

ing Party in a civil or family matter must not be subjected to criminal prosecution nor arrested on account of a punishable act he committed already prior to crossing the border of the requesting Contracting Party and he must not be subjected to serve a penalty pronounced against him by an earlier court decision. Against such persons no proceedings must be instituted for other breaches of the law committed prior to their crossing the State border, nor must measures be carried out which were taken because of such breaches of the law.

(2) A witness or expert witness shall lose the protection provided by para. (1) of this Section if he has not left the territory of the requesting Contracting Party within seven days from the day on which he has been notified that his presence is no longer required. This time-limit shall not include the time during which, for reasons beyond his will, the witness or expert witness had no opportunity of leaving the territory of the Contracting Party.

(3) If a person who is under arrest on the territory of the Contracting Party requested is summoned by a court of the other Contracting Party as a witness or expert witness and is to be temporarily transferred for this purpose, he shall enjoy the protection assured by paras. (1) and (2) of this Section.

Part III Documents

Section 20

Use of Documents

(1) Documents which have been issued or legalised by a court or an official of either Contracting Party within the framework of their competence, shall require no legalisation, provided they are signed and officially sealed, for use before courts or other bodies of the other Contracting Party.

(2) The provision of para. (1) of this Section shall also apply to copies of documents which have been legalised by a court or another competent body.

Section 21

Power of Proof of Documents

Official documents which have been made on the territory of either Contracting Party shall have the same power of proof on the territory of the other Contracting Party as documents of its own.

Section 22

Exchange of Documents of the Civil Status Registry

(1) The Contracting Parties shall provide each other with extracts from the civil status register referring to the birth, marriage and death of citizens of the other Contracting Party.

(2) Extracts according to para. (1) of this Section shall be sent free of charge and duty-free every six months to the diplomatic or consular representation of the other Contracting Party.

(3) The two Contracting Parties shall send each other, on request, free of charge records of civil status for official use.

(4) The sending of and attending to requests in accordance with para. (3) of this Section shall be carried out by the Contracting Parties according to the provisions of Section 9 of this Treaty.

Part IV

Settlement of Estate Matters

Section 23

Representative Authority of Diplomatic or Consular Representation

In estate matters including inheritance litigations, the diplomatic or consular representations of the Contracting Parties shall be entitled to represent their citizens, unless these are present or have appointed representatives, without special authority at the courts and other bodies of the other Contracting Party.

Section 24

Notification of Death

(1) If a citizen of one Contracting Party deceases on the territory of the other Contracting Party the competent body shall directly and without delay notify of this fact the diplomatic or consular representation of the other Contracting Party. In addition, it shall provide information as to what is known about possible heirs, their domicile or abode and the nature of the estate, as well as about the existence of a will. If it is known to the body that the deceased person has left property in another State, it shall indicate this too.

(2) If a body ascertains in probate proceedings that the heir is a citizen of the other Contracting Party, it is obliged to notify of this fact the diplomatic or consular representation of this Contracting Party.

(3) If the diplomatic or consular representation obtains knowledge of the death first it has to notify the competent probate body for the purpose of securing the estate.

Measures to Secure the Estate

Section 25

If the estate of a deceased citizen of one Contracting Party is located on the territory of the other Contracting Party the probate body shall take appropriate measures, on application or ex officio, to secure and administer it, in accordance with the domestic law.

Section 26

If a citizen of one Contracting Party deceases during a temporary stay on the territory of the other Contracting Party the effects he had with him, together with an attached list, shall be handed over without further procedure to the diplomatic or consular representation of the Contracting Party whose citizen the deceased person was.

Handing over of the Estate

Section 27

(1) If personal estate is left on the territory of one Contracting Party it shall be handed over for the purpose of carrying out probate proceedings to the body competent for probate proceedings, or to the diplomatic or consular representation of the Contracting Party whose citizen the deceased person was, in so far as the conditions according to Section 28, para. (2), letter b) are given.

(2) The two Contracting Parties reserve to themselves to claim, in accordance with para. (1) of this Section, payment of the taxes and fees for entering upon an inheritance, prior to delivering up the personal estate.