



CONSTANTINE IX
ROYO Y IMPERAD

A.S. 279

MARCH, 2021

No.4 of 2021

**An Act relating to the Hereditary and Non-Hereditary
Peerage of the Empire**

Assented to on the 9th of March, 2021

Amended on the Xth of August, 2024

SARHOLM, 2021



BE IT ENACTED, by the Office of the Prime Minister of the New Sarovian Empire and Her Colonies and Dominions, with the advice and consent of the Imperial Parliament thereof, as follows:

The Purpose of the Peerage

1. In the New Sarovian Empire, an upper aristocratic class has always been there, represented by wealth and nobility. Since the beginning of New Sarovia in 2016, titles such as the Prince of Kiev, Archdukes, Dukes and more have been given to the most fervent of Sarovian supporters and close family members. Precedent has been abolished in the Times of Crisis of 2020 which gives way to the necessary codification and establishment of official legislation revolving the Peerage of the New Sarovian Empire.

All members of the Peerage must be sworn in during an investiture, though the process varies from time to time. Knights of the Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire (OSE) and Knights of the Most Exalted Grand Order of the Vasas (OV) have investments which include the swearing of oaths, accolades, and more. Members of the nobility must be sworn in for their own respective ceremonies, and their appointments (as per appointments to the orders of chivalry) must be announced in the *Sarholm Gazette or a RdC*. Knights are considered Peers, but not members of the Nobility, as life-appointments. **Each member of the Peerage must obtain their full peerage robes within two weeks of their appointment.**

Precedence of the Nobility

2. In the New Sarovian Empire there are five official titles in the nobility, which vary in many forms. **Other member states of the Sarovian Commonwealth may, in some capacity, formulate their own titles for their autonomous Peerages, but shall not sit within the Imperial Peerage. These titles are recognised but confer no privilege in Sarholm.** Some are hereditary and some are not, and some are awarded for different things. These are, in descending order of precedence:

a) Princes of the Realm

Princes, or the female princess, are known in High Sarovian as *Prinzip/Prinzesse*. These are the children of the Sovereign or his direct descendants, who have been legitimised by the Crown. There are two types of princes - *prinzip eui rugeo* (princes by blood) and *prinzip eui onneurine* (princes by style). All legitimate children of the Sovereign must be addressed as Your Imperial Highness. Princes by Blood shall be styled as such, as His Imperial Highness,

Prince of X, John Smith, and Princes by Style may be any individual of the reigning House who, on command of the Sovereign, may take the style of His/Her Imperial Highness while retaining the title and rank of another. This is often done to grandsons of the reigning Sovereign.

Princes and Princesses are the children of any monarch, who are legitimised. There are two types of Princes - Princes by Blood and Princes by Style. All legitimate children of a monarch are Prince/Princesses, and must be addressed as *Your Imperial Highness*. However, they may not attend the Assembly of Peers without their title (Princes by style.) There is only one Prince by Blood in the Empire - The Prince of Kiev. The Prince of Kiev may not be seated in the Assembly of Peers unless in another role.

a) Dukes of the Realm

Second in precedence are Dukes or the female Duchess, which are known in High Sarovian as *Duc/Ducesse*. Often awarded to retired members of the House of Vasa or former monarchs, Dukes are the most senior non-royal/imperial family titles, and come with extreme benefits. All Dukes, upon conferment of the title, are awarded large estates by virtue of their title to continue contributing an income. Dukes may often hold two titles, a duchy and a lesser title known as a courtesy title, which their heir may use formally (without voting powers).

Dukes are second in precedence, and there are a total of five duchies in the Empire, though more may be created. A Duchy is usually given to a former monarch, or any of the old claimants to old Duchies of 2018. Dukes are granted a seat in the Assembly of Peers. These five starting Duchies are: the Duke of Preuze, the Duke of Upper Preuze, Duke of Poltava, Duke of Sorrel and Duke of Westling.

