

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1999, No. 48

**National Honours (Most Exalted Order of National Hero)  
Regulations made by the Governor-General under section  
14 of the National Honours Act No. 23 of 1998.**

**PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS Her Majesty The Queen in Parliament did by The National Honours Act, 1998 create and constitute, an Order of Knighthood to be called by the name of The Most Exalted Order of National Hero which said Act did further ordain and declare that the said Order should be governed by Regulations to be from time to time made by the Governor-General as Grand Master of the said Order; and

Recites the National Honours Act 1998.

WHEREAS the Grand Master of the said Most Exalted Order, considering it expedient, by virtue of the National Honours Act do make the following Regulations.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the National Honours (The Most Exalted Order of National Hero) Regulations 1999.

Short title.

2. The Most Exalted Order of National Hero which is an Order of Knighthood shall be styled and distinguished in all Acts, proceedings and pleadings as "The Most Exalted Order of National Hero", in these regulations referred to as "The Most Exalted Order".

Style and Designation.

3. The Most Exalted Order shall consist of the Grand Master and one class of Members, namely, Knights Companion and Dames Companion.

Order to consist of Grand Master and one class of Members.

4. The Governor-General who shall be Grand Master of the Most Exalted Order, shall have the power of annulling, interpreting, explaining and adding to these Regulations.

Governor-General to be Grand Master.

5. It is the duty of the Grand Master to enforce the due observance of the Regulations of the Most Exalted Order.

Duty of Grand Master.

6. The one class of members of the Most Exalted Order shall be styled and designated as follows:

Designation of the one class.

Knights Companion, Dames Companion

- Limit of number of members.      **7.** The living members of the said Most Exalted Order shall not be more than two (2) in number.
- Qualifications.      **8.** The persons to be admitted to this Most Exalted Order shall be such citizens of Antigua and Barbuda who have rendered extraordinary and exceptional service towards the advancement, development and distinction of Antigua and Barbuda.
- Title of Companions.      **9.** A Knight Companion of the Most Exalted Order, shall receive the style, title and dignity of *Sir* for life and the wives of such Knights Companion shall be accorded the title of *Lady* for life, and further that a Dame Companion of the Most Exalted Order shall receive the style, title and dignity of *Dame* for life.
- Precedence of Companion.      **10.** The Order of precedence of this Order, in all solemn Ceremonials and in all other places and assemblies whatsoever, Knights and Dames Companion of this Most Exalted Order, shall have place and precedence next to and immediately before Knights and Dames Grand Collar of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation.
- Insignia of Grand Master.      **11.** The Badge of the Grand Master of the Most Exalted Order shall be a representation in metal of the Royal Crown which Badge shall be suspended by the Riband of the said Order around the neck.
- Insignia of Companions and post nominals.      **12.** The Insignia of the Knights and Dames Companion of the Most Exalted Order comprises Breast Star, Sash Badge, Miniature for evening wear, Full Dress Sash (102mm wide, black outer edges, white, pale blue and yellow centre stripe with burgundy predominant.)
- BREAST STAR** — Seven pointed silver-gilt (66mm diameter) with four stagehead and three sugar cane effigies alternating. Applied centre medallion (25mm diameter) showing enamelled coat of arms of Antigua and Barbuda bordered by wording "NATIONAL HERO" at top and palm fronds to lower. Red enamelled scroll with silver-gilt lettering reading "ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA". All set upon silver multi-rayed star (81mm diameter).
- SASH BADGE** — Seven pointed silver-gilt star (66mm diameter) with four stagehead and three sugar cane effigies alternating. Applied center medallion (25mm diameter) showing enamelled coat of arms bordered by wording "NATIONAL HERO" at top and palm fronds to lower. Red enamelled scroll with silver-gilt lettering reading "ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA". With enamelled silver-gilt crown and separate suspension. The post nominal abbreviation of membership of the Most Exalted Order shall be for Knights Companion, 'K.N.H.' and for Dames 'D.N.H.'.

13. It shall be lawful on all occasions and for the greater honour and dignity of Knights and Dames Companion of the Most Exalted Order to bear and use Supports to their Arms lawfully borne.

Supporters to the Arms.

