

# GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANT

## NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE

NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE (NOC) IS PRE-REQUISITE TO GET  
AUTHENTICATED DECLARATION OF A TITLE IN AN APPLICANT'S NAME



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## **Guidelines for No Objection Certificate (NOC)**

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### **Q. Why to seek a NOC for a Title?**

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- Ans.** (1). If an applicant wants to start a publication/news agency/printing press, he will adopt the following procedure;
- First, the applicant will seek a "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) for the proposed title name for a publication/news agency/printing press from office of the Press Registrar.
  - Then, he will apply for authenticated declaration for the allotted title of publication/news agency/printing press at the office of the concerned Deputy Commissioner or Regional Information Officer in KPK, on behalf of this office's NOC.
  - After authentication of declaration of title, he will register the title with office of the Press Registrar within 3 months of date of declaration. Valid Registration of declared titles with Press Registrar Office is mandatory;
- (2). If a publisher/owner of a listed declared title wants to change language/periodicity/printing press of said title, first he will seek NOC for the proposed change from Press Registrar then apply for incorporation of allowed change in declaration from concerned Deputy Commissioner Office or Regional Information Officer in KPK.
- (3). If a publisher/owner wants to start publishing his declared and registered title of publication or install declared and registered printing press in another district, he will seek NOC for Other Station from Press Registrar and then apply to the concerned Deputy Commissioner Office/ Regional Information Officer in KPK for authentication of declaration of title.
- (4). If an applicant wants to purchase a title or owner of a declared listed title died, then the incoming owner (Buyer) or the declared legal heir will seek NOC for transfer of ownership from Press Registrar prior applying for authentication of declaration of title in his/her name.

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### **Q. How many categories are there for NOC?**

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- Ans.** Office of the Press Registrar issues NOC for following entities;
- Publication/Newspaper

- News Agency
- Printing Press
- ☐ Following are some categories for NOC;

(1). NOC for Fresh Title, (2). NOC for Change of Language, (3). NOC for Change of Periodicity, (4). NOC for Change of Printing Press, (5). NOC for Other Station, (6). NOC for Transfer of Ownership, (7). NOC for Transfer of Publisher-ship.

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### **Q. How to apply for NOC?**

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- Ans.**
- ☐ The application for obtaining NOC (all categories) for publication/news agency/printing press shall be submitted on the prescribed proforma along with the requisite documents and paid copy of prescribed fee; Detail of fee is available in “Fee Structure” and NOC Proformas can be downloaded from “Proformas” section of our website: [www.opr.gov.pk](http://www.opr.gov.pk)
  - ☐ Applications with all requirements submitted through proper channels i.e. Regional designated officers in PID/ RIO offices, shall be entertained. Contact detail of Designated Officers for Press Registrar at Regional PID Offices is available on our website;
  - ☐ The applicant can also apply online through OPR Online Portal; first he will create an account on portal, fill the prescribed proforma and upload the required documents; A hard copy of online submitted proforma with attached documents should be dispatched at Press Registrar address;

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### **Q. Who can apply for a title?**

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- Ans.**
- ☐ The required eligibility criteria pertaining to academic qualification of the applicant who applied for NOC for title of publication and news agency, shall be as; the applicant must possess at-least master’s degree in any subject/ equivalent to master’s/ professional bachelor degree with 16 years of schooling and five years post qualification experience in journalism with registered publication. (This Academic qualification criteria is not applicable for NOC for Printing Press); **OR**
  - ☐ The applicant shall possess at-least bachelor’s degree in any subject/ equivalent to bachelor’s/ bachelor degree with 14 years of schooling and ten years post qualification experience in journalism with registered publication.
  - ☐ If the applicant, a professional degree holder in a specific field, applied on behalf of an institution/ research center/ university/ department etc. shall furnish an experience certificate for writing articles/research reports/ thesis in the respective field.
  - ☐ In case of death of a publisher/owner of a publication/news agency/printing press, if applicant, the declared legal heir for the title does not fulfill the required educational

qualification to become a publisher, the Press Registrar can relax academic qualification criteria subject to the condition that the owner appoints a person as editor who meets the required conditions and can supervise the publication on behalf of the owner. In case of change of first editor (under whom supervision the title is publishing), the same owner will get NOC in the name of a new editor who meets the required conditions and can supervise the publication on behalf of the owner;

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**Q. Does the academic and journalistic experience criteria applicable for grant of title of Printing Press?**

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**Ans.** No. The academic and journalistic experience criteria do not apply on NOC request for title of printing press.

