

## **Translation from Finnish**

**Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish**

**Ministry of Justice, Finland**

### **Government Decree on the National Prosecution Authority (798/2019)**

By decision of the Government, the following is enacted under section 29 of the Act on the National Prosecution Authority (32/2019):

#### **Section 1**

##### **Office of the Prosecutor General**

The Office of the Prosecutor General consists of units. The Prosecutor General designates certain public officials to serve as heads of units.

The Office of the Prosecutor General is located in Helsinki.

#### **Section 2**

##### **Prosecution districts**

The prosecution districts are:

- 1) the Prosecution District of Southern Finland, which has the municipalities in the Region of Uusimaa and the Municipality of Pyhtää as its area of operation and has offices in Espoo, Helsinki, Järvenpää, Lohja, Porvoo, Raseborg and Vantaa;
- 2) the Prosecution District of Western Finland, which has the municipalities in the Regions of South Ostrobothnia, Central Ostrobothnia, Central Finland, Pirkanmaa, Ostrobothnia, Satakunta and Southwest Finland as its area of operation and has offices in Jyväskylä, Kokkola, Pori, Rauma, Seinäjoki, Tampere, Turku and Vaasa;
- 3) the Prosecution District of Eastern Finland, which has the municipalities in the Regions of South Karelia, South Savo, Kanta-Häme, Kymenlaakso, North Karelia, North Savo and Päijät-Häme, with the exception of the Municipality of Pyhtää, as its area of operation and has offices in Hämeenlinna, Iisalmi, Joensuu, Kouvola, Kotka, Kuopio, Lahti, Lappeenranta and Mikkeli;
- 4) the Prosecution District of Northern Finland, which has the municipalities in the Regions of Kainuu, Lapland and North Ostrobothnia as its area of operation and has offices in Ivalo, Kajaani, Kemi, Kuusamo, Oulu, Raahе, Rovaniemi, Sodankylä and Ylivieska; and

5) the Prosecution District of Åland, which has the Province of Åland as its area of operation; provisions on the office of the district are laid down in section 6 of the Act on the National Prosecution Authority (32/2019).

### **Section 3**

#### **Personnel**

In the Office of the Prosecutor General, there is a post of the Prosecutor General and a post of the Deputy Prosecutor General as well as posts of State Prosecutors. In addition, there may be other posts that are necessary for the operations of the Office.

In each prosecution district, there is a post of a Chief District Prosecutor and posts of District Prosecutors. There may be posts of Senior Specialised Prosecutors in the prosecution districts. In addition, there may be other posts that are necessary for the operations of the prosecution district.

The Office of the Prosecutor General decides where the posts and public-service positions are placed. However, each prosecution district decides where the posts and public-service positions of Junior Prosecutors and other public officials than prosecutors are placed and where the public officials appointed to a fixed-term position of a maximum of one year as a District Prosecutor or a Senior Specialist Prosecutor are placed within the prosecution district.

### **Section 4**

#### **Administrative duties of State Prosecutors**

In addition to what is provided elsewhere on the duties of State Prosecutors, State Prosecutors assist the Prosecutor General in guiding, directing, developing and monitoring the prosecution service and in other administrative duties.

### **Section 5**

#### **Administrative duties of Senior Specialised Prosecutors**

In addition to what is provided on the duties of Senior Specialised Prosecutors elsewhere, Senior Specialised Prosecutors participate in training other prosecutors and in developing, guiding and

directing the prosecutorial activities in their own field of specialisation. Furthermore, Senior Specialised Prosecutors attend to any administrative duties assigned to them by their supervisor.

## **Section 6**

### **Administrative duties of District Prosecutors**

In addition to what is provided on the duties of District Prosecutors elsewhere, District Prosecutors attend to any administrative duties assigned to them by their supervisor.

## **Section 7**

### **Junior Prosecutors**

A prosecution district may have Junior Prosecutors who are appointed to a fixed-term public-service position and who are being trained to prosecutorial duties. Criminal matters are assigned to Junior Prosecutors in accordance with the stage of their training period and the degree of difficulty of the matter at hand.

The induction, guidance and duties of Junior Prosecutors are arranged so that Junior Prosecutors receive varied training that develops their professional skills.

