

# GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANT

## NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE (NOC)

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 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 the 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 the declaration of title, he will register the title with the office of the Press Registrar within 3 months of the date of declaration. Valid Registration of declared titles with the Press Registrar Office is mandatory;
- (2). If a publisher/owner of a listed declared and registered title wants to change the language/ periodicity/printing press of said title, first he will seek NOC for the proposed change from Press Registrar and then apply for incorporation of allowed change in the declaration from concerned Deputy Commissioner Office or Regional Information Officer in KPK.
- (3). If a publisher/owner of a declared and registered title wants to start a business in another district, he will seek a NOC for Other Station from the Press Registrar and then apply to the concerned Deputy Commissioner/Regional Information Officer in KPK for authentication of declaration of title.
- (4). If an applicant wants to purchase a title or the 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 the Press Registrar before 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 the 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 the prescribed fee; Detail of the 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 the portal, fill in the prescribed proforma and upload the required documents; A hard copy of the 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 for the academic qualification of the applicant who applied for NOC for the title of the publication and news agency shall be as;
- the applicant must possess at least a master’s degree in any subject/ equivalent to a master’s/ professional bachelor's degree with 16 years of schooling and five years post-qualification experience in journalism with a registered publication. **OR**
  - The applicant shall possess at least a bachelor’s degree in any subject/ equivalent to a bachelor’s/bachelor's degree with 14 years of schooling and ten years post-qualification experience in journalism with a 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 in the respective field.
  - ☐ In case of the death of a publisher/owner of a publication/news agency/printing press, if the 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 a change of first editor (under whom supervision the title is published), 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 the grant of a title of Printing Press?**

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**Ans.** No. The academic and journalistic experience criteria do not apply to the NOC request for the title of the 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 is entitled to?**

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**Ans.**  An individual/publisher is entitled to a maximum of three titles/names including those that are sold out.

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**Q. What is the policy regarding the allotment of a title (Fresh or Transferred)?**

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**Ans.**  Applicants may only request the issuance of one "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) for the allotment of either a Fresh or Transferred title at a time.

If an applicant wishes to obtain a NOC for an Additional Title (Fresh or Transferred), they must meet the regularity standards outlined in section 11 of PNNBR Ordinance 2002 and must have a valid registration for any previously allotted titles with the Office of the Press Registrar.

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

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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 the same or similar to the already listed titles;

The alphabet and words of the title name particularly of those with more than one word, should be of the same size, font, and style;

- ❑ Following Title names shall not be allowed for NOC;
  - Title names with negative connotations, 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 a combination of two or more listed titles;
  - Names that are exact translations of already listed titles in any language;
  - Names where listed titles are differentiated;
    - with the exact name of the city/ province/ place/ river/ language/ periodicity
    - with the addition of articles ('A', 'An', and 'The')
- ❑ Names same or similar to or giving the impression of having association with the 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 an impression of having an association with security agencies would only be allowed to respective departments;
- ❑ The News Agencies while submitting requests for titles shall make sure that the abbreviation of the title/name does not match 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 a foreign publication/newspaper shall not be allowed;
- ❑ If a publication/newspaper is proposed to be published in more than one language, then the content of the publication/newspaper should contain articles/news stories in all the declared languages;

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

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- 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, the applicant shall apply for the issuance of a 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 the applicant applies to the Press Registrar for extension **within three months** after the lapse of the validity period. After the expiry of the aforementioned period, the title will be available for other applicants;
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**Q. What are the SOPs 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 to ascertain whether the requirements for issuance of NOCs under the Rules have been fulfilled;
- Received applications shall be examined and scrutinized at Press Registrar Office, Islamabad to ascertain whether the requirements under the rules and regulations for issuance of NOC or Registration have been fulfilled;
- NOC or Registration cases meeting all requirements along with requisite documents shall be processed as per available laws, rules, regulations, and policies;
- In a case where all the requirements for issuance of NOC or Registration are not complete at the time of submission of the case;
- a. The office will inform the applicant to fulfill such requirements at the earliest;
  - b. If the applicant failed to submit the requisite documents within 3 months of issuance of the first objection letter, the office under Section 5(2) of PNNBR Rules 2009 will issue a warning letter to the applicant to furnish such requirements within a period of 15 days;

- c. If the applicant failed to fulfill the requirements within the specified period, then under Section 5(3) of PNNBR Rules 2009, the case shall be recommended for rejection of the application to the Press Registrar.
- NOC or Registration cases submitted with fake or forged documents shall stand rejected and the applicant shall be disqualified to seek NOC/registration for 3 years or pay a penalty amounting to Rs. 25,000/- to be submitted in any branch of NBP/ State Bank in Government of Pakistan's A/C # C03886;
  - NOC cases, where a true copy of the court decree with the nomination of the applicant is required for transfer-ship of a title to the legal heir after the death of the owner, shall stand exempted from rejection.