14. It shall be lawful for the Knights and Dames Companion to surround the Armorial Ensigns lawfully borne with a circle of the Riband of the Most Exalted Order and to suspend therefrom a Representation of the Badge as described in these Regulations.

Armorial Ensigns.

15. The sealed pattern of the Badge and Riband of Knights and Dames Companion of the Most Exalted Order shall be deposited and kept in the Chancery of the Orders and Decorations of Antigua and Barbuda.

Sealed Pattern and Drawing of Insignia.

16. (1) The Grand Master of the Most Exalted Order shall upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister, cancel and annul the appointment of any person convicted by a court of law for a serious misdemeanor.

Cancellation and Annulment of Appointment.

(2) Any cancellation and annulment of an appointment to the Order shall be sealed with the Seal of the Order and thereupon the name of such person shall be erased from the register and he shall forthwith return the Badge and Riband of the Order to the Chancery of the Order in the Chancery of Orders and Decorations of Antigua and Barbuda.

(3) The Grand Master may, upon recommendation of the Minister, restore to the Order any person whose appointment was cancelled and annulled.

17. (1) Upon the nomination by the Honours' Committee in accordance with the National Honours Act of any person to be a Knight or Dame Companion of the Most Exalted Order that person shall be invested with the Insignia prescribed for members of the Order by the Grand Master.

Investiture.

(2) Where the person nominated is not in Antigua and Barbuda, but in any other country he or she shall be invested by the Ambassador or High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda to that country.

(3) Where there is no Ambassador or High Commissioner in that country, he or she shall be invested by such person as the Grand Master may be pleased to appoint specially for this purpose in the name of and on behalf of the Grand Master.

(4) On the day of Investiture the person to be invested shall be introduced into the presence of the Grand Master, the Ambassador or the High Commissioner or the person specially appointed by the Grand Master as the case may be, attended by Antigua Herald of Arms or Barbuda Herald of Arms or other officer deputed to be in attendance, bearing the proper Insignia of his Order.

(5) The Grand Master, the High Commissioner or the Ambassador or such other person appointed for the purpose shall deliver to and invest with the Insignia appertaining to his or her dignity as a Companion of the Order having before such investiture, in the case of a male nominee, first conferred by bestowing the accolade the Honour of Knighthood.

Warrants to authorise Distinguished Persons to perform the ceremony of Investiture on Behalf of the Grand Master and also to dispense with the Ceremony.

18. (1) The Grand Master shall, by a Warrant under his Sign Manual counter-signed by the Chancellor of the Order or if the Office of Grand Master is vacant or the Grand Master is ill or absent or for any other reason unable to do so, by the Chancellor and sealed with the Seal of the said Most Exalted Order, authorise some distinguished person to perform in the name of and on behalf of the Grand Master the ceremony of investing Knights and Dames Companion with the Insignia of their respective dignities or permit the ceremony of investiture to be dispensed with.

(2) In the event the ceremony of investiture is dispensed with, under paragraph (1), the Grand Master may by Warrant permit and authorise any person to wear the Insignia and enjoy the privileges appertaining to their respective dignities in as full and ample a manner as if they had been invested by the Grand Master.

(3) Subject to such exceptions as the Grand Master may think fit, the official publication in the *Gazette* of the appointment of a person as a Knight Companion or Dame Companion shall be sufficient to entitle the person to assume the distinctive appellation or prefix "Sir" or "Dame" and use the customary letters after the name denoting the appointment to the Order.

Seal

19. The seal of the Most Exalted Order shall comprise a representation of the Badge of the Order surrounded by the legend: THE SEAL OF THE MOST EXALTED ORDER OF NATIONAL HERO.

Officers

20. (1) The following Officers shall be appointed to the Most Exalted Order, that is to say:

Chancellor  
 Secretary General  
 Antigua Herald of Arms  
 Barbuda Herald of Arms

(2) These Officers shall rank among each other in the above order.

**21. (1)** The Chancellor of the said Most Exalted Order shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall wear suspended about the neck from a Riband of the Order a Badge of a square form, representing a purse. The Chancellor.

(2) The Chancellor may surround his Armorial Ensigns lawfully borne with a Circle of the Riband of the Order and dependent therefrom a Representation of his Badge.