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**Q. What documents are required?**

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**Ans.**  Detail about Documents required for NOC (all categories) for title of Publication/ News Agency/ Printing Press can be accessed at this link [Documents Required](#).

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**Q. How many titles an applicant can hold?**

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**Ans.**  An owner/publisher is eligible to hold three titles/names (including newspaper and news agency);

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**Q. What are policy guidelines for allotment of a title?**

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- Ans.**  The applicant who wants to start a publication/news agency/printing press shall submit proposed title names with formal request on prescribed proforma along with requisite documents and fee;
- The Press Registrar has the right to accept/reject the proposed title names;
- The proposed title names should not be same or similar to the already listed titles;
- The alphabets and words of the title name particularly of those with more than one word, should be of same size, font and style;
- Following Title names shall not be allowed for NOC;
- Title names with negative connotation, like JHOOT, BADMASH, FRAUD, BAIMANI, LA DEEN, BAY KHABER, etc.
  - Title names in abbreviation like Mr., Sd., ABC etc. for newspapers shall not be accepted;
  - Names where Sacred religious names are used,

- Names of prominent national or international leaders/ personalities/ registered parties/ organizations are not allowed to be used as titles;
- Names same or similar to national symbol/emblem/awards;
- Names that are combination of two or more listed titles;
- Names where listed titles are differentiated;
  - with the exact name of city/ province/ place/ river/ language/ periodicity
  - with addition of articles ('A', 'An' and 'The')
- Names same or similar to or giving impression of having association with national government and its functionaries, provincial/district/local governments and its administration or functionaries would only be allowed to respective departments;
- Names same or similar to or giving impression of having association with security agencies would only be allowed to respective departments;
- The News Agencies while submitting request for title shall make sure that the abbreviation of the title/name does not match with the abbreviation of any other news agency;
- Titles in the names of known entities owned by public or private owners including print or electronic media houses, societies, institutions, departments, universities, famous businesses etc. would be allowed as title only to the publisher authorized by the concerned authority (owners/deans/administrators/chief executives);
- Titles similar to or same in the name of foreign publication/newspaper shall not be allowed;
- If a publication/newspaper is proposed to be published in more than one language, then content of the publication/newspaper should contain articles/news stories in all the declared languages;

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**Q. How long a NOC remain Valid?**

- Ans.** □ NOC remains valid for **six weeks** for further submission to the Concerned Deputy Commissioner/Regional Information Officer (in KPK) for authentication of declaration. After authentication of declaration in the light of this office's NOC, applicant shall apply for issuance of Fresh Registration Certificate within 3 months with the Office of Press Registrar;

- ❑ In case, an applicant is unable to submit the NOC for fresh title within the specified time to the concerned officer for authentication of declaration due to **unavoidable circumstances**, NOC will be **revalidated only one time** if applicant apply to the Press Registrar for extension **within three months** after lapse of the validity period. After expiry of aforementioned period, the title will be available for other applicants;

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**Q. What are the procedures to process a case?**

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- Ans.**
- ❑ Proformas should be duly filled in, no field should be left blank. Incomplete cases shall not be entertained;
  - ❑ Under Section 5 (1) of PNNBR Rules 2009, all the applications submitted through proper channels i.e. Regional designated officers in PID/ RIO offices, shall be entertained; All the applications submitted through proper channels shall be examined and scrutinized at Press Registrar Office, Islamabad in order to ascertain whether the requirements for issuance of NOCs under the Rules have been fulfilled;
  - ❑ Under Section 5 (2) of PNNBR Rules 2009, if it appears to the Press Registrar Office that the requirements for issuance of NOCs under these Rules are not met, the office will inform the applicant and ask him to fulfill such requirements within a period of 15 days;
  - ❑ Under Section 5 (3) of PNNBR Rules 2009, if the applicant fails to fulfill the requirements within the specified period, the case shall be recommended for rejection of the application to the Press Registrar and application fee so deposited shall be forfeited;

