

DECREE  
OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
NO.954 OF AUGUST 2, 1999  
ISSUES OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

1. To approve the attached Regulations on the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation.  
2. To increase regular staff number of workers of the criminal and enforcement system of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation by 4658 persons through transfer of respective numbers of regular staff of internal security bodies of the Russian Federation.

3. To fix ultimate number of workers of the central staff of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation at 1520 persons (minus security personnel and that for maintenance of buildings).

The costs involved in the upkeep of said number of workers shall be charged towards federal budget funds: 725 persons - for account of funds allocated for financing the central staff of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, 795 persons- for account of funds allocated for financing the criminal and enforcement system of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation.

4. To allow the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation to have a board numbering 19 persons.

5. The Government of the Russian Federation shall be required:  
to bring its statutory acts in line with this Decree;  
to submit proposals on bringing statutory acts of the President of the Russian Federation in accord with this Decree.

6. This Decree shall take effect since its official release in the press.

President  
of the Russian Federation

B.Yeltsyn

Moscow, the Kremlin

Regulations  
on the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation  
(approved by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation  
No.954 of August 2, 1999)

I. General provisions

1. The Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation (Russia's Ministry of Justice) is a federal body of executive authority that conducts state policy and exercises control in the sphere of justice as well as coordinates activities in said sphere of other federal executive authorities.

Control of activities of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation shall be performed by the President of the Russian Federation. The Government of the Russian Federation shall coordinate activities of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation.

2. The system of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation shall embrace its territorial bodies, other bodies and agencies of justice as well as organizations providing for their

activities.

3. The Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation shall in its activities be guided by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal constitutional laws, federal laws, decrees and orders of the President of the Russian Federation, decisions and directives of the Government of the Russian Federation, generally accepted principles and norms of international law, international treaties of the Russian Federation as well as these Regulations.

4. The Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation shall be recognized as a legal entity, have a seal with the State insignia of the Russian Federation and its name inscribed thereupon, other stamps, seals and forms, accounts, including those in foreign currency with banks of the Russian Federation and agencies of federal treasury as may be required for pursuing its activities.

## II. Basic tasks of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation

5. The basic tasks of the Russia's Ministry of Justice shall include:

- 1) realization of state policy in the sphere of justice;
- 2) safeguarding the rights and legitimate interests of person and state;
- 3) ensuring legal protection of intellectual property;
- 4) providing for established procedure of functioning of courts;
- 5) enforcement of acts of judicial and other agencies;
- 6) enforcement of punishments under criminal law.

## III. Basic functions of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation

6. Russia's Ministry of Justice shall in accordance with tasks it is entrusted with perform the following main functions:

- 1) coordinate law-making activity of federal executive authorities;
- 2) conduct juridical expertise of drafts of legislative and other statutory acts that may be submitted by federal authorities for consideration of the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation;
- 3) conduct juridical expertise of statutory acts of the subjects of the Russian Federation as to compliance thereof with the Constitution of the Russian Federation and federal laws;
- 4) provide for the activity of authorized representatives of the Government of the Russian Federation in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation;
- 5) carry out state registration of statutory acts of federal executive authorities affecting the rights, freedoms and duties of person and citizen, that establish legal status of organizations or that are of interdepartmental nature as well as acts of other bodies in instances envisaged by the legislation of the Russian Federation;
- 6) effect inspection of activity of federal executive authorities as regards selection of statutory acts subject to state registration and, if need be, request for statutory acts for purposes of their state registration;
- 7) exercise control over accuracy and timeliness of publication of statutory acts of federal executive authorities registered by it;
- 8) summarize the practice of state registration of statutory acts of federal executive

authorities affecting the rights, freedoms and duties of person and citizen that establish legal status of organizations or that are of interdepartmental nature, provide the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation with relevant information, including about statutory acts that were refused state registration;

9) submit to the Government of the Russian Federation proposals for revocation or suspension of statutory acts of federal executive authorities in the event of non-compliance of same with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, international treaties of the Russian Federation, federal laws, decrees and orders of the President of the Russian Federation, decisions and orders of the Government of the Russian Federation;

10) study the practice of application of legislation of the Russian Federation in the sphere of justice, elaborate and make in the established manner proposals for improvement of same;

