

Charter of the Sapphire Magistrates

Wherein is delineated: those matters which concern the Sapphire Magistrate: those duties which the Sapphire Magistrate shall at all times labor to discharge: those restrictions placed upon the Magistrate to ensure honorable justice within their jurisdiction: and those rights and privileges given to the Magistrate to aid in the pursuit of justice and social order.

Part One: Jurisdiction

Wherein is delineated those crimes which are specifically the concern of the Sapphire Magistrate and which require diligent pursuit.

Section One: Crimes Against the Empress

Any attempt to harm, insult, endanger, steal from or otherwise inconvenience the Daughter of Heaven is a crime deserving of the utmost attention from all Sapphire Magistrates. Any similar action taken against a member of the Empress's family shall be constituted as a gesture against the Empress herself and as such merits the attention of the Sapphire Magistrate. Similarly, any action against a direct servant of the Empress or the Imperial Family shall also be a matter of concern for the Sapphire Magistrate.

Section Two: Theft of National Property

Crimes including theft, robbery, forgery, or tax fraud which concern property allotted to the Clans by the Empress either in planning or execution, are a concern for all Sapphire Magistrates.

Section Three: The Influence of Fu Leng

Any entry into Rokugan by the servants of Fu Leng, or by those who have been corrupted by Fu Leng's power or that of his servants, or by those who have made pacts with Fu Leng or his servants, are forbidden by law. The enforcement of this law is the duty of the Sapphire Magistrates. Crimes committed within Rokugan by violators of this law also fall within the enforcement charter of the Emerald Magistrates.

Section Four: Organized Blasphemy

Any meeting of more than two individuals for the express purpose of participating in blasphemous or obscene rituals is forbidden, and is a matter of concern for the Sapphire Magistrates.

Section Five: Treason

Any attempt to subvert, hinder, delay, damage, or refute the Imperial Law or its enforcement constitutes treason and de jure rebellion against the will of the Empress. These activities are a concern for all Sapphire Magistrates.

Section Six: Security of the Empire

Crimes or actions that would materially impact the security of the Empire or its ability to defend itself against enemies foreign or domestic are under the purview of the Sapphire Magistrates

Part Two: Duties

Wherein are delineated those tasks that the Sapphire Magistrate is honor-bound to perform in addition to enforcing Imperial law.

Section One: Intelligence Gathering

It is the duty of the office of the Sapphire Magistrate to collect, compile, and render information on the persons and locales visited by the Magistrate in the course of their duties such that the Empress and the Imperial Legions might benefit from up to date intelligence concerning, but not limited to, the forces of Fu Leng and those corrupted by him, civil or armed unrest among the lower castes, and disobedience, resentment, or improper intentions carried by any member of the Samurai caste. These reports are to be filed no less than three times per year.

Section Two: Securing Imperial Roads and Waterways

In their duties, whenever a Sapphire Magistrate may become aware of an unlawful threat to travellers along any Imperial road or waterway, or an obstruction that would delay the Imperial Legions, they are required to remove the obstruction or threat without delay.

Section Three: Briefing the Sapphire Champion

Once every three months the Sapphire Magistrate shall meet with the Sapphire Champion to provide a briefing on his or her current and ongoing activities and investigations. The Sapphire Champion shall also be informed about any matters of national concern without undue delay.

Section Four: Notification of Non-Jurisdictional Crimes

When any Sapphire Magistrate becomes aware of a crime that is outside their jurisdiction, that Magistrate is honor bound to give a thorough briefing on the matter to whatever authority has jurisdiction over the crime in question.

Section Five: Briefing the Governor

The city or regional Governor of the province in which a Sapphire Magistrate is stationed may, at any time, demand an accounting of the Magistrate's current and ongoing investigations. The Sapphire Magistrate is to provide a detailed accounting in no less than three days. The Governor may not demand such an accounting more than once per month.

Section Six: Notification of Accusations

If a person of samurai class, living or dead, has been accused of or implicated in a crime being investigated by the Sapphire Magistrates, it is the duty of said Magistrates to inform the local family and/or clan leader of the accusation.

Part Three: Restrictions

Wherein are delineated those tasks, investigations and duties which are excluded from the obligations of the Sapphire Magistrate.

Section One: Incidental Law Enforcement

It is not the duty of the Sapphire Magistrates to provide street patrols or random policing.

