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சுவசிரிபாய
SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார மற்றும் வெகுஜன ஊடக அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health & Mass Media

Circular No: 01 - 34 / 2025

Provincial Directors of Health Services,
Regional Directors of Health Services,
Directors of Teaching Hospitals / Provincial and District General Hospitals,
Medical Superintendents of Base Hospitals,
Director NIHS,
Chief Medical Officer of Health, Colombo Municipal Council,
Heads of Institutions,
Medical Officers of Health

Regarding Spousal Signature being non mandatory in the Declaration of Consent for Sterilization Health 1198 (Revised 1983)

The right to make decisions about one's reproductive health is a cornerstone of personal liberty and dignity according to international human rights frameworks.

Taking the above into consideration the Technical Advisory Committee on Maternal Health and Family Planning which met on 22.04.2022 concluded that the 'Signature of the Spouse' should be non mandatory on the 'Declaration of Consent for Sterilization,' Health 1198 (Revised 1983). Accordingly, advice was sought regarding the legal position of the matter, given the several cultural disparities available under personal laws.

It was confirmed by the Attorney General that under the laws of Sri Lanka there is no requirement to obtain the consent of the spouse prior to performing a male or female sterilization procedure.

Hence, the signature of the spouse is NOT MANDATORY in the Declaration of Consent for Sterilization Health 1198 (Revised 1983).

Please ensure that the contents of this circular are communicated to all relevant healthcare providers and the recommendation is implemented with immediate effect.


Dr. Asela Gunawardena

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Cc:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Health
2. Deputy Director General, Public Health Services II
3. Deputy Director General, Medical Services
4. Director, Maternal and Child Health
5. President, Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
6. Consultant Community Physicians – Provincial and District
7. Medical Officer, Maternal and Child Health