11) conduct state record-keeping of legal acts of the Russian Federation's subjects;

12) maintain state register of statutory acts of federal executive authorities;

13) maintain test copies of statutory acts of federal executive authorities, organize the activity of its territorial bodies associated with maintaining test copies of statutory acts of the Russian Federation's subjects;

14) participate in the work of maintaining general law classifier of branches of legislation of the Russian Federation;

15) participate in the preparation of Code of Laws of the Russian Federation;

16) participate in elaboration and implementation of law information-supply programs;

17) perform in the established manner functions of the state customer;

18) organize work associated with creation and maintaining of data bases of law information in the sphere of justice;

19) present law information to the President of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation, other federal bodies of state authority;

20) carry out exchange of law information with foreign states, coordinate the activity of setting up national legislation data bases of member-states of the Commonwealth of Independent states;

21) organize elaboration and provision of bodies and agencies of justice with software and hardware facilities and technologies of collection, processing and analysis of law information;

22) provide for collection and processing of statistics, working out of forms of statistic reporting and documents of basic accounting in the sphere of justice;

23) carry out state registration of all-Russian and international societal associations, branches of foreign non-profit nongovernmental associations as well as legal entities in instances envisaged by the legislation of the Russian Federation;

24) carry out state registration of centralized religious organizations that have local religious organizations in the territories of two and more subjects of the Russian Federation, religious agencies and organizations created by said centralized religious organizations and also representative offices of foreign religious organizations;

25) perform control over compliance of societal associations' activities with objectives specified in their charter as well as over observance by religious organizations of provisions of charters concerning the objectives and procedure of their activity;

26) conduct organizational and methodological management of court bailiffs' service;

27) organize operative and search activities at agencies executing punishments under criminal law and at investigation wards;

28) enforce punishments under criminal law, provide for the holding of suspects, inditees,

defendants and convicts under custody, the guarding, deportation and escorting of same as well as control over behaviour of convicts given suspended sentences and convicts that were given by court a suspension in serving their term;

29) undertake centralized provision of agencies and bodies of the criminal enforcement system of Russia's Ministry of Justice (hereinafter referred to as criminal enforcement system) with arms, ammunition, special means, military equipment and other property;

30) organize the elaboration and undertaking of measures towards ensuring fire safety of facilities of the criminal enforcement system;

31) exercise the right of ownership, use and disposal of real estate held under daily management of territorial bodies of the criminal enforcement system, being federal ownership, take on lease property, carry out in the prescribed manner alienation of facilities created or acquired by using the funds of the federal budget as well as let out on lease said property and facilities, provide for operation, technical maintenance and guarding of property transferred to it by using the funds allocated for said purposes;

32) perform at production facilities of the criminal enforcement system licensing, overseeing and supervisory functions in the sphere of industrial safety;

33) conduct organizational and methodological management of activity of forensic and expertise agencies of the system of Russia's Ministry of Justice;

34) invest notaries with powers to perform notarial actions on behalf of the Russian Federation;

35) exercise in the established manner control over performance by notaries of professional duties, including rules of notarial office work;

36) organize issuance of licences for the right to engage in notary's activity, approve forms of registers of notarial actions, notary's certificates and attesting inscriptions, perform other powers envisaged by the Fundamental Principles of Legislation of the Russian Federation on the Notariate;

37) give in the established manner consent to the setting up of colleges of barristers;

38) maintain register of colleges of barristers;

39) exercise control over observance by colleges of barristers of the legislation of the Russian Federation regulating activity of the advocacy;

40) approve forms and set time limits for presentation of reports by colleges of barristers to bodies of justice of the Russian Federation;

41) attest the authenticity of notary's signature and imprint of his/her stamp in case of legalization of documents to be submitted by individuals and legal entities to competent bodies of foreign states;

42) effect coordination of activity associated with state registration of demographic records;

43) approve specimens of forms of demographic records and forms of certificates of state registration of vital records;

44) designate for the Russian Federation's subjects series of forms of certificates of state registration of demographic records;

45) prepare methodological materials on matters of state registration of vital records;

46) perform functions of authorized federal body of executive authority in the field of registration of rights to real estate and deals therewith;