Section Two: Problems of Limited Scope

It is not the duty of the Sapphire Magistrate to investigate crimes which are of strictly local concern.

Section Three: Authorization of Blood Feuds

Sapphire Magistrates have no authority in the matter of blood feuds. They can neither authorize such a feud nor declare one invalid.

Section Four: Levying of Troops

Sapphire Magistrates have no authority to command the service of troops, except as noted below in Part Four, Sections Five and Six.

Section Five: Acceptance of Gifts and Monies

No Sapphire Magistrate shall accept gifts, favors, monies, services or special considerations in exchange for any aspect of their duties as magistrate.

Part Four: Rights

Wherein are delineated those special privileges, powers and rights which are given to Sapphire Magistrates to enable them to better pursue their goals and duties.

Section One: Right of Questioning

In the case of persons of inferior social class, station or worth, a Sapphire Magistrate may arrest and restrain the individual for questioning about criminal matters.

This right of arrest, restraint and inquisition also applies to individuals of a superior social class, worth or station who are apprehended in a criminal act by a Sapphire Magistrate.

Persons of higher social rank, station or value may be apprehended, imprisoned and questioned if the Sapphire Magistrate has obtained a valid Order of Appearance (cf. Part Four, Section Three).

Section Two: Right of Sentencing

If a signed confession has been notarized by a Sapphire Magistrate, that Magistrate may opt to sentence the confessed criminal. This right of sentencing may be passed on to a different Sapphire Magistrate, at the option of the notarizing Magistrate. Transcribed confessions are legitimate only in the case of illiterate criminals.

Sentences are to be appropriate for the crime and its circumstances. Possible sentences include, but are not limited to the following: execution by beheading for samurai criminals; execution by hanging from the neck for criminals of lower class; class-appropriate executions for the spouses, parents, or children of criminals; cuffing for periods not to exceed three months; public beatings with rods, sticks, or whips; house arrest; or fines, the sum of which is to be remitted to the office of the Sapphire Champion.

Section Three: Orders of Appearance

A Sapphire Magistrate may exercise rights of arrest, imprisonment and inquisition upon persons of higher social worth only upon the presentation of a valid Order of Appearance. An Order of Appearance must describe in detail the crime of which the samurai is accused, it must be dated within one month of its presentation, and it must be signed by the presenting Magistrate or Magistrates. In addition to this signature, it must also have the signature of one of the following: the Sapphire Champion; the Emerald Champion; the city or province Governor; or the local chief magistrate. The date of an Order of Appearance must be listed as the date on which the last individual signed it.

Section Four: Right to Prior Information

It is the duty of local Governors and daimyo to inform Sapphire Magistrates who have made themselves present to the Governor or daimyo of large scale military or police actions within the province the Sapphire Magistrate is located within at least one day before the action occurs.

Section Five: Right to Commandeer Troops

Sapphire Magistrates have the right to amass groups of troops for necessary operations, provided that they inform the local daimyo or Governor of their intentions. They may commandeer troops from local leaders if they can show demonstrable need and provide reasonable financial compensation for the troops' services.

Section Six: Right of Imperial Levy

Sapphire Magistrates may, at any time, petition the Sapphire Champion for the command of a Sapphire Cohort. The assignment of these Cohorts is entirely at the discretion of the Sapphire Champion. Sapphire Cohorts have rights of action and armament in any and all places within the Emerald Empire.

Section Seven: Right of Privy Investigation

If there is a conflict of jurisdiction between a Sapphire Magistrate and an Emerald or local magistrate, the jurisdiction of the Sapphire Magistrate takes precedence. If the Sapphire Magistrate presents the local and Emerald magistrates with a signed and dated Order of Privy Investigation, those magistrates must immediately cease all new investigations into the matter of contention. An Order of Privy Investigation is valid only if it fulfills the following conditions: it is dated on the day it was completed; it is signed by the Sapphire Magistrate; it contains a complete description of the crime in question; and it explains, completely and reasonably, why the two investigations cannot proceed in a parallel fashion.

Section Eight: Right of Travel

Recognizing that their investigations may carry them throughout the Empire with little warning, the Sapphire Magistrate and any they elect to extend this right to in their presence must be permitted to pass across any border crossing or fortification without the imposition of tariff or duty. If the Sapphire Magistrate does not possess valid travel papers for their location, they must present themselves before the local chief magistrate within three days of arrival, who must issue such papers without delay.