

## INTERIM RULING

### re: Subdivisions

Interim Ruling of the Imperial Chancery

Issues have been raised from HRM Elricus of the Kingdom of York. HRM was unable to find discernible answers in the Bylaws.

HRM describes the Canton of Yorkshore situation, it is proposing to separate from York, and is putting this on York's Estates agenda. Should this eventually pass the Imperial Crowns and Estates, three questions will have to be addressed, since York will be within an hour drive of Yorkshore. HRM was concerned that these questions had not been addressed before, as HRM was not aware of subdivisions within such close proximity. Terre Neuve and Esperance, Esperance and Sangreal, and Umbria and Aragon all share borders or active members within short driving distance of one another. Some have been known to hold joint events, but HRM is quite right that this situation will be new in the eastern part of the Empire.

#### **1. Can a member of one chartered subdivision hold a ministerial position within another chartered subdivision?**

Yes.

We are speaking specifically of chartered subdivisions because this issue does not apply to non-chartered subdivisions (i.e. Marches, Counties, Baronies and Houses) within a chartered subdivision. While generally, individual membership is assigned to the chartered subdivision in which the member resides (where a participant physically lives; Imperial Bylaws Article III. F.), the Bylaws do not specifically address the issue raised.

Current practice in the Kingdom of Esperance and the Duchy of Sangreal actually supports the construct. Esperance and Sangreal share a common border and an on-going relationship; though this does not seem to be required.

There appears to be no prohibition in law and no Imperial interest at stake.

If this situation is reasonable for the parties involved and acceptable to the Crown then it should be permitted. Of course common sense dictates that an officer from one side of the Empire would be hard pressed to fulfill his duties on the other side of the Empire. Obviously, some officers must be in physical attendance. The Imperial Bylaws specify in Article VII. F. 1. and 6. a. that the Chancellor and Crown Marshall must actually be present to fulfill their duties, but not that they reside in the chartered subdivision that they serve. Logic dictates that the Physicker and Minister of War and Joust not work exclusively through deputies, but their physical attendance is not required.

#### **2. Can a member of one subdivision be a member of an Estate within another subdivision?**

No, except in non-chartered subdivisions where a member is part of a House, that House is a part of a Barony, that Barony is part of a County, and that County is part of a March.

Non-chartered subdivisions (i.e. Marches, Counties, Baronies and Houses) are defined in Imperial Bylaws Article VIII. E. as: "... based on the free association of their members within a chartered subdivision." Each "... has the right to choose a ruling Noble or Nobles and have seat on the Estates General." And, each has a minimum number of members. Therefore, Adria's representative governmental system limits a member's right to be a member of an Estate and those larger Estates that include it. This construct does not allow membership in competing or multiple Estates.

No exception currently exists for chartered subdivisions. An individual membership is assigned to the chartered subdivision in which the member resides unless the Imperial Crown decides otherwise for special circumstances (Imperial Bylaws Article III. F.). The Bylaw permits assignment by the Imperial Crown when a member has multiple residences or special circumstances. Currently, this means one or the other chartered subdivision. Therefore, no member may be a member of an Estate other than where he resides; except, when the Imperial Crown decides to which chartered subdivision the participant is a member.

---

The Kingdom of Aragon has already been a test case for this issue. Members residing in Umbria were listed as part of the Landed Estates in the Kingdom of Aragon. Their petition to TIM Eric and Elizabeth under Imperial Bylaws Article III. F. was denied.

**3. Can a member of one subdivision be the head of an Estate within another subdivision?**

No. See 2. above.

The definition of a non-chartered subdivision is a free association, of at least a minimum number of members, that selects its own nobles. Membership in that subdivision is an eligibility requirement to hold office in and over it. This is not intended to exclude honorary members who play with or help the estate--but the estate does not include or represent them for our political purposes.

*In Service,  
Sir William Baine, Chancellor, Adria  
January 14, 2002*