47) perform functions of state patented agency established by the Patent Law of the Russian Federation and the Law of the Russian Federation on Trade Marks, Signs of Service and Names

of Places of Goods Origin as well as functions of agency for legal protection of programs for computers, data bases and topologies of integral microcircuits prescribed by the laws of the Russian Federation on Legal Protection of Programs for Computers and Data Bases and on Legal Protection of Topologies of Integral Microcircuits;

48) prepare proposals for improvement of the legislation of the Russian Federation in the field of copyright and rights associated therewith, carry out interaction with societal associations, participate in international cooperation in said sphere;

49) carry out legal protection of interests of the state in the process of economic and civil turnover of results of research, development and technological work of defence, special and dual purpose;

50) submit in the established manner proposals for preparation, signing and implementation of international agreements of the Russian Federation on legal assistance in civil, family, criminal and other cases as well as international treaties of the Russian Federation in the field of protection of intellectual property;

51) coordinate in the prescribed manner proposals on conclusion of international treaties of the Russian Federation establishing rules that are not envisaged by the legislation of the Russian Federation;

52) give, in the event so is provided by international agreement of the Russian Federation or constitutes an essential condition for it to take effect, opinion on compliance of provisions of agreement with the legislation of the Russian Federation and also on other issues associated with entry into force and implementation of such agreement;

53) furnish at the order of the Russian Federation's Commissioner under the European Court for Human Rights materials and opinions as may be required in connection with enquiries received by the European court for Human Rights about violation by the Russian Federation of provisions of the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Basic Freedoms;

54) fulfil within its competence commitments of the Russian Federation under international agreements of the Russian Federation on legal aid in civil, family, criminal and other cases;

55) give permissions to open representative offices of foreign legal organizations in the territory of the Russian Federation;

56) undertake the financing of bodies and agencies of justice;

57) take measures aimed at ensuring social protection of workers of bodies and agencies of justice as well as members of their families, veterans of bodies and agencies of justice, including assistance to improve housing conditions of said persons;

58) exercise control over financial and economic activity of bodies and agencies of justice;

59) organize and conduct audits of book-keeping and accounting at bodies and agencies of justice as well as at the central staff of the Russia's Ministry of Justice;

60) undertake measures towards application at bodies and agencies of justice of the legislation of the Russian Federation on labour and governmental service as well as measures of selection, training and development of workers of bodies and agencies of justice;

61) arrange for consideration of oral and written enquiries of citizens associated with the work of bodies and agencies of justice;

62) perform other functions in accordance with federal laws.

#### IV. Powers of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation

7. Russia's Ministry of Justice shall within its respective competence:

1) create its territorial bodies, approve regulations thereon, approve number of regular staff and payroll fund within the limits of fixed number and payroll fund;

2) set up agencies of justice and other organizations, reorganize and liquidate them as well as approve charters thereof;

3) sign international agreements of the Russian Federation of interdepartmental character;

4) apply for and receive in the established manner materials as may be required from federal bodies of state authority, bodies of state authority of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local administration, organizations and officials;

5) engage for preparation of drafts of statutory acts and conduct of expertise of same services of scientific and other organizations as well as scientists and experts, including on a contract basis;

6) engage, if need be in the established manner for purposes of accomplishing its tasks and functions services of workers of federal executive authorities and bodies of executive authority of the subjects of the Russian Federation;

7) send to the body that issued statutory act an enquiry binding for execution as to presentation of said act for state registration;

8) submit, in the event of failure of statutory act of the Russian Federation's subject to comply with the Constitution of the Russian Federation or with federal law, a motivated report to the body of state authority of the Russian Federation's subject that adopted said act as well as to respective federal bodies of state authority;

9) make enquiries to managing bodies of societal associations and religious organizations for making available their governing documents;

10) depute their representatives to participate in the events held by societal associations and religious organizations;

11) submit to presidiums of colleges of barristers recommendations for institution of actions for disciplinary responsibility of lawyers;

12) give letters of warnings to colleges of barristers on elimination of detected violations of the legislation of the Russian Federation;

13) apply to federal executive agencies, enterprises - developers and manufacturers of arms and military equipment and state intermediaries - federal state unitary enterprises carrying out in the established manner export (import) of weapons, military hardware, work and services of military purpose, information and results of intellectual activity in the field of defence and engineering, for licences to manufacture arms and military equipment and to use respective technologies as well as for data essential for implementation of legal protection of interests of the state in the process of economic and civil turnover of results of research, development and technological work of defence, special and dual purpose;

14) make proposals for improvement of conditions of work, material support, social and consumer service of workers of bodies and agencies of justice.

