

## **The provisions related to the rights of the use of languages of Act CXL of 2004 on the General Rules of Public Administration Procedure and Servicing**

### Use of languages

**Article 9** (1) In the Republic of Hungary the official language of the public administration procedure – taking into consideration those contained in paragraph (2) – is Hungarian. However, this does not impede the use of other languages in the procedures of the foreign representations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in contacts with foreign or international organisations.

(2) The representative body of the minority settlement self-government may determine in its decree, and the body of the national minority self-government may determine the official language, besides the Hungarian, of the official procedure belonging to its scope of authority.

(3) The minority organisation and the natural person coming under the effect of the Minorities Act may use the language of the given minority in speech and writing at the public administration authority. The request filed in the language of the minority shall be adjudged by a decision in Hungarian and translated to the language used in the request, upon the demand of the client, and this provision prevails similarly for orders as well.

(4) At the public administration authority, where on the basis of paragraph (2) the official language is not only Hungarian, the clients using the Hungarian language and the other participants of the procedure may exercise the rights ensured for minorities in paragraph (3).

**Article 10** (1) If the public administration authority launches *ex officio* a procedure with a measure of immediate effect during the period of staying in Hungary of a person, who is not a Hungarian citizen, and does not have command of the Hungarian language –involving both legal persons, and natural persons proceeding on the assignment of organisations, which are not legal persons -, or the natural person client turns to the Hungarian public administration authority for immediate legal protection, the authority shall ensure for the client not to be prejudiced because of not knowing the Hungarian language. The law may also provide for the application of the provision included in this paragraph in affairs not regulated herein.

(2) With the exception of the clients determined in paragraph (3), Article 9, the client not knowing Hungarian may demand, even in cases not coming under the effect of paragraph (1), for the public administration authority to adjudge his request phrased in his mother tongue or in some intermediary language, while being liable for the translation and interpretation costs.

(3) In official public administration affairs regulated by the obligatory legal measure of the European Union (hereinafter: the Union's legal measure) or by international agreement, regulations different from those in paragraph (1) may be applied.

**Article 11** (1) If there is a difference in the interpretation of the Hungarian and foreign language decision or order of the public administration authority, the Hungarian text shall be regarded as authentic.

(2) In the cases regulated in paragraphs (3) and (4), Article 9, and paragraph (1), Article 10, the costs of translation, interpretation, and sign language interpretation are born by the proceeding public administration authority.

(3) Legal regulations may stipulate different rules for use of language in the issuing of official papers, the issuing of the official certificates and for official registration.