

## The Laws of Mauritanja

The Empress has decreed that there are to be six Imperial laws by which Mauritanja is to be governed these are: -

1. The Imperial families decision is final in all matters.
2. All sentient beings pledging loyalty to the Imperial family and showing true allegiance to Mauritanja shall be accepted as part of the Mauritanjan Empire.
3. Accusation of any crime will only be accepted under the condition of the accuser being of a higher rank than the accused.
4. The successor to the empire shall be decided by the empress, to uphold the memory of Queen Adelana's last wish.
5. The right to a home is the right of all Mauritanjans providing they recognise the land belongs to the Unicorns and that they give recognition to Cadras Cornus for this.
6. All crimes shall be dealt with by the Justice Ministry and punishment for those crimes will be administered according to the Ministry edicts.

Further to these Imperial laws it is incumbent upon the Empress through the Justice Ministry and the Chief Justice, to provide a set of common laws to which the Mauritanjan people and government will use to govern their daily lives. A statement of Intent: Justice in all things, the spirit of the law above the word of the Law and Compassion where possible. This statement is the code to which all involved with the Justice Ministry must adhere to and pledge their life to uphold. Below are the Common laws, which are the standard rules of conduct for all beings that are resident or visiting Mauritanja.

1. No being is to take the life of another being. Exemptions to this are the Imperial family, Mauritanjan nobles, the Justice ministry, approved lawful execution or beings proven to be defending themselves from attack or harm where no other option was available.
2. No being is to attack or harm another being. Exemption to this is Imperial intervention or when acting to enforce the law, beings proven to be defending themselves from attack or harm, and beings engaged in lawfully approved duelling.
3. No being is to steal from any other being or commit acts of Fraud, Arson, Abduction or Vandalism.
4. No being is to cast magic or use innate abilities onto another being without there permission. This permission may be retroactive as long as no outside coercion is in effect. Exemption to this is Imperial intervention or when acting to enforce the law or beings proven to be defending themselves from attack or harm.
5. A being is responsible for anything non-sentient it brings into Mauritanja.
6. No being is to obstruct, impersonate or attempt to bribe members of the Imperial family, Mauritanjan nobles or the Justice Ministry.
7. No being is to attempt to or take the life of a Member of the Imperial Family, Mauritanjan nobility or members of the Justice Ministry under pain of death.
8. Failure to complete initial punishment will result in increased punishment
9. Repeated offences will result in increased punishment