8. Russia's Ministry of Justice shall while taking decisions on its own in the sphere of justice, if need be, in the prescribed manner coordinate its decisions with federal executive authorities and executive agencies of the Russian Federation's subjects concerned;

9. Russia's Ministry of Justice shall have the right to issue decisions, orders, directives, rules, instructions and regulations that shall be binding on state and municipal bodies, organizations, officials and citizens.

## V. Management of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation;

10. Russia's Ministry of Justice shall be headed by Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Minister) to be appointed to and dismissed from the post by the President of the Russian Federation on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation.

The minister shall have deputies to be appointed to and dismissed from the post by the President of the Russian Federation upon recommendation of the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation.

11. The minister shall:

1) carry out on the unity of command basis general management of activity of Russia's Ministry of Justice and shall be personally liable for fulfilment of tasks and functions Russia's Ministry of Justice is entrusted with;

2) establish powers of his deputies, divide duties between them and delegate them with performance of part of his powers, establish powers of other officials of the system of Russia's Ministry of Justice of dealing by them with everyday, organizational, staff schedule, personnel, financial, production, economic and other matters ascribed to the competence of Russia's Ministry of Justice;

3) submit for consideration of the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation drafts of legislative and other statutory acts on issues fallen under the competence of Russia's Ministry of Justice as well as proposals for realization of policy of the state in the sphere of justice;

4) sign decisions, orders, directives and other acts issued within the competence of Russia's Ministry of Justice and also organize checks of implementation of same;

5) sign international agreement of the Russian Federation on legal aid in civil, family, criminal and other cases;

6) make recommendations to the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation for calling to account of officials of federal executive agencies due to facts of non-compliance or inadequate compliance by them with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, decrees and directives of the President of the Russian Federation, decisions and directives of the Government of the Russian Federation;

7) approve regulations on structural subdivisions of Russia's Ministry of Justice, structure and staff schedule of its central staff within the limits of fixed number and payroll fund as well as estimate of costs for the upkeep of the central staff of Russia's Ministry of Justice within the budget funds allocated for a respective period;

8) define standard structures, standard staff schedules, norm of regular staff number of territorial bodies of the criminal enforcement system, departments with special conditions of economic activity, organizations incorporated within the criminal enforcement system as well as prescribe procedure for reorganization and liquidation of same and take respective decisions;

9) take decisions on the setting up of subdivisions of social purpose to fulfil tasks facing bodies and agencies of the criminal enforcement system;

10) define procedure for activity of subdivisions of special purpose to be set up to provide for security within the criminal enforcement system;

11) appoint in the established manner to and dismiss from the post heads of territorial bodies of the criminal enforcement system;

12) confer in the established manner class qualifications and special ranks to workers of bodies and agencies of justice, present other workers of bodies and agencies of justice for awarding them with class qualifications and special ranks;

13) present workers of the system of Russia's Ministry of Justice that showed especially good performance for conferment of honorary titles and decoration with state awards of the Russian Federation;

14) make in the established manner recommendations for appointment to and dismissal from the post of chief court bailiff of the Russian Federation;

15) appoint to and dismiss from the post workers of the central staff of Russia's Ministry of Justice and heads of bodies of justice of the Russian Federation;

16) exercise other powers in accordance with federal laws.

12. Russia's Ministry of Justice shall have within its structure a board to comprise the minister (board chairman) and deputy ministers, executives of the system of Russia's Ministry of Justice as well as other specialists in the sphere of justice.

Board members of Russia's Ministry of Justice, except for persons incorporated as its members ex officio, shall be approved by the Government of the Russian Federation upon recommendation of the minister.

The board shall at its meetings deal with most important issues of activity of Russia's Ministry of Justice.

Decisions of the board of Russia's Ministry of Justice shall be realized by orders and directives of the minister. In the event of disagreement between the minister and the board, the minister shall realize his decision. The minister shall inform the President of the Russian Federation or the Government of the Russian Federation of differences arisen.

13. Under Russia's Ministry of Justice there shall be formed scientific and advising councils. The membership of the councils and regulations thereon shall be approved by the minister.