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**Q. What is the policy regarding titles issued mistakenly or otherwise in favour of more than one owner after the promulgation of the PNNBR Ordinance 2002?**

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- Ans.**  After the promulgation of PNNBR Ordinance 2002, if mistakenly or otherwise the same title is allotted to more than one applicant 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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**Q. What are the requirements to apply for NOC for a title on the 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 the following documents in addition to other required items;
- (a). Authority letter on the original letterhead of the competent authority in favour of the applicant.
  - (b). True attested copy of the registration certificate of entity (university/ college/ madrasah/organization/company) with the concerned registration authority.
  - (c). Brief detail of entity with organogram.
  - (d). Affidavit of the 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 the request for NOC for a fresh title from an applicant belonging to the Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir?**

**Ans.**  Subject to fulfillment of criteria, any fresh title will be allowed except those that have been already allotted to other publishers/owners from the rest of the country including Punjab, Sindh, KPK, Balochistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan before or after the promulgation of the PNNBR Ordinance 2002.

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**Q** **What is the policy to process requests for NOC for other stations 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 the 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 requests 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 the Office of the Press Registrar. However, these will be exempted from academic qualification criteria.

After getting NOC for a 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.

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**Q** **What is the policy to process requests for NOC for the Transfer-ship of a title?**

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**Ans.**  Ownership/Publisher-ship/Keepership of a Title shall be granted on the terms specified hereunder;

1) The process for change of ownership/publisher-ship/keepership of any Publication/News Agency/Printing Press shall become completed, if:

a) The applicant (incoming owner/publisher) who desires to seek NOC for a title of the publication or news agency will first obtain a recommendation from the Press Registrar for being eligible under the specified academic and experience qualification criteria;

b) The eligible applicant (incoming Publisher/Owner/Keeper) deposits all necessary documents and the stipulated fee.



- c) The eligible applicant (incoming owner/publisher/keeper) shall submit a sale deed for the title as specified on a verified stamp paper;
  - d) Both the eligible applicant and outgoing owner/publisher appear in person before the Press Registrar or any of his/her designated officer(s) along with their original CNICs and valid Registration Certificate of Title mark their attendance as incoming and outgoing owners/ publishers on an Attendance Sheet.
  - e) In case, where ownership of the title rests with a registered entity (company/firm/etc.), an authority letter of the competent authority of that entity in favour of the applicant will be submitted on original letterhead;
- 2) The NOC for change of ownership/publisher-ship/keepership of a Publication/ News Agency/ Printing Press (**whose Owner/Publisher has died**) shall be issued by the Press Registrar, if:
- a) The applicant (legal heir of the deceased owner) provides a Succession Certificate to the Office of Press Registrar;
  - b) In a case where all the legal heirs for the title nominate one legal heir as **Owner of the Title**, the nominated legal heir shall submit a **true copy of the court decree** from a competent court of law issued in his/her favor, wherein rest of the legal heirs while permitting the applicant to act as an owner surrender their rights for the title;
  - c) Incoming Publisher/Owner deposits all necessary documents and stipulated fee.
  - d) In case the nominated legal heir does not fulfill the required eligibility criteria to become a Publisher/ Owner of a publication or news agency, the Press Registrar can relax criteria subject to the condition that the owner appoints a person as Editor (who meets the required conditions and can supervise the publication/ news agency on behalf of the owner). In case of a change of first editor (under whom supervision 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/news agency on behalf of the owner.
  - e) If the ownership of a Title rests with a registered entity (company/firm/etc.), after the death of the publisher/Keeper, NOC for the change of publisher/Keeper for the title will be issued to the **eligible applicant** who meets the academic and experience criteria subject to the provision of authority letter issued in his/her favor by its board of directors.

- ❑ After issuance of NOC for transfer of publisher-ship/ownership of already publishing newspaper/periodical, the applicant shall get transferred the declaration from the concerned Deputy Commissioner in his/her name and then apply for a fresh Registration Certificate in his/her name. The same registration number will be allotted to a newspaper/periodical issued to him/her with a validity of 3 years.

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