing a catheter ; and
- (d) after bowel action.

(2) The swabbing with antiseptic lotion must be repeated before each further examination and before a douche is given, and for this purpose the midwife must use material which has been boiled or otherwise disinfected before use.

Internal  
examina-  
tions.

52. Internal examination during labour must be restricted to the absolute minimum.

Examination  
of placenta  
etc. before  
disposal.

53. The midwife in charge must in all cases of labour examine the placenta and membranes before the disposal thereof and must satisfy herself that they are completely removed.

Removal  
of soiled  
linen.

54. The midwife must remove soiled linen, blood, faeces, urine, placenta and membranes from the neighbourhood of the patient and from the puerperium room as soon as possible after the labour and in every case before she leaves the patient.



Responsibility of midwife for cleanliness etc. of mother.

55.—(1) The midwife shall personally supervise or advise on the cleanliness, comfort and proper dieting of the mother and child during the puerperium, and shall, within the lying-in period record the temperature, pulse, respiration, swabbing, home visits after labour twice daily for three days and then daily for two days.

(2) If after ceasing to attend a case the midwife subsequently attends a mother or child suffering from illness connected with the confinement, all directions contained in these regulations (in so far as they are appropriate to the case) shall apply.

56. In these regulations a case of normal labour means a labour in which none of the conditions exists which are specified in regulation 62 of these regulations as conditions in which medical help must be sent for.

Normal labour.

57.—(1) A practising midwife must keep records of her observations and treatments of her patient during pregnancy, labour and puerperium, using for such purposes either a form prescribed by the board or of an approved institution.

Records of pregnancy, labour and puerperium.

(2) A midwife must not destroy or arrange for the destruction of official records made while she is acting as a practising midwife or a maternity nurse and required to be kept by these regulations.

(3) Where the midwife finds it impossible or inconvenient to preserve such records as aforesaid, she must transfer them to the local supervisory authority.

58. The temperature of the patient must be taken by the mouth whenever possible.

Taking of patient's temperature.

#### *Duties to Child*

59. In the case of a child born apparently dead, the midwife must carry out the methods of resuscitation which have been taught her.

Application of resuscitation to child apparently born dead.

60. On the birth of a child which is in danger of death, the midwife shall inform one of the parents of the child's condition and any abnormality reported to the parent shall be recorded in the register of cases.

Child in danger of death.

61. The midwife must ensure that a child delivered by her is duly registered in the register of births kept by the Local Authority.

Registration of birth.

#### *Circumstances in which Medical help must be sent for*

62.—(1) In all cases of illness of the patient or child, or of any abnormality occurring during pregnancy, labour or puerperium a midwife must forthwith obtain the assistance of a registered medical practitioner if such is available.

When medical assistance to be obtained.

(2) The notice requesting medical aid shall be as in Form 11 of the Schedule.

63. The direction contained in regulation 62 shall be particularly obeyed in the following cases—

#### PREGNANCY

1. In the case of a pregnant woman, when there is any abnormality or complication, such as :—

Deformity or stunted growth,  
Loss of blood,  
Low Haemoglobin percentage anaemia,  
Abortion or threatened abortion,  
Excessive sickness,  
Albuminurea,  
Hypertension,  
Puffiness of hands or face,  
Fits or convulsions,  
Dangerous varicose veins,  
Purulent discharge,  
Sores of the genitals,  
Previous bad obstetrics history,  
General ill health.

#### LABOUR

2. In the case of a woman in labour at or near term, when there is any abnormality or complication, such as :—

Fits or convulsions,  
A purulent discharge,  
Sores of the genitals,  
A malpresentation,  
Presentation other than uncomplicated head or breech,  
Where no presentation can be made out,  
Where there is excessive bleeding,

Where there is abnormal delay in the first, second or third stages of labour in cases of rupture of the perinial body, or of other injuries of the soft parts. Maternal and foetal distress.

#### PUERPERIUM

3. In the case of a recently delivered woman, when there is any abnormality or complication which will include the following conditions :—

Fits or convulsions, urinary complications,  
Abdominal swelling and tenderness,  
Offensive lochia, if persistent,  
Rigor, with raised temperature,  
Rise of temperature to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit for forty-eight hours or its recurring within that period,  
Unusual swelling of the breasts with local tenderness or pain,  
Secondary post-partum haemorrhage,  
Thrombosis,  
White leg.

