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Greek Inheritance law: Issue a Death Certificate, a Certificate of next of kin and Erase a Deceased from the Greek tax archives in Greece

Issue a Death Certificate in Greece

Prior of accepting or declining a Greek inheritance, there are some documents which must be issued. One of them is the deceased's death certificate.

The process to issue a Greek death certificate if the deceased died in Greece, is briefly the below:

1. If the deceased died at home: We need a Medial Death certificate issued by a doctor who will be called to come to the deceased's place. The doctor' certificate must be signed and stamped for its authenticity, either from the local Police Station, or, from the doctor's Medical Association.
2. If the deceased died at a hospital, or a place where they take care of the elderly people: We need a Medial Death certificate issued by the doctor who was nursing the deceased and it there is any, either from the medical investigator, or, an appointed doctor from the Greek police, or the Greek judicial authorities.
3. At the Greek Death Certificate, all the deceased's personal details must be written and they must be the correct ones. For instance, the place and date of the deceased birth and death, his/her family status, in which Town Hall he/she was enrolled while he/she was alive, his/her parent's names and surname, his/her mother's maiden name, etc.
4. We need the deceased's Greek Identity card. In case it is lost (many times this occur), the closest relative/next of kin (Daughter, wife), must sign a Legal declaration of the law 1599/1986, stating that it is lost.

Issue a Certificate of Next of Kin in Greece

In order to accept a Greek inheritance, there are some prerequisite documents which must be issued. The Certificate of Next of Kin is among them.

If:

- the deceased died in Greece,
- was Greek and
- enrolled at a Greek Town Hall,

the process to issue a Certificate of Next of Kin in Greece is undertaken by a relative (daughter, wife, husband, nephew, etc.) as follows:

1. The relative must file a written application to the Town hall where the deceased was registered.
2. The relative must present and have a copy of his Greek Identity card, or his Greek passport.
3. The relative must sign a Legal declaration of the law 1599/1986, stating the true and correct family status of the deceased, i.e. if he/she was married, his/her marriage details, spouse's details (name and surname, date and place of birth), the same details must be written for the deceased's children (if the deceased had any), if he/she was divorced, if he/she got married for the second time, the second spouse's details, if he/she had any adopted children their details shall be written too, etc.
4. In case the relatives live abroad and there is none in Greece to apply and receive the certificate of next of kin, a Greek Inheritance lawyer must be engaged. The Greek Probate lawyer must have a specific power of attorney from the relative, signed at the Greek consulate abroad, to conduct this work. In this case, the statement at the Town hall where the deceased was enrolled, with all the deceased's family details, must be written and signed by two witnesses, appointed by the relatives.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This certificate is issued once and from one relative only. It cannot be issued again through another relative in the future (i.e. by filing a separate application).

Erase a Deceased from the Greek tax archives in Greece

We follow a specific process in Greece, in order to erase a deceased from the Greek tax archives, where he/she was declared as alive and was enrolled, while he/she was alive.

The process briefly, is the below:

1. Engage a Greek Inheritance lawyer
2. Give to your Greek lawyer a specific Power of attorney (POA), which will be prepared by your Greek Inheritance/Tax lawyer, as per the Greek Inheritance/Tax laws. This Power of attorney must be in Greek language. The POA, if you live in Greece shall be signed at a Greek notary public's office and if you live abroad, at the Greek consulate.
3. So far, this process cannot be done via internet. It needs the personal attendance of your Greek Inheritance lawyer, to the specific tax bureau where your deceased relative was enrolled.
4. We need to present to the Greek tax bureau the following original documents:
 - a. The Greek Inheritance Contract,
 - b. The Certificate of next of kin,
 - c. The Death certificate of the diseased,
 - d. Court Certificate that the marriage is still existing if the deceased was married,
 - e. Prepare and file certain tax applications to the Greek tax bureau, in order to complete this process.

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