As per the orders of His Imperial Majesty, the five starting Dukes are below:

1. His Grace the Duke of Preuze, Hankey Lyon
2. His Grace the Duke of Upper Preuze, Edward Vasa
3. His Grace the Duke of Poltava, Sevirax Vasa
4. His Grace the Duchess of Sorrel, Brianna Vasa
5. His Grace the Duke of Westling, William Vasa

b) Earls of the Realm

Earls are third in precedence, and are known in High Sarovian as *Arle/Arlesse*. Earls are senior members of the Assembly of Peers, and wield considerable power and influence. Earls are also awarded estates by virtue of their title, though of a lesser extent than dukes, and may also hold a courtesy title.

There are five Earldoms spread throughout the New Sarovian Empire, though more may be created. An Earldom is given to any prestigious and high ranking member of the old nobility. Earls are granted a seat in the Assembly of Peers.

As per the orders of His Imperial Majesty, the five starting Earls are below:

1. Lord Jafar Vasa, Earl of Nafetia
2. Lord Clement Picton, Earl of Elster
3. Lord Juno Aviz, Earl of Navars
4. Lord Henrique Vasa, Earl of Henryville
5. Lord John Vasa, Earl of Sarholm

c) Viscounts of the Realm

Viscounts are the fourth title in precedence, and in High Sarovian are *Visarle/Visarlesse*. Pronounced *vie-count* in English, these titles are hereditary like all other noble titles (except knighthoods), and are the last title in which the incumbent receives both an estate and the privilege to use a courtesy title. Viscount is a middle of the road peerage. The name of the title is usually a famous battlefield location, a great achievement that the original recipient achieved, or of prominent families.

Viscounts are fourth in precedence. Pronounced *vie-count*, these titles are hereditary like Earls and Dukes. The title Viscount is given to senior military officers and talented civil servants, and can be created and disbanded at the sole discretion of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor. The name of the title is usually a famous battlefield location, or of prominent families. Viscount's court dress is similar to the Earls and Barons of the Realm. They are addressed as *Lady/Lord*.

d) Barons of the Realm

Barons are the last hereditary title in the Assembly of Peers, known in High Sarovian as *Baran/Baranesse*. These titles are often given to senior or junior civil servants or military officers for all sorts of deeds, including long service or achievements that do not warrant a viscount title. Similarly, they are also named after a famous battlefield location, a great achievement that the original recipient achieved, or of prominent families.

Barons are fifth in precedence. These titles may or may not be hereditary unlike Viscounts, Earls and Dukes. The title Baron is given to military officers and talented civil servants and can be created and disbanded at the sole discretion of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor. The name of the title is usually a famous battlefield location, or of prominent families. Baron's court dress is similar to the Earls and Barons of the Realm. They are addressed as *Lady/Lord*.

Each of them is entitled to wear court dress of varying degrees, their own style and title, inheritance, heraldry, uniforms, and more.

Eligibility of Old Titles

3. All defunct members of the nobility may petition His Imperial Majesty the Emperor to be inducted into the Peerage. They must have valid proof, or historical documents, of their former noble titles. Valid proof may include:

- a) Proof of inheritance or a sale,
- b) A will,
- c) A photo of you being granted the title,
- d) And others.

This petition may not be exercised if the title was intentionally dissolved by the Emperor, and the Emperor has full discretion, often on the advice of His Government, to reject or accept said petitions.

Eligibility to Attend the Assembly of Peers

4. All of the following titles are able to enter the Assembly of Peers:

- a) All Princes of the Realm,
- b) All Dukes of the Realm,
- c) All Earls of the Realm,
- d) All Viscounts of the Realm,
- e) All Barons of the Realm,
- f) All Knights of the Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire (OSE) *as life-members*
- g) All Knights of the Most Exalted Grand Order of the Vasas (OV) *as life-members*
- h) All Knights of the Order of the Griffon (OG) *as life-members*

Likewise, the Prime Minister of the Imperial Parliament is able to enter the Assembly only to address the Assembly, and His Imperial Majesty is able to enter the Assembly and dissolve it at any moment.

