



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
OFFICE OF THE PRESS REGISTRAR

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PRESS REGISTRAR

F.No.5(2)/2022-PR (Admn)

Islamabad: February 29th, 2024

Subject: **REVISED CRITERIA FOR GRANT OF NO-OBJECTION CERTIFICATE (NOC) FOR FRESH TITLE OR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF A TITLE**

In the exercise of powers conferred under sub-rule (1) and (2) of Rule 8 of Press, Newspapers, News Agencies and Books Registration (PNNBR) Rules 2009, the Press Registrar has prescribed the following revised criteria for grant of NOC for a title that shall be effective immediately and shall supersede previous orders of this office regarding criteria for the grant of NOC:

2. Definitions: – Terms and expressions used in this criterion shall have the following meaning:

- (a) "**Valid Registered Publication**" means a periodic that is registered with the Office of Press Registrar under Rule 4 of PNNBR Rules 2009 and its registration certificate is valid;
- (b) "**Additional Title**" refers to another title allotted to a publisher or owner by the Office of Press Registrar, different from the title already allotted to the same publisher or owner;
- (c) "**Validity of NOC**" means the time wherein a NOC issued by the Office of Press Registrar remains valid for further submission at the concerned office of the Deputy Commissioner/RIO;
- (d) "**Nominated Legal Heir**" means a successor, declared through a court decree, as title owner;
- (e) "**True Copy of Court Decree with Applicant's Nomination**" means certified court decree attested by the Registrar of the concerned civil court stating the applicant's sole ownership of the title, and surrender of ownership rights of other legal heirs.

3 Criteria for Grant of NOC for a Title (Fresh or Transfer-ship): –

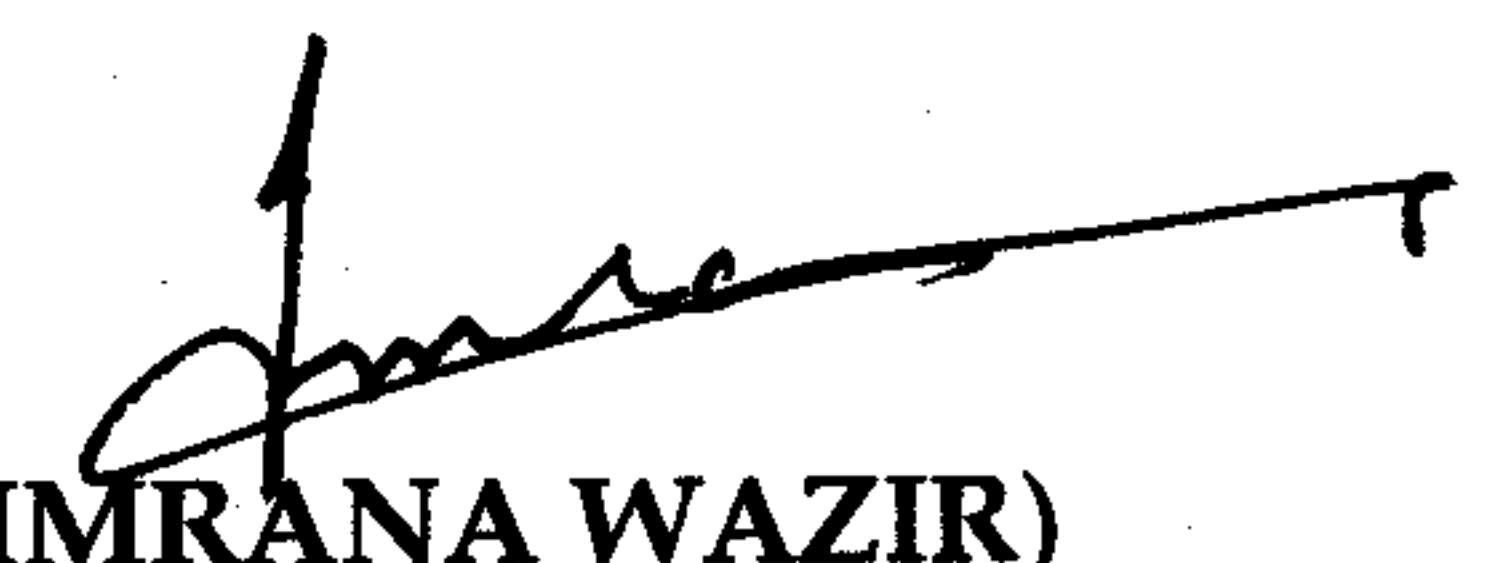
3.1 Academic and Experience Eligibility to obtain NOC for Periodical/News Agency:

