

**SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION 331.06**

**TRUSTS AND TRUSTEES ACT (NOTARIAL TRUST  
DEEDS REGISTRATION, CONSERVATION AND  
ACCESS) REGULATIONS**

6th January, 2015

*LEGAL NOTICE 15 of 2015.*

- 1.** (1) The title of these regulations is the Trusts and Trustees Act (Notarial Trust Deeds Registration, Conservation and Access) Regulations. Citation and scope.
- (2) The purpose of these regulations is to regulate the registration, conservation and access of notarial trust deeds, particularly with reference to article 43A(6) of the Trusts and Trustees Act and article 84A(2) of the Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives Act. Cap. 331.  
Cap. 55.
- 2.** (1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires - Interpretation.
- "the Act" means the Trusts and Trustees Act; Cap. 331.
- "the Authority" means the Malta Financial Services Authority established in terms of the Malta Financial Services Authority Act; Cap. 330.
- "depository notary" refers to the person in terms article 43A of the Act;
- "notarial archives" refers to the Archives of Malta or Archives of Gozo, as applicable, in terms of the Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives Act; Cap. 55.
- "publishing notary" means the notary public who publishes a will containing a testamentary trust or receives a notarial trust deed *inter vivos*, irrespective of any other functions he may carry out in terms of article 43A of the Act, whether as a trustee or as a depository notary;
- "review officer" refers to the person as defined in article 94A of the Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives Act. Cap. 55.
- (2) Words and expressions used in these regulations which are also used in the Act but which are not defined herein shall have the same meaning as in the Act.
- 3.** (1) All notarial trust deeds published prior to the coming into force of these regulations, which have not been previously bound elsewhere, shall be bound in a separate volume, one for each notarial trust deed. Conservation and registration in volumes by publishing notary - prior to the coming into force of these regulations.
- (2) If a notarial trust deed published prior to the coming into force of these regulations has been bound in any other volume the following rules shall apply:
- (a) if the trust deed is in the volume of public deeds or in

the volume of public wills and acts of delivery of secret wills, it shall remain in the same volume in the chronological order in which it was bound; and

- (b) the publishing notary shall manually add to the index that the deed is a trust deed and the provisions applicable to trust deeds shall be applied in relation to this deed.

Conservation and registration in volumes by publishing notary - after the coming into force of these regulations.

4. (1) All notarial trust deeds published on or after the coming into force of these regulations, shall be bound by the publishing notary in a separate volume, one for each notarial trust deed.

(2) The publishing notary shall also create a register of the said trust deeds and this register shall be held by the publishing notary.

(3) All notarial trust deeds shall be conserved in the notarial archives and the access to such deeds shall be regulated in terms of these regulations.

Safekeeping of documents by the depositary notary.

5. (1) The depositary notary shall keep all documents relative to a trust as provided in article 43A of the Act.

(2) These documents shall be kept separate from all other documents held by such depositary notary in the execution of his functions and the depositary notary shall be responsible for establishing an adequate system for the preservation of all documentation relating to the trust while he is so engaged.

(3) The records of each trust shall be kept separate from those relating to other trusts and shall be held for safekeeping under lock and key.

(4) The records of a trust shall be kept in such a manner that:

- (a) they are immediately available for inspection in terms of article 43A(7) of the Act;
- (b) in the event that a new depositary notary is appointed, they shall be delivered to such notary immediately; and
- (c) the documents forming part of such records shall be numbered consecutively as soon as they are received by the depositary notary.

(5) In the event that a depositary notary delivers documents relative to a trust to a new depositary notary and retains copies of such documents in accordance with article 43A(9) of the Act, these regulations shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to such copies.

Accessibility of trust documents.

6. In the case of a trust set up by a testamentary disposition, where:

- (a) the terms of a trust form an integral part of a will; or
- (b) are annexed to the will,

Cap. 55.

they shall be accessible to any person after the death of the testator in accordance with the provisions of article 68 of the Notarial Profession and the Notarial Archives Act.

7. (1) Without prejudice to sub-regulation (2), a depositary notary shall, upon commencement of his office as depositary notary of any particular trust and upon termination thereof, submit to the Notary to Government, a return listing all trusts in relation to which he acts in such capacity.

Returns to be submitted to the Notary to Government.

(2) The return shall be submitted in the form and at the intervals which may be specified in any guidelines issued in terms of these regulations:

Provided that the Notary to Government may request the submission of the return referred to in this regulation at such intervals as may be deemed fit.

(3) The return shall only contain the designation of the trust which shall include details of the trustee:

Provided that the depositary notary shall not be obliged to disclose the nature of the documents deposited with such notary in the execution of his duty as depositary notary.

(4) The return referred to in sub-regulation (1) shall not include information relating to any trusts for which the depositary notary is no longer engaged and for which a substitute depositary notary has been engaged, even if the depositary notary has retained copies in accordance with article 43A(9) of the Act:

Provided that the depositary notary shall inform the Notary to Government of the termination of his engagement as depositary notary of any such trust.

(5) The Notary to Government shall keep the returns submitted by depositary notaries in relation to this regulation under lock and key and in such a manner as to safeguard at all times the confidentiality of the contents thereof.

8. (1) When a trust is set up by testamentary disposition, both in case of a public will or a secret will, and the same has been deposited for preservation in the notarial archives, the rules of accessibility of wills in terms of article 68A of the Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives Act shall apply.

Accessibility of deeds of trust - Notarial Archives.

Cap. 55.

(2) When any notarial *inter vivos* trust deed has been deposited for preservation in the notarial archives, as described in regulations 3 and 4, such trust deed shall not be accessible to any person, and copies thereof shall not be granted to any person except:

- (a) with the written authority of the original trustee or substitute trustee, as confirmed to be so by the depositary notary in the manner prescribed in the Schedule, and provided that the trustee shall seek the advice of the depositary notary prior to granting access to such person. Form A annexed to these regulations shall be filled in by the original trustee or substitute trustee and confirmed by the depositary notary and submitted to the notarial archives prior to copies of the trust deed being issued therefrom; or
- (b) under the authority of any Court.

Inspection by the  
Court of Revision  
of Notarial Acts.

9. (1) All trust deeds shall be submitted for inspection to the Review Officers of the Court of Revision of Notarial Acts in the same manner as other notarial deeds.

(2) When a testamentary trust forms part of a will and the same is subject to review and inspection by the Court of Revision of Notarial Acts, this shall be reviewed and inspected in the same manner in which wills are inspected and reviewed.

(3) When reviewing and inspecting a notarial *inter vivos* trust deed, the Court of Revision of Notarial Acts shall, in particular, examine whether such deed contains an indication of:

- Cap. 55. (a) the date in accordance with article 28(1)(a) of the Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives Act;
  - Cap. 55. (b) the designation of the settlor, if any, in accordance with article 28(1)(c) and article 28(1)(d) of the Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives Act;
  - Cap. 55. (c) the designation of the trustee in accordance with article 28(1)(c) and article 28(1)(d) of the Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives Act;
  - Cap. 55. (d) the assets which have been settled under trust in accordance with article 28(1)(f) of the Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives Act; and
  - Cap. 55. (e) the designation of a beneficiary in accordance with article 28(1)(c) and article 28(1)(d) of the Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives Act or at least a class of beneficiaries which is ascertainable in accordance with article 9(4) of the Act, or the purpose of the trust in the case of a trust set up for the fulfilment of a charitable purpose.
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