

§ 72.29

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reasonable steps to safeguard the articles of the personal estate which he does not take into possession until disposition can be effected by the legal representative. The personal effects which the consular officer would normally take into possession in any event include the following:

(a) Convertible assets, consisting of currency, redeemable transportation tickets, evidences of debts due and payable in the country of the officer's assignment, and any other instruments negotiable by the consular officer;

(b) Perishable property (including most foodstuffs), having commercial value;

(c) Luggage;

(d) Wearing apparel;

(e) Miscellaneous personal effects;

(f) Jewelry, heirlooms and articles of sentimental value;

(g) Non-negotiable instruments, defined as any document or instrument not saleable or transferrable by the consular officer, but which requires either the signature of the decedent or action by, or endorsement of, his legal representative; and includes transportation tickets not redeemed or redeemable by the consular officer, traveler's checks, promissory notes, evidences of debts not due and payable in the country of the officer's assignment, stocks, bonds or other similar instruments, bank books, books showing deposits in building and loan associations, etc. No fee is charged on non-negotiable instruments taken into possession by the consular officer; see § 72.53.

(h) Personal documents and papers.

§ 72.29 Nominal possessions; property not normally taken into possession.

(a) The taking of articles of personal property into nominal possession from local officials or other persons, for the explicit purpose of on-the-spot release to the "legal representative" as defined in § 72.18 against the latter's memorandum receipt discharging the consular officer without further accounting of any responsibility for articles so transferred by him, shall not be construed as the taking of custody by the officer. No fee shall be charged for the consular officer's service in effecting transfer of the articles in the manner described, provided that he is not re-

quired to prepare a consular inventory, appraise the articles, or list the contents of containers, and provided further that the effects are not taken in safekeeping upon official accountability.

(b) The consular officer is not normally expected to take physical possession, as provisional conservator, of livestock or of articles of personal property which may be found in residences and places of storage such as furniture, household effects and furnishings, bulky works of art, etc., unless the items are of such nature and quantity as to be readily included with the personal effects (§ 72.28), or unless such action, when physically possible, is necessary for the preservation or protection of the property, especially where the articles are of considerable intrinsic value; nor is the consular officer normally expected to take into physical possession motor vehicles, airplanes, or powered watercraft. Personal property not taken into possession should, however, be safeguarded by affixing the consular seal on the premises or on the property (whichever is appropriate), provided the laws of the country permit; or by taking reasonable steps to ensure that such items are placed in safekeeping (at the expense of the estate) until action can be taken by the legal representative. In order to protect the interests of the estate, the consular officer should prepare a list, in quintuplicate, of the articles not taken into physical custody, with indication of safeguarding measures taken, for submission with the inventory of effects which must be prepared for all items in his possession (see § 72.53). If the property which normally would be sealed by the consular officer is not immediately accessible, he should consider requesting the local authorities to seal the premises, or the property, or otherwise ensure that the property remains intact until consular seals can be placed thereon or the property placed in safe storage, or until the legal representative assumes responsibility therefor.

§ 72.30 Bank deposits in foreign countries.

The existence of bank deposits when known should be reported to the legal