#### THE CHILD

4. In the case of the child, when there is any abnormality or complications, such as :—

Injuries received during birth,  
Any malformation or deformity crippling the child,  
Dangerous feebleness in a premature or full-term child,

Inflammation of, or discharge from the eyes, however slight,  
 Serious skin eruptions, especially those marked by the formation of  
 watery blisters,  
 Inflammation about, or haemorrhage from the navel,  
 Twitching and convulsions,  
 Abdominal distension,  
 Anaemia,  
 Vomiting,  
 Jaundice,  
 Gastro Enteritis.

64. A midwife shall at all times give every reasonable facility for a proper inspection of her register of cases, her bag of appliances and her residence by the local supervisory authority, and shall submit to and facilitate any investigation in her mode of practice.

Register  
of cases  
to be  
available  
for  
inspection.

65. Every midwife shall in her practice as such use the relevant Forms set out in the Schedule and such other forms as may from time to time be required by the board.

Use of  
forms.

66.—(1) The notice given by a midwife under section 10 of the Decree of her intention to practise, or to transfer her place of practise, shall be made in writing to the appropriate district committee as in Form 12 of the Schedule duly completed in duplicate, and signed by her.

Notice of  
intention to  
practise  
and of  
change of  
address,  
etc.

(2) The district committee shall in proper case, issue a permit to practise.

(3) A like notice of intention to practise in a particular area shall be given by the midwife in the month of January in every year during which she continues to practise in that area.

(4) When a midwife has not practised for five years prior to her notice of intention to practise, she must produce a certificate from a training institute recognised by the board stating that she has attended a course of instruction therein for a minimum period of three months.

67.—(1) Midwives working in rural areas and maternity homes should have refresher courses every three years in an approved training institution.

Refresher  
courses.

(2) All other practising midwives should have refresher courses once in five years in an approved midwifery training school.

#### General

68. A midwife shall note in her register of cases each occasion on which she is under the necessity of administering or applying in any way any drug other than a simple aperient, the name and dose of the drug, and the time and reason for its administration or application.

Administra-  
tion of drug  
to be  
noted in  
register  
of cases.

69.—(1) In the event of the loss of any certificate issued by the board to a midwife she shall report the loss of the certificate to the board who shall publish a notification of the loss in the *Gazette*.

Loss of  
certificate.

(2) If the certificate is not found within three months after the loss thereof the board shall cancel the certificate.

(3) The board may, in its absolute discretion, issue a new certificate in lieu of a cancelled certificate on payment of a fee of one pound.

70. The appointment of a supervisory authority under section 13 of the Decree shall be as in Form 13 of the Schedule.

Form of  
appoint-  
ment of  
supervisory  
authority.

## SCHEDULE

FORM 1

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF  
MIDWIVES-IN-TRAINING

Regulation 17 (2)

TO THE MIDWIVES BOARD OF NIGERIA

I, .....  
(Full Christian Names and Surnames)of .....  
(Full Postal Address)

..... (Single, married, widow or widower)

having been born at .....

on the ..... day of ..... 19.....  
hereby request the Midwives Board of Nigeria to enter my name in the  
Register of Midwives-in-Training maintained by the Board.

I forward herewith :—

1. A certified copy of my birth certificate or a statutory declaration of my birth by some persons fully cognisant of the facts.
2. A copy of my certificate of education, duly endorsed by the Ministry of Education.
3. A certificate of character from the Principal of the school where I received my education.
4. Two certificates of character from persons with personal knowledge of me for at least four years.
5. Certificate of admittance for training as a Midwife from the Principal of an approved Institution.

.....  
*Signature of Applicant*

This form may be amended according to the facts ; and, accompanied by two recent Passport Photographs, it shall be returned within 6 weeks of admission into Training School to the Secretary, Midwives Board of Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Health, Lagos.

FORM 2  
**CERTIFICATE OF CHARACTER**

Regulation 18 (1) (a)

I hereby certify that I have been personally acquainted with.....  
 ..... of .....  
 ..... (name) .....  
 for a period of ..... years and  
 that she is trustworthy, sober and otherwise of good character.

DATED this ..... day of .....

Name .....

Address .....

Position .....

Signature .....

FORM 3  
**CERTIFICATE OF HAVING ATTENDED  
 A COURSE OF LECTURES**

Regulation 18 (1) (b)

I hereby certify that.....  
 who has had the following training in Midwifery approved by the Board and  
 extending over a period of ..... at .....  
 ..... that she has attended to my satisfaction a course of  
 practical demonstrations and lectures as approved by the Board given by  
 ..... at .....  
 ..... that she has to my satisfaction attended and  
 watched the progress of no fewer than .....  
 labours, making the necessary examination during the course of labour and  
 personally delivered each patient, that she has nursed .....  
 lying—in women and their babies.

