

**Consular Conventions Act
(CHAPTER 52)**

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**CONSULAR CONVENTIONS ACT
(CHAPTER 52)**

(Original Enactment: Ordinance 44 of 1951)

REVISED EDITION 1985

(30th March 1987)

An Act to confer upon consular officers of foreign States with which consular conventions are concluded by Singapore certain powers relating to the administration of the estates and property of deceased persons; to restrict the powers of police officers and other persons to enter the consular offices of such States.

[4th December 1951]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Consular Conventions Act.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“consular employee” means any person employed at a consulate for the performance of executive, administrative, clerical, technical or professional duties or as consular guard, messenger or driver of a vehicle whose name has been communicated by a consular officer to the Minister, but does not include any person employed on domestic duties;

“consular office” means any building or part of a building which is exclusively occupied for the purpose of the official business of a consular officer;

“consular officer” means a consul-general, consul, vice-consul or consular agent representing a foreign State to whom an exequatur or provisional or other authorisation to perform consular functions has been granted;

“consulate” means a consulate established in Singapore by a foreign State.

Restriction of powers of entry in relation to consular offices

3.—(1) Subject to this section, a consular office of a State to which this section applies shall not be entered by a police officer or other person acting in the execution of any warrant or other legal process or in the exercise of powers conferred by or under any written law (whether passed before or after the commencement of this Act) or otherwise, except with the consent of the consular officer in charge of that office or, if that consent is withheld or cannot be obtained, with the consent of the Minister.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to any entry effected —

- (a) in pursuance of section 7(a) of the Fire Service Act (Cap. 110) (which confers power to enter premises for the purpose of extinguishing or preventing the spread of fire) or any other written law making provision

corresponding with the provisions of that section;

- (b) by a police officer having reasonable cause to believe that a crime involving violence has been or is being or is about to be committed in a consular office; or
- (c) by any person entitled to enter by virtue of any easement, contract or other private right.

(3) This section shall not apply to any consular office which for the time being is in the charge of a consular officer who is a citizen of Singapore or is not a national of the State by which that office is maintained.

Remission of taxes, charges, duties and fees

4. The President may direct that any tax, charge, duty or fee, imposed or collected under any written law in force in Singapore by the Government or by a public authority, and payable by the government of a foreign State or by a consular officer or consular employee of a foreign State, may be remitted when, in the opinion of the President, such remission should be granted by reason of the treatment accorded to the Government of Singapore or its consular officers or employees by that State.

Powers of consular officers in relation to property in Singapore of deceased persons

5.—(1) Where any person who is a national of a State to which this section applies is named as executor in the will of a deceased person disposing of property in Singapore, or is otherwise a person to whom a grant of representation to the estate in Singapore of a deceased person may be made, then if the court is satisfied on the application of a consular officer of that State that that national is not resident in Singapore, and if no application for a grant of such representation is made by a person duly authorised by power of attorney to act for him in that behalf, the court shall make to that officer any such grant of representation to the estate of the deceased as would be made to him if he were so authorised as aforesaid:

Provided that the court may, if it thinks fit, postpone the making of a grant by virtue of this section during such period as the court considers appropriate having regard to the circumstances of the case.

(2) Where any person who is a national of a State to which this section applies —

- (a) is entitled to payment or delivery of any money or property in respect of any interest in the estate of a deceased person, or vesting in possession on the death of any person or is entitled to payment of any money becoming due on the death of any person; or