

Proclamation of the Regent of the Principality of Sylvestria

Reforming the Sylvestrian Judicial System and Its Penalties

Whereas the Principality of Sylvestria is dedicated to the protection of its citizens, the maintenance of public order, and the administration of fair and just laws; and

Whereas it is essential for the welfare and prosperity of the nation to establish a well-ordered and efficient system of justice; and

Whereas it is the responsibility of the government to safeguard the rights and properties of the Sylvestrian people;

Now, therefore, by the authority vested in me as Director General by the National Assembly and the Fundamental Law of the Principality of Sylvestria, I do hereby declare the following reforms to the Sylvestrian judicial system and its penalties.

Article 1: The Magistrates

Section 1: Appointment of Magistrates

The Prince of the Sylvestrians shall have the power to appoint magistrates to serve as the judges of the courts of first recourse throughout the Principality. These appointments shall be made from among individuals of good standing and proven wisdom, who are deemed capable of interpreting and enforcing the laws of the land.

Section 2: Responsibilities of Magistrates

The responsibilities of the magistrates shall include:

(a) The regular and periodic inquiry into the condition of watercourses, roads, paths, and ditches to ensure their proper maintenance for public use.

- (b) The prevention of encroachments upon public rights, whether by unlawful enclosures or other means.
- (c) The preservation of landmarks and the regulation of common lands, ensuring their equitable use and prevention of excessive exploitation.
- (d) The surveillance of the moral well-being of the populace and the prevention of social ills and inconveniences.
- (e) The adjudication of civil disputes arising from property, contracts, and other matters of local concern.
- (f) The investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses, including but not limited to assault, arson, burglary, larceny, manslaughter, murder, treason, and felonies at Sylvestrian law.

Section 3: Annual Court Sessions

Magistrates shall hold court no less than once each year to address the needs and concerns of their constituents. The dates and locations of these sessions shall be published in advance and widely circulated among the populace.

Section 4: Additional Court Sessions

Additional court sessions may be called by the magistrate at his or her discretion, or upon the request of the Prince or a substantial number of inhabitants within the magistrate's jurisdiction.

Article 2: The Court of Appeal

Section 1: Composition of the Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal shall be composed of three judges, selected by the Prince of the Sylvestrians from among the Counts and Barons of the peerage, who shall serve on a rotating basis.

Section 2: Appeal Process

Citizens dissatisfied with the judgment of a magistrate may appeal to the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal shall review the case and may uphold, modify, or overturn the decision of the magistrate.

Article 3: The Role of the Prince in Legal Matters

Section 1: Ultimate Legal Authority

The Prince of the Sylvestrians shall serve as the ultimate legal authority in the Principality. The Prince shall have the power to interpret the Fundamental Law and to grant pardons, commutations, and reprieves for offenses against the same.

Article 4: Penalties

Section I: The Principles of Penalties

1. The penalties imposed by the courts shall be proportional to the severity of the offense.
2. All penalties shall be in the form of monetary forfeitures or community service obligations, except in cases of severe treason or other such grievous capital crimes, where exile may be deemed necessary.
3. The goal of punishment shall be to restore harmony and balance within the community, rather than to inflict suffering.

Section II: Monetary Forfeitures

1. For minor offenses, the court shall impose a monetary fine payable to the Treasury of Sylvestria.
2. The amount of the fine shall be determined by the court, taking into account the economic status of the offender and the nature of the offense.
3. Failure to pay the fine within the designated period shall result in the doubling of the original amount and potential community service until the debt is paid in full.

Section III: Community Service

1. For moderate offenses, the court may impose community service as an alternative or in addition to monetary forfeitures.
2. The type and duration of community service shall be determined by the court, with consideration given to the skills and capabilities of the offender.
3. The service shall benefit the community in which the offense was committed or a community deemed appropriate by the court.

Section IV: Exile

1. The harshest penalty of exile shall only be imposed for crimes of severe treason or actions that threaten the sovereignty and existence of Sylvestria.
2. Exile may also be considered in cases where the offender poses a significant and persistent threat to the well-being of the community.
3. The decision to exile an individual shall rest solely with the Prince of the Sylvestrians.

Section V: Rehabilitation

1. Offenders shall have the opportunity to seek redemption and learn from their mistakes.
2. The court may impose additional rehabilitation measures, such as education or counseling, to facilitate the offender's reintegration into Sylvestrian society.

Section VI: Progression of Penalties

1. Repeated offenses shall result in increasingly severe penalties, including longer community service periods and larger monetary forfeitures.
2. The court shall consider the offender's history of compliance with past penalties and their efforts toward rehabilitation.

Section VII: Severity of Crimes

1. The Legal Code shall categorize crimes into three tiers: minor, moderate, and severe.
2. The court shall impose penalties accordingly, with the understanding that each case is unique and may require individual consideration.

Article 5: Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1: Oath of Office

All magistrates and judges shall take an oath of office to uphold the Fundamental Law and to serve the people of Sylvestria with impartiality and justice.

Section 2: Code of Conduct

Magistrates and judges shall adhere to a strict code of conduct that emphasizes honesty, integrity, and the impartial administration of justice.

Section 3: Removal from Office

The Prince of the Sylvestrians, with the advice and consent of the Director General, may remove any magistrate or judge for cause, including but not limited to, neglect of duty, misconduct in office, or failure to adhere to the code of conduct.

Enactment:

This act shall come into force on the first day of the month following its proclamation.

Signed and sealed on the 15th day of April, in the year 2025.

HIE Bart. E. Belteaux, MEB

Director General

Principality of Sylvestria