
Regulation 05-2024 Establishing the
Regulation of Armorial Inheritance

Approved by HRH Crown Prince Davit of Georgia on 02 May 2024

With historic Georgian arms drawing from indigenous Georgian traditions as well as Russian and Western European systems of heraldry, and with supporters of the Royal House of Georgia originating from all across the world, Georgian heraldry sits at the crossroads of a great many permutations of heraldic practices. In providing backing to personal arms through grants and registrations, the RHCG needs to provide a regulatory framework for matters of succession to arms and questions of their proliferation through different branches of a family descending from the original armiger.

Given the aforementioned, it is key that the regulations of the College recognize the diversity of contexts in which different Georgian arms have come into being and approach these matters with an eye to fairly accommodating these realities while striving to build a coherent armorial system.¹ As such, the below approach is established for the reconciling and officializing arms of diverse origins within the Georgian context, and to handle arms granted anew through the RHCG via the armorial prerogative of the Head of the Royal House.

Grants from the Royal House of Georgia

By default, arms granted by the Head of the Royal House of Georgia will follow the following regulations:

1. Inheritance shall be by direct descent from the original grantee (and any others included in his or her grant, such as siblings, as applicable), being borne by all descendants who bear the surname (on its own or as a part of a compound name) of the original grantee.²
2. The College will, on a case-by-case basis, allow for the granting of similar arms to closely-related persons who do not bear the surname of the original grantee, though these will be considered a new grant of arms.

¹ The model used by the Canadian Heraldic Authority for registrations of arms provides an example emulated in the handling of succession rules for arms originating from other jurisdictions. This model has registered arms following the succession rules under which they were granted, but any new variations of these arms granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority for cadets follow Canadian customs of inheritance and cadency. Malta likewise allows for registration of foreign arms and the recording of arms borne following historic local practices predating the newly-established contemporary heraldic authority, meaning that the RHCG is not acting out of step with practices already in place in some other jurisdictions facing similar needs to accommodate diverse origins of personal arms in officializing personal heraldry under a central framework.

² This is the approach used for contemporary German registrations of arms. It allows for the system to be technically gender-neutral and adaptive, while still functionally working relatively traditionally (as most families pass their names on through the male line). The idea behind this approach is to more closely follow traditional Georgian heraldic practice, which is more akin to systems like in Germany and Russia than the systems in place in the likes of Britain & Canada as arms are used throughout the family.

3. While differencing is not required, descendants may petition for a new grant of arms which adds permanent differences to their familial arms in order to establish a distinct armorial identity for their branch of the family.
4. Special requests may be made for one-time dispensations to permit the transmission of arms to someone who ordinarily would not be able to directly inherit them, with the arms for their descendants then following the same normal rules but treating them as the original grantee for the purposes of surname requirements.
 - a. These will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, with preferential consideration being given to armigers with newly-granted arms and to those with noble titles bestowed by the Royal House of Georgia who are seeking to allow the passage of their arms to the heir or heiress of their title.
5. Nevertheless, the Head of the Royal House of Georgia may, at his discretion, provide for a different form of inheritance & differencing requirements for individual grants of arms, which will be recorded in the letters patent issued to these grantees. The College will review requests for the Head of the Royal House of Georgia to exercise this discretion and will counsel petitioners on their requests where applicable, and these will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.³

Historic Georgian Arms

Historic Georgian arms (including those granted through the College prior to 2023) may be registered with the College in accordance with the rules of succession (including the need or lack thereof of differencing) in place at the time in which they were granted or otherwise lawfully recognized.

Should these armigers wish to align the rules of armorial succession for their arms with the contemporary rules for arms granted by the Royal House, they may request this via a new registration of their arms.

Registrations

Arms granted or registered with other authorities (recognized at the sole discretion of the Head of the Royal House of Georgia) may be registered with the College in accordance with the rules of succession (including the need or lack thereof of differencing) in effect for arms lawfully borne under the jurisdiction of origin.

Should these armigers wish to align the rules of armorial succession for their arms with the contemporary rules for arms granted by the Royal House, they may request this when registering their arms.

³ This provides an opportunity for petitioners to request alternate systems, subject to the discretion of the Royal House of Georgia and with the option for the Royal House to levy appropriate fees for the privilege of such alternative arrangements, but with the default system prevailing otherwise.