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NEWS REPORT

Country:	Serbia
Title:	General measure, no. 07-00-111/2017-02, 22 May 2017
Date:	17 July 2017
Expert:	Krstic, Ivana
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Access to services for blind and visually impaired people
Ground of discrimination:	Disability
Source:	The Commissioner for the Protection of Equality (national equality body)
Field:	Provision of services
Applicable law:	Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination (LPD)

Content

The Commissioner for the Protection of Equality (CPE) has issued a general measure¹ to the Ministry of Justice and the Chamber of Public Notaries in order to correct discriminatory tariff for persons with disabilities in provision of services. Namely, on 23 March 2017, the CPE received a letter from S.S., pointing to the numerous problems that blind and vision impaired people are facing in exercising their rights. It particularly underlined that persons with disabilities, when compiling documents in a non-contentious procedure, or the procedure for verifying the signatures, manuscripts and transcripts for the validity of undertaking actions, need to pay an increased tariff to notaries for ensuring the presence of a witness or an interpreter.

In its general measure the CPE emphasized that despite a very solid anti-discrimination legal framework in Serbia, persons with disabilities are still exposed to widespread discrimination. The explained situation exists, even after the adoption of the amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities,² stipulating in 34, par. 3 that public authorities are obliged to allow the use of personal facsimile stamps to persons with disabilities, especially persons who are blind or vision impaired, in order to sign legal documents. Therefore, acting under Article 33, paras 7 and 9 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination,³ the CPE issued a general measure to the Ministry of Justice⁴ and the Chamber of Public Notaries to take actions under their competences to amend the Notary Tariff⁵ and to ensure that is not

¹ 'General measures' are issued by CPE, acting under Article 33, par. 7, which prescribes that the CPE, among others, monitors the implementation of laws and other regulations, and under Article 33, par. 9, which prescribes that the CPE recommends measures to public administration organs aimed at ensuring equality. In its general measure, CPE issues general recommendations to particular public institutions which usually imply changes of policy or legislation.

² Serbia, The Law on the Amendments to the Law on Prevention of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, no. 13/16, 19 February 2016.

³ Serbia, The Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination, *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, no. 22/09, 26 March 2009.

⁴ Ministry of Justice established, pursuant to Article 135 of the Law on Public Notary, the Notary Tariff.

⁵ Serbia, Notary Tariff, *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, no. 91/14, 103/14, 12/16, 17/17, 29 August 2017.

discriminatory towards persons with disabilities, as required by Serbian anti-discrimination legislation and ratified international treaties.

The measure was issued on 22 May and published on 19 June 2017.

Internet link source: <http://ravnopravnost.gov.rs/preporuka-mera-za-ostvarivanje-ravnopravnosti-osoba-sa-invaliditetom-u-postupku-koriscenja-usluga-javnih-beleznika/>.