(3) The Chancellor shall keep in his custody the Seal of the said Most Exalted Order which he shall affix or cause to be affixed to all regulations, and other instruments and writings of the Most Exalted Order which require to be passed under the said Seal. His Duties.

(4) The Chancellor shall notify all nominations to the said Most Exalted Order, prepare and countersign all instruments to which the Seal of the Most Exalted Order is affixed, transmit the commands of the Grand Master respecting the Most Exalted Order and, shall attend to the service of the Most Exalted Order and perform such other duties as he may be directed by these Regulations or by the Grand Master.

(5) In the event of a vacancy in the Office of Chancellor or of the absence of the Chancellor from Antigua and Barbuda or his inability through illness or other grave cause to perform the duties and functions of his office, the Secretary General of the said Most Exalted Order for the period of the vacancy, absence or inability or until the pleasure of the Grand Master be further signified, exercise and perform all and the duties and functions which appertain to the Office of Chancellor.

(6) The register of members of the Order and the Record of all proceedings connected therewith shall be carefully deposited and preserved, in the Chancery of the Orders and Decorations of Antigua and Barbuda.

**22. (1)** The Secretary General of the said Most Exalted Order shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall write all letters The Secretary General.

connected with the service of the Most Exalted Order and shall keep a Register of members of the Order as well as the Record of any proceedings connected therewith.

Badge.

(2) The Secretary General shall wear on the breast a representation of crossed quill pens suspended from the Riband of the Order round the neck in the case of a male Secretary General, but where the Secretary General is a female, from a bow.

Armorial Bearings.

(3) The Secretary General may surround his/her Armorial Ensigns lawfully borne by a Circle of the Riband of the Order with a representation of the Badge of the Secretary General dependent therefrom.

Antigua Herald of Arms.

**23.** (1) Antigua Herald of Arms of the Most Exalted Order shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall assist in marshalling, investitures of the said Order and in all other ways ordered by the Grand Master as conclusive to the good of the Order.

Badge.

(2) The Antigua Herald of Arms shall wear his Badge suspended round the neck from a Riband of the Order, a representation in metal of four Pineapples placed in a cross.

Armorial Bearings.

(3) The Antigua Herald may surround his Armorial Ensigns lawfully borne with a circle of the Riband of the said Order with the Badge dependent therefrom.

Barbuda Herald of Arms.

**24.** (1) The Barbuda Herald of Arms of the Most Exalted Order shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall assist Antigua Herald of Arms in his duties and in all other ways ordered by the Grand Master conducive to the good of the Order.

Badge.

(2) The Barbuda Herald of Arms shall wear his Badge suspended round the neck from a Riband of the Order, a representation in metal of a Frigate Bird.

Armorial Bearings.

(3) The Barbuda Herald of Arms may surround his Armorial Ensigns lawfully born with a Circle of the Riband of this Order with a representation of his Badge dependent therefrom.

Privileges of Officers.

**25.** The officers of the Most Exalted Order shall continually remain under the protection of the Grand Master. The Officers shall be the Servants of the Governor General and shall hold their respective offices during good behaviour.

26. (1) The drawings of the Insignia of the Grand Master of Knights Companion and of Dames Companion and of the Officers of the Most Exalted Order, depicted and emblazoned in their proper sizes and colours shall be deposited in the Chancery of Orders and Decorations of Antigua and Barbuda.

(2) The drawings shall be properly applied and subject to the directions, and commands of the Grand Master, the drawings shall not be altered without the approval of the Grand Master, signified by his Sign Manual and sealed with the Seal of the Most Exalted Order.

27. (1) The Grand Master hereby commands and directs that these Regulations shall be inviolably kept and observed within the said Most Exalted Order. Statutes Inviolable.

(2) These Regulations shall not be altered, amended or revoked without the approval of the Grand Master.

(3) Any alteration, amendment or revocation or interpretation of the Regulations shall be made by Notification under the Seal of the Most Exalted Order and shall form part of these Regulations.

28. These Regulations are deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of January, 1999. Commencement.

Made the 17th day of December, 1999.

**James B. Carlisle,**  
*Governor-General.*

---

Printed at the Government Printing Office, Antigua and Barbuda,  
by Donovan Southwell, Government Printer,  
—By Authority, 2000.