DATED this ..... day of ..... 19.....

Name .....

Address .....

Professional Qualification .....

Signature of Candidate .....

**N.B.**—Submit details either *a*, *b*, or *c* below as applicable.

(a) N.R.N.—1 year training—30 deliveries.

(b) Pupil Midwife direct entry of—2 years training—50 deliveries.

(c) S.R.N.—1 year training—30 deliveries.



## FORM 4

## CERTIFICATE OF ENTITLEMENT AS MIDWIFE

Regulation 22 (1)

No. ....

Grade A .....

## MIDWIVES BOARD OF NIGERIA

We the undersigned hereby certify on behalf of the Midwives Board of

Nigeria that.....

*(here insert name of person entitled)*

of.....in the.....State  
 having passed the examination prescribed by the Midwives Board of Nigeria,  
 is entitled to practise as a Midwife when duly registered hereafter under the  
 provisions of the Midwives Decree 1966, and Regulations made hereunder.

DATED at.....this.....day of.....19.....

Seal of  
Midwives Board

.....  
Chairman.....  
Secretary

## FORM 5

## APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS MIDWIFE

Regulation 22 (2)

To the Midwives Board of Nigeria

I, .....and  
*(Full Christian Names and Surname and if married, maiden name)*

of .....  
*(Full address and marital status, i.e., Single, Married or Widow)*

having been born at.....on the.....day of

.....19.....hereby request the Midwives  
 Board of Nigeria to enter my name on the Register.

1. I was trained at.....  
 passed the Qualifying Examination.....  
 place.....

2. I was trained at.....  
and am entered on the Register of the.....

My Registration Number is.....

I enclose herewith the prescribed registration fee of £2-2s-0d and hereby declare that the foregoing particulars are in every respect complete and true.

DATED at.....this.....day of.....19.....

.....  
*Signature of Applicant*

.....  
*Signature of Witness*

.....  
*Address of Witness*

.....  
*Occupation of Witness*

NOTE: *Surname of applicant is to be in block letters and delete any part not applicable.*

FORM 6

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AS MIDWIFE

Regulation 22 (3)

We hereby certify on behalf of the Midwives Board of Nigeria that

.....  
*(here insert name in full of person admitted)*

has been duly registered under number.....as a  
midwife and that her name was entered in the Register of Midwives on  
the.....day of.....19.....

DATED at.....this.....day of.....19.....

Seal of  
Midwives Board

.....  
*Chairman of the Board*

.....  
*Secretary of the Board*

## FORM 7

## APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS A MIDWIFE

Regulation 22 (5)

(FOR USE BY PERSONS QUALIFIED OUTSIDE NIGERIA)

I, .....  
 (Full Christian name and Surname and if married, maiden name)  
 born on the ..... day of ..... 19.....  
 at ..... in ..... and a  
 national of .....

(here name the country)

hereby apply to the Midwives Board of Nigeria to enter my name in the  
 Register of Midwives, and in support thereof—

1. I forward—

\*(a) certificate of qualification in .....  
 (insert name of country)

together with two recent certificate of character from persons  
 having personal knowledge of me for at least 3 years,

\*(b) certificate of training (and a true copy of it) from .....

\*(c) a certified true copy of my certificate of training from .....

(d) certificate of character from principal(s) of institution(s) where  
 I received training.

2. I am unable to forward evidence of training but it may be obtained on  
 application to .....

3. I passed the qualifying examination in the month of .....  
 19..... and my registration number is .....

4. I enclose the prescribed fee of £2-2s-0d.

And I declare that the foregoing particulars are true and complete to  
 the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATED at ..... this ..... day of ..... 19.....

.....  
 Signature of Applicant

.....  
 Signature of Witness

.....  
 Occupation of Witness

.....  
 Address of Witness

\* Delete according to circumstances.

## FORM 8

# STATUTORY DECLARATION BY APPLICANT FOR RESTORATION OF NAME TO MIDWIVES REGISTER

Regulation 35 (2)

(1) I, the undersigned .....  
of ..... declare that the  
following are facts of my case, and the grounds on which I seek the restoration  
of my name to the Midwives Register.

(2) On the ..... day of ..... 19.....  
my name was duly enrolled by virtue of the following qualification.....

(3) At an enquiry held on the ..... day of .....  
19....., the Midwives Board directed my name to be removed from the  
Midwives Register and my certificate to be cancelled.