## **Section 8**

### **Required qualifications concerning language skills**

By derogation from what is provided in section 6, subsection 1 of the Act on the Knowledge of Languages Required of Personnel in Public Bodies:

- 1) excellent oral and written skills in Swedish and good oral and written skills in Finnish are a required qualification for nine of the posts of prosecutors placed in the Prosecution District of Southern Finland;
- 2) excellent oral and written skills in Swedish and good oral and written skills in Finnish are a required qualification for seven of the posts of prosecutors placed in the Prosecution District of Western Finland.

## **Section 9**

### **Designation of Deputy Heads of Prosecution Districts**

The Office of the Prosecutor General designates a prosecutor to serve as a Deputy Head of Prosecution District on the proposal of the prosecution district in question. The designation is given for five years at a time, unless there are special reasons to give it for a shorter period.

## **Section 10**

### **Appointment**

Provisions on the appointment of prosecutors are laid down in the Act on the National Prosecution Authority.

With the exception of prosecutors, other public officials of the National Prosecution Authority placed in the Office of the Prosecutor General are appointed by the Office of the Prosecutor General.

With the exception of prosecutors, other public officials of the National Prosecution Authority placed in a prosecution district are appointed by the prosecution district.

## **Section 11**

### **Appointment to fixed-term public-service positions**

A decision to appoint a public official to a fixed-term public-service position placed in the Office of the Prosecutor General, under the appointment authority of the National Prosecution Authority, is made by the Office of the Prosecutor General.

A decision to appoint a Chief District Prosecutor to a fixed-term public-service position is made by the Office of the Prosecutor General.

A decision to appoint another public official of the National Prosecution Authority placed in a prosecution district than a Chief District Prosecutor to a fixed-term public-service position is made by the prosecution district. A decision to appoint a prosecutor placed in a prosecution district to a fixed-term public-service position of more than one year is, however, made by the Office of the Prosecutor General.

## **Section 12**

### **Required qualifications**

Provisions on the qualifications required of prosecutors are laid down in the Act on the National Prosecution Authority.

The required qualification for the positions of Director of Administrative Affairs, Chief Adviser, Legal Adviser and Senior Officer is a Master's degree in Law other than a Master's degree in International and Comparative Law.

The required qualification for the positions of Head of Human Resources, Head of Personnel Training, Head of Information Services and Head of Communications is a Master's degree.

## **Section 13**

### **Leave of absence**

A decision to grant leave of absence to the Prosecutor General and the Deputy Prosecutor General is made by the Ministry of Justice.

A decision to grant such leave of absence to a District Prosecutor and a Senior Specialised Prosecutor placed in a prosecution district to which the public official is entitled under the law or the relevant collective agreement and a decision to grant other leave of absence for a maximum of one year is made by the relevant prosecution district. Each prosecution district also decides on the granting of leave of absence to Junior Prosecutors and other public officials than prosecutors placed in the prosecution district.

A decision to grant leave of absence in other cases than those referred to in subsection 2 and to other public officials of the National Prosecution Authority is made by the Office of the Prosecutor General.

## **Section 14**

### **Power of decision in certain matters concerning personnel**

In respect of other public officials of the National Prosecution Authority than the Prosecutor General and the Deputy Prosecutor General, the Office of the Prosecutor General decides on their

dismissal, changing their public-service position into a part-time one, summary termination of their public-service employment relationship, their layoff, their suspension from office, and on issuing a warning to them.

## **Section 15**

### **Outside employment**

Outside employment permits for other public officials of the National Prosecution Authority than the Prosecutor General are granted by the Office of the Prosecutor General. A notification of such outside employment that does not require a permit is submitted to the Office of the Prosecutor General.

## **Section 16**

### **Guidance and direction of the head of investigation when a police officer is suspected of an offence**

The Office of the Prosecutor General guides and directs, in the entire country, the activities of prosecutors heading a criminal investigation when a police officer is suspected of having committed an offence.

## **Section 17**

### **Badge of office**

Prosecutors are issued a badge of office, the design of which is approved by the National Prosecution Authority.

## **Section 18**

### **Decision-making concerning administrative complaints**

A decision on an administrative complaint concerning the activities of other public officials of the National Prosecution Authority than the Prosecutor General or the Deputy Prosecutor General is made by the Prosecutor General or a public official assigned to the task by the Prosecutor General.

**Section 19**  
**Entry into force**

This Decree enters into force on 1 October 2019.