



BELIZE

**ESTATES OF DECEASED FOREIGNERS ACT
CHAPTER 198**

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CHAPTER 198

ESTATES OF DECEASED FOREIGNERS

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CHAPTER 198

ESTATES OF DECEASED FOREIGNERS

Ch. 197,
R.L., 1958.
CAP. 159,
R.E. 1980-1990.
S.I. 17 of 1964.

[16th November, 1940]

PART I

Preliminary and Estates of United States of America Citizens

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Estates of Deceased Foreigners Act.

Consul may administer personal estate in certain events.

2.-(1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, where any citizen of the United States of America dies within Belize, and there is no person present in Belize at the time of his death who is rightfully entitled to administer the personal estate of that deceased person, it shall be lawful for the Consul, Vice-Consul or Consular Agent of the United States of America within Belize,

- (a) to take possession and have the custody of the personal estate of the deceased;
- (b) to apply the same in payment of his or her debts and funeral expenses; and
- (c) to retain the surplus for the benefit of the person or persons entitled thereto.

(2) Such Consul, Vice-Consul or Consular Agent shall immediately apply for and shall be entitled, without giving the bond specified in section 14 of the Administration of Estates Act, Cap. 197, to obtain letters of administration of the personal estate of such deceased person, limited in such manner and for such time as the court may think fit.

Consul may take possession of real estate.

3. Where any citizen of the United States of America dies within Belize, and there is no person present in Belize at the time of his death who is rightfully entitled to the possession of the real estate of that deceased person, it shall

be lawful for the Consul, Vice-Consul or Consular Agent of the United States of America to take possession of and protect the said real estate for the benefit of the person or persons entitled thereto, until such last mentioned person or persons is or are otherwise represented in Belize.

4. Nothing contained in this Act shall affect the State’s right under the Administration of Estates Act, Cap. 197.

Saving of Crown’s right.

5. It shall be lawful for the Minister by Order published in the *Gazette*, whenever it appears to him expedient, to declare this Part to be no longer in force, and thereupon it shall cease to have effect.

Duration of this Part of this Act. S.I. 17 of 1964.

PART II

Estates of Subjects of Scheduled Foreign States

6.–(1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, where any subject or citizen of any State mentioned in the first column of the Schedule to this Act,

Administration of estates by Consular Officers.

(a) dies within Belize; or

(b) dies outside Belize leaving property within Belize,

and no person is present in Belize at the time of his death who is rightfully entitled to administer the estate of such deceased person, the Consul, Vice-Consul or Consular Agent of such State within Belize may take possession and have the custody of the property of such deceased person, and may apply the same in payment of his debts and funeral expenses, and may retain the surplus for the benefit of the persons entitled thereto.

(2) Such Consul, Vice-Consul or Consular Agent shall immediately apply for and shall be entitled to obtain from the court, letters of administration of the property of such deceased person, limited in such manner and for such time as to the court shall deem fit.

7. It shall be lawful for the Minister, by Order published in the *Gazette*, to vary the Schedule,

Variations of Schedule. S.I. 17 of 1964.

- (a) by deleting therefrom any State when the provision of the Treaty with that State mentioned in the Schedule shall have ceased to have effect;
 - (b) by adding thereto any State with which Her Majesty made before Belize attained independence and extended to apply to Belize, or which the government of Belize shall thereafter make a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation containing provision similar to any of the provisions of the Articles mentioned in the Schedule.
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SCHEDULE
Estates of Subjects of Scheduled Foreign States

[Sections 6(1) and 7]

Name of State	Title of Treaty	Date of Treaty	Provision
Estonia	Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the United Kingdom and Estonia	18 th January, 1926	Article 22.
Finland	Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the United Kingdom and Finland	14 th December, 1923	Article 19 (3 rd para.)
Greece	Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the United Kingdom and Greece	16 th July, 1926	Article 23.
Hungary	Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between United Kingdom and Hungary	23 rd July, 1926	Article 14.
Japan	Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between United Kingdom and Japan	3 rd April, 1911	Article 5.
Thailand	Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between United Kingdom and Siam (Thailand)	23 rd November, 1937	Article 19.
Turkey	Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between United Kingdom and Turkey	1 st March, 1930	Article 28.
Yugoslavia	Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between United Kingdom and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes	12 th March, 1927	Article 24.