

Confidentiality of Communication between Clients and their Patent Advisors

Slovak Republic

- Act No. 344/2004 Coll. on Patent Representatives

Patent representatives are required to maintain the confidentiality of all information obtained while providing professional services. This duty continues even after they cease practising or are removed from the register and may only be waived by the client or the client's legal successor.

The obligation of confidentiality also extends to employees, authorised assistants, members of the professional chamber, and other persons involved in disciplinary proceedings. However, confidentiality does not apply where disclosure is required by law to prevent or report a criminal offence.

Limited exceptions permit disclosure when necessary to defend the patent representative in disputes with a client or in disciplinary and related proceedings, without affecting obligations concerning classified or otherwise protected information under other applicable laws.

- Act No. 586/2003 Coll. on Advocacy

Lawyers are required to maintain the confidentiality of all information obtained in the course of providing legal services. This obligation may only be waived by the client or, after the client's death or dissolution, by the client's legal successor(s). The duty of confidentiality continues even during suspension from practice and after disbarment.

The obligation extends to lawyers' employees, partners, other persons involved in the provision of legal services, and members and employees of the Bar's governing bodies. Lawyers may disclose confidential information only in limited circumstances, such as where necessary in a dispute with a client or legal successor, or where disclosure is required to prevent a crime.

Confidentiality cannot be invoked in disciplinary proceedings under the Act and does not prejudice obligations relating to confidentiality under other applicable laws.