- a) Each citizen of Pakistan shall be entitled to obtain NOC for a Title (fresh/transferred) of a periodical or news agency if the applicant (either owner or publisher) holds a Master's Degree or equivalent or a Bachelor's Degree with 16 years of schooling from a Higher Education Commission-recognized institute and 5 years of post-qualification journalistic experience with a registered publication that is borne on Central Media List of the Government of Pakistan.
- b) The applicant shall submit a photocopy of the degree attested with the Higher Education Commission's original attestation stamps. In the case of a Foreign/Local/Deeni Asnad or an Equivalent degree, the Equivalence Certificate issued by the HEC is mandatory.
- c) The applicant shall provide an original Experience Certificate duly signed and stamped by the concerned Chief Editor/Publisher along with supporting documents including original news clippings, attested copies of employee ID cards and salary slips for the working period.
- d) Applicants with a professional degree in a specific discipline with 16 years of schooling such as medical or engineering, when applying for a title in that specific discipline shall provide a certificate of 5 years of experience in the relevant field instead of journalistic experience.

3.2 Academic and Experience Eligibility to obtain NOC for Printing Press: Each citizen of Pakistan shall be entitled to obtain NOC for a Title (fresh/transferred) of a printing press if the applicant holds an academic certificate with 10 years of schooling and 5 years of experience in printing.

3.3 Miscellaneous:

- a) Title names, same or similar to the name of a known/recognized entity, owned by public or private owners including print or electronic media houses, societies, institutions, departments, universities, organizations, famous businesses etc. shall not be allowed.
- b) Each NOC issued from the Office of Press Registrar shall remain valid for twelve weeks from the date of its issuance. An expired NOC may be re-validated only once for six weeks.
- c) NOC-holders of the Fresh Title names shall be bound to submit at the Office of Press Registrar within six months of assigning a title name, a verified copy of their application received by the relevant Deputy Commissioner/RIO's office for declaration issuance. Compliance with this requirement is mandatory to retain the title. Failure to comply will result in cancellation, and the title will become available for other eligible applicants.
- d) Under Rule 7(5) of PNNBR Rules 2009, the sold-out, transferred and cancelled titles of the owners or publishers shall also be counted as included in the three entitled names.
- e) Each request for NOC for an Additional title (fresh/transferred) shall be entertained subject to valid registration of the already allotted title with the Office of Press Registrar.
- f) To seek NOC for changes in ownership, periodicity, language, printer, and other stations, valid registration of the declared title with the Office of the Press Registrar is mandatory.
- g) Any Declaration of a title issued/modified without NOC from the Office of Press Registrar, shall not be later entitled to Registration in the Office of Press Registrar.
- h) To transfer ownership of a registered title such as a periodical, news agency, or printing press after the owner's death, the nominated legal heir in addition to other requisite documents shall provide the following. (i) the death certificate of the owner, (ii) Family Registration Certificate from NADRA, (iii) succession certificate, (iv) certified copy of the complete file of the civil suit filed by the nominated legal heir along with all annexures and comments of the respondents, (v) a certified true copy of the court decree containing the applicant's nomination and clearly stating that other legal heirs have surrendered their ownership rights to the title in favour of the nominated heir.
- i) The Press Registrar may relax eligibility qualifications for NOC for a title if the nominated legal heir of a title fails to meet the eligibility criteria after the owner's death. The legal heir shall appoint an editor who meets the academic and experience qualifications. The name of the editor shall also be specified in the NOC/declaration.


(IMRANA WAZIR)
Press Registrar

Distribution:

- All Concerned