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Abstract:

The new Polish Law on Civil Status Acts dated November 28, 2014, which entered into force on March 1, 2015, was enacted with a view to replacing the traditional system of civil status books with a modern register run in the electronic form. The statute has also introduced a new type of certificate which can be issued on the basis of records to be found in the civil status register, evidencing the civil status of the interested person.

The article discusses the prerequisites and the procedure of issuing the certificate, which can be initiated only by a motion of the interested person. It also presents the obligatory elements of the certificate, which include name and surname, date and place of birth, sex, marriage status and the parents' names concerning the person whose civil status is confirmed. The author of the publication explains basic differences between the certificate on civil status and other certificates issued from the register. In this light, the evidentiary value of the document is also discussed.

A separate paragraph of the article is devoted to presenting special rules of issuing the certificate in the transitory period, during which the old civil status acts made in the paper form will be transferred to the new electronic register.