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The Judicial Officer in the World

SWITZERLAND (Canton of Geneva)

Name (singular and plural): **Huissier judiciaire / Huissiers judiciaires**

Presentation

Generalities

9 judicial officers are appointed within 5 offices. They work together with 13 trainees or assistants and approx. 30 staff. All are liberal or self-employed professionals.

Training

Initial and ongoing training of judicial officers

To become a judicial officer, the following level is required: four years of law studies or equivalent (Master 2 or equivalent). There is an initial training for the future judicial officers. This training is normally compulsory. Duration: 18 months at an office of judicial officer or recognised equivalent. An ongoing training is not available for the judicial officers.

Ongoing training for the staff of judicial officers

Ongoing training courses are not available for the staff of judicial officers.

The exercise of the profession

Under exception, a professional exam is necessary to exert the profession of judicial officer. The judicial officers are appointed by the head of the State or of the Government. The number of judicial officers is limited to 9. A judicial officer can exert his activities within a structure including another or several other judicial officers. All the judicial officers exert individually.

The profession is represented at national level by: **Chambre des huissiers judiciaires de Genève.**

Obligations of the judicial officer and ethical rules

The judicial officer is submitted to the following obligations relating to his activities:

- Compulsory service of the judicial officer and possible cases of exemption of service.
- Prohibition of service in certain cases (relationship, union, conflict of interest, ...).
- Cases and conditions in which the judicial officer must exert his activities personally.
- Obligations relating to the professional activities of the judicial officer.
- Conditions of keeping of archives of the judicial officer.
- Bookkeeping.
- Obligation to hand over the monies of third parties in a specific time.



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- Obligation of counsel towards citizens in the framework of the activities of the judicial officer.
- Obligation to respect the tariff (for a part only of his activities).
- Obligation for the judicial officer to be submitted to a control of his activities.
- Obligation to comply with ethical and/or deontological rules.
- Professional secrecy.
- Obligation to take out professional and civil liability insurance.

There are rules relating to ethics and/or deontology applicable to the profession of judicial officer. Disciplinary rules are applicable to the profession of judicial officer. The judicial officer is submitted to a control of his activities.

Activities exerted by the judicial officers

Enforcement of court decisions

The judicial officer is in charge of enforcing court decisions, including the following enforcement measures:

- Evictions.
- Provisional measures on tangible movable goods of the debtor.
- Provisional measures on intangible movable goods of the debtor.

When in charge of enforcement, the judicial officer has no access to information on the assets of the debtor.

Service of judicial or extrajudicial documents

The judicial officer can serve judicial and/or extrajudicial documents in civil, commercial and/or criminal matters. When serving documents, the judicial officer has access to information to locate and/or search the addressee.

Forced public auction sales

The judicial officer can carry out the forced public auction sale of the following goods:

- Physical (as opposed to Internet) forced auction sale of tangible movable goods attached by the judicial officer.
- Internet forced auction sale of tangible movable goods attached by the judicial officer.

Voluntary public auction sales

The judicial officer can carry out the voluntary public auction sale of the following goods:

- Physical (as opposed to Internet) auction sale of tangible movable goods.
- Physical (as opposed to Internet) auction sale of businesses.



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Other activities (X = yes)	
Debt collection	X
Statements of facts	X
Sequestration of goods	
Legal advice	X
Bankruptcy proceedings	X (in some cases)
Missions entrusted by a judge	X
Mediation	X
Representation of parties in the court	X (in some cases)
Drawing up of private deeds and documents	X
Court service	X
Real estate management	X