Process of the Assembly of Peers

5. The Assembly of Peers shall strive to meet on the 8th and 25th of every month, as well as immediately after any meetings of the House of Commons. The traditional meeting locations are Leda Palace, Borhaus, or Stenhammer on rare occasions. It may also be held online on the permission of the Lord-Speaker, of which the Lord-Speaker must introduce the mace virtually - this is only permitted rarely. The Lord-Speaker may, with the advice and consent of the Emperor, reschedule Peers meetings at will as necessary. Liberal Peers are to sit on one side of the room and conservative Peers on the other; the Emperor is allowed to attend. The Assembly of Peers may and shall be partisan.

Quorum will be the same percentage as in the Commons, as well the percentage needed to affirm a bill. When a bill is brought up, all Peers may speak freely on it, within reason; the Lord-Speaker is to merely lead discussion and keep order but must promote free discussion amongst the members, in contrast to the heavily guided and rule bound nature of Commons meetings. When the Lord-Speaker believes it expedient to call a vote, he may do so, regardless of whether discussion has died down or not. The Lord-Speaker must also promote proper etiquette in meetings of the Peers.

The Emperor may choose to order the Speaker of the House of Commons to send a bill that has passed the Commons directly to him for assent, as opposed to going through the Peers first before said assent, in matters the Emperor deems necessary for this bypassage. This may be overturned by a unanimous vote in the Assembly of Peers, which then brings the bill to the Peerage.

In contrast to the Speaker, who is elected by Parliament from amongst itself and confirmed by the Emperor, the Lord-Speaker is elected by the Assembly of Peers, though can only be dismissed by the Emperor.

Inheritance of Noble Titles

6. All members of the nobility with an hereditary title will pass on that title to their next of kin, or to another member of the family should a will be signed. Should no will be signed before the passing of an individual with titles, including family heads, all titles will be handed to the oldest surviving member of the family. Should no surviving members of the family exist, all titles will be given to the Crown to be distributed.

Whereas the death, retirement, abdication or incapability of a Duke, Prince, Earl or Viscount of a Sarovian Dukedom, Princedom, Earldom or Viscounty, the succession of the position shall be passed to the eldest child of the former noble. If there is no willing child to take the position and swear fealty to the Emperor, the demesne and title is revoked and able to be distributed to whomever the Emperor sees fit.

Investiture of Noble Titles

7. Every noble title will have its own investiture ceremony. All members of an Order of Chivalry, including All Knights of the Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire (OSE) and all Knights of the Most Exalted Grand Order of the Vasas (OV), have their investiture documents outlined in their Charter.

For all members of the Nobility, they will be brought to an official residence of the Emperor or palace to take the Oath of Nobility, seen below:

“I humbly present myself to Your Imperial Majesty as I do become your liege man of life and limb, to be your servant in all earthly things, I will live and die against all Your foes, so help me Stefan.”

Succession of Noble Titles

8. All noble titles may not exclude a certain sex or gender inheritance, though with approval from His Imperial Majesty, may change the method of succession from primogeniture to other forms of succession.

Family Tiers

9. All families within the New Sarovian Empire must adhere to the Life & Death Act (320 AS), and all members of the Peerage must also do so. There shall exist five familial tiers for members of the Peerage, labelled in increasing order:

- a) *Tel povizo* (The Poor)
- b) *Tel suhetizo* (The Successful)
- c) *Tel gentomme eui terra* (The Gentlemen of the Land, ie landed fentry)
- d) *Tel nobressos pur sabrelle* (The Nobility by Sword)
- e) *Tel nobressos pur legiela* (The Nobility by Law)
- f) *Tel nobressos pur majis* (The Nobility by Majesty)

All three tiers that mention the nobility must have the head individual of the family possess a noble title. These family tiers are established by law, and any modifications to their *Prestige Points*, member thresholds or perks shall be dictated by the Cabinet & consent of the Sovereign.