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**Q. What are the requirements to apply for NOC for a title on authority of a public or private entity (university/ college/ madrasah/ organization/ company/ research center/ institution/ society etc.)?**

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- Ans.**
- ❑ The applicant shall provide following documents in addition to other required items;
    - (a). Authority letter on original letterhead of competent authority in favour of the applicant.
    - (b). True attested copy of registration certificate of entity (university/ college/ madrasah/organization/company) with the concerned registration authority.
    - (c). Brief detail of entity with organogram.
    - (d). Affidavit of source of funding from the concerned competent authority of the entity. (In case of an organization running on charity/ donation/ government funding, the same source will be mentioned in the affidavit)

(e). Last six months Bank statement of concerned entity/authority.

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**Q. What is the policy to process request for NOC for a fresh title from an applicant belonging to Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir?**

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**Ans.**  Subject to fulfilment of criteria any fresh title will be allowed except the one that has been already allotted to a publisher/owner from rest of the country including Punjab, Sindh, KPK, Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan before or after the promulgation of PNNBR Ordinance 2002.

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**Q What is the policy to process request for NOC for other station of a title allotted/ authenticated after the promulgation of PNNBR Ordinance 2002?**

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**Ans.**  Request for issuance of NOC for every other station will be entertained only in respect of valid registered publication by the Press Registrar as per available rules and policies after inspection that the title is being published regularly and registered with this office from each allotted station.

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**Q What is the policy to process request for NOC for other station of a title allotted/ authenticated in favour of more than one owner before the promulgation of PNNBR Ordinance 2002?**

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**Ans.**  Compliance with Deeming Right Policy shall be made mandatory in processing the cases for NOC for other station of a title that has been authenticated in favour of more than one owner before the promulgation of PNNBR Ordinance 2002. In these cases, NOC shall be allowed only for the station in a province from where the title has been authenticated originally in the owner's name.

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**Q What is the policy to process request for NOC for Change of periodicity/ language/ printer of a title declared before the promulgation of PNNBR Ordinance 2002?**

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**Ans.**  The NOC for Change of periodicity/ language/ printer of a title declared before the promulgation of PNNBR Ordinance 2002 shall be processed as per available rules and procedures subject to valid registration of the title with Office of the Press Registrar. However, these will be exempted from academic qualification criteria.

After getting NOC for change of language/periodicity/printing press for already publishing periodical, the applicant shall get the change notified from the concerned Deputy Commissioner or Regional Information Officer in KPK.

**Q What is the policy to process request for NOC for Transfer of Ownership/ Publisher-ship of a title?**

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- Ans.**  Regarding **transfer of publisher-ship/ownership of a title** for newspaper/news agency/printing press, following procedure shall be mandatory;
- In case of transfer of publisher-ship/ownership both parties i.e., incoming and outgoing publishers/owners are required to appear in person before the Press Registrar or regional officers as the case may be, in order to authenticate the transfer/sale deed;
  - In case of death of a publisher/owner of a publication/news agency/ printing press the title shall be transferred to the declared legal heir who shall have to submit a **True Copy of Court order with nomination of the applicant** issued in his/her favour by the competent court, wherein rest of the legal heirs while giving permission to the applicant to act as publisher/owner surrender their rights for the title;
- After issuance of NOC for transfer of publisher-ship/ownership of already publishing newspaper/periodical, the applicant shall get transferred the declaration from concerned Deputy Commissioner in his/her name and then apply for fresh Registration Certificate in his/her name. Same registration number will be allotted to newspaper/periodical issued to him/her with validity of 3 years.
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**Q What is the policy to issue an additional title?**

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- Ans.**  Every request for additional title will be considered subject to valid registration of already allotted titles with the Office of the Press Registrar in the name of applicant.
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**Q. What is the policy regarding titles allotted/ issued mistakenly or otherwise in favour of more than one owner after the promulgation of PNNBR Ordinance 2002?**

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- Ans.**  If mistakenly or otherwise same title is allotted to more than one periodical/ news agency/ printing press after the promulgation of PNNBR Ordinance 2002 and these are found operational in any part of the country, the priority to hold that title will be given to the one allotted first. The remaining shall be bound to withdraw/change the title.

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