(4) The offence for which the Midwives Board directed the removal of my  
name and the cancellation of my certificate was.....

(5) Since the removal of my name from the Register I have been residing  
at ..... and my  
occupation has been.....

(6) It is my intention if my name is restored to the Register to practise as  
Midwife at .....

(7) The grounds of my application are .....

Signed.....

Declared at ..... on the .....

day of ..... 19.....

Before me

*A Commissioner of Oaths*

## FORM 9

# CERTIFICATE IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR RESTORATION OF NAME TO THE MIDWIVES REGISTER

Regulation 35 (4)

I, .....  
of ..... certify as follows :

(1) I am.....

(2) I have been and am well acquainted with the said.....  
..... both before and since her name was removed  
from the Midwives Register.

(3) The said..... is the person whose  
name formerly stood in the Midwives Register with the following address  
and qualification.

(a) Address.....

(b) Qualification.....

(4) The said..... is now trustworthy, sober and otherwise of good behaviour.

(5) I have read paragraphs (4), (5) and (6) of the Application Form 8 and the statements therein contained are to the best of my knowledge, information and belief true.

Signature

Signature

Position and Authority for signing :

Date

FORM 10

# NOTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE SOURCE OF INFECTION

Regulation 46

TO THE LOCAL SUPERVISING AUTHORITY OF.....  
I, the undersigned, being a midwife holding the Certificate No. ....  
of the Central Midwives Board, hereby notify that on the..... day  
of..... 19..... I was in attendance upon or in contact  
with :

Name .....

Address .....

a person suffering from a condition which is, or is suspected to be infectious,  
viz.,

or I am suffering from, or have recently suffered from.....

Signed..... State Certified Midwife

Address .....

Date.....

FORM 11

# NOTICE REQUESTING MEDICAL AID

Regulation 62 (2)

No. .... Date.....

This notice is in respect of .....

Address .....

Medical Aid is sought by.....

on account of.....

Date of confinement.....

This case is urgent.

Sent or handed to (name of doctor or institution.....

at (address).....

Time of sending message { By telephone.....

{ By messenger.....

Signed..... Nigerian Registered midwife

Address .....

NOTE—Information as to stage of labour and other particulars should be given.



## FORM 12

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PRACTISE

Regulation 66

(To be furnished in duplicate)

TO THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF.....

I, .....

(Surname last and in CAPITALS)

Present Address.....

Permanent Address.....

(if different from above)

being the holder of a certificate of the Midwives Board of Nigeria  
Number..... and dated..... 19.....hereby give you notice of my intention to practise as a Midwife within your  
area during the year 19.....

\*AND in respect thereof—

(1) I last notified my intention to practise as a Midwife on.....  
..... 19..... to the Supervisory Authority  
of.....(2) I attended a post-certificate course of instruction in accordance with  
the Rules of the Midwives Board :  
.....  
.....

from..... 19..... to..... 19.....

(3) The number of cases I attended during the past year as a Midwife or  
a Maternity Nurse was as follows :—In the areas of other Authorities.....  
.....(The information in section (3) is required of Midwives in Domiciliary  
Practice).

\*(4) (a) I am in private practice.

(b) I practise from a Nursing Employment Agency.

(c) I am employed by.....

Dated this..... day of..... 19.....

*Signature of Registered Midwife*Notes.—The part marked \* and commencing with the words “And in  
respect thereof—” are to be deleted if not applicable.The information in section (3) is required of midwives in domiciliary  
practice.

The information in section (4) is to be deleted where not applicable.

*Endorsement on back of Notice*

The applicant herein is permitted to practise in terms of her application.

DATED at..... this..... day of..... 19.....

*Signature of person authorised to  
sign on behalf of the committee*

## APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY

Regulation 70

.....  
(name of person appointed)of .....  
(address)

is the supervisory authority for the District of .....

/Districts of ..... and .....  
appointed by the Midwives Board of Nigeria under and for the purposes of  
section 13 of the Midwives Decree 1966..

DATED at ..... this ..... day of ..... 19.....

Seal of the Board
-------------------

.....  
*Secretary to the Midwives  
Board of Nigeria*

MADE at Lagos this 11th day of October 1967

A. TATARI ALI  
*Permanent Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Health*

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations but is intended to  
explain their purpose and effect)*The regulations are in substitution for rules made for the purposes of the  
Midwives Act (Cap. 118) which is repealed by the Midwives Decree 1966  
and they also prescribe fees and forms for the purposes of that Decree.