

Article 21

Exchange of Documents of the Civil Status Registry

(1) The Contracting States shall provide each other free of charge and costs with documents regarding the civil status of citizens of the other Contracting State as far as the changes in the personal status have been certified after the coming in force of the present Treaty. •

(2) Documents regarding death shall be transmitted to the diplomatic or consular representation of the other Contracting State forthwith, the other documents quarterly.

Article 22

Transmission of Documents of the Civil Status Registry at Request

(1) The Contracting States shall, at request of the competent authorities, provide each other free of charge and costs with documents regarding civil status and with authenticated copies of court decisions regarding the civil status of citizens of the other Contracting State for official use.

(2) The documents under Paragraph 1 shall be transmitted through diplomatic channels. As far as the transmission of court decisions is concerned, the Ministries of Justice shall communicate.

Article 23

Transmission of Documents of the Civil Status Registry at Request of Citizens

Requests for issue and transmission of documents of the civil status registry may be directed by the citizens of one of the Contracting States directly to the competent authority of the other Contracting State. The documents shall be transmitted free of charge and costs to the diplomatic or consular representation of the State of the applicant.

Article 24

Refusal of Transmission of Documents of the Civil Status Registry

The transmission of a document of the civil status registry may be refused for the reasons mentioned in Article 18.

Chapter V

Recovery of Maintenance for Minors

Article 25

Granting of Support

The Contracting States shall, at request of their respective competent authorities and according to the provisions of the present Treaty, grant each other support in the recovery of maintenance for minors.

Article 26

Extent of Support

The support granted for the recovery of maintenance for minors shall include measures for:

1. ascertaining the address or abode of a person living in the territory of the requested Contracting State who is claimed by the claimant for maintenance;
2. urging the respondent to fulfil his obligation to pay maintenance voluntarily;
3. instituting legal action on the basis of the legal provisions of the requested Contracting State for ascertaining the claim for maintenance, for amending or enforcing the claim for maintenance thus stipulated.

Article 27

Communication

(1) Requests for support in the recovery of maintenance shall be transmitted by the transmitting agency of the re-

questing Contracting State directly to the competent receiving agency of the requested Contracting State.

(2) Receiving and transmitting agency is
in the German Democratic Republic
the Ministry of Education, Department for Juvenile Care;
in the Somali Democratic Republic
the Attorney General.

Article 28

Application of a Claimant

(1) A claimant may submit an application for recovery of maintenance to the transmitting agency of the Contracting State in whose territory he has his domicile or abode.

(2) Paragraph 1 does not exclude that a claimant may recover his claim directly according to the laws of the Contracting States.

Article 29

*** Substance and Form of an Application**

(1) The application for recovery of maintenance shall include:

1. the full name, date of birth, citizenship, domicile or abode of the claimant as well as the name and address of his legal representative;
2. the full name of the respondent, and, so far as known to the claimant, his address, date of birth, citizenship and occupation;
3. particulars of the grounds upon which the claim is based and of the kind and amount of the claimed maintenance and of any other relevant information.

(2) The application shall be accompanied by all relevant documents, including, where necessary, a power of attorney authorizing the receiving agency to act, or to appoint some other person to act, on behalf of the claimant.

Article 30

Functions of the Receiving Agency

(1) The receiving agency shall, on the basis of the request of the transmitting agency and subject to the authority given by the claimant, take all appropriate steps for the recovery of maintenance.

(2) The receiving agency shall keep the transmitting agency informed of the steps taken. If it is unable to act it shall inform the transmitting agency of the reasons and return the application.

Chapter VI

Recognition and Execution of Decisions

Article 31

Decisions Subject to Recognition and Execution

(1) The Contracting States shall, on the conditions stipulated in the present Treaty, recognize and execute in their respective territories final judicial decisions concerning claims for maintenance issued in the territory of the other Contracting State.

(2) Decisions concerning agreements as to the payment of maintenance, documents including an obligation to pay maintenance and made before the competent authorities of the Contracting States as well as decisions on costs of proceedings shall be regarded as decisions within the meaning of Paragraph 1.

Article 32

Conditions for the Recognition and Execution

Decisions according to Article 31 shall be recognized and declared executable provided that

1. the decision is final under the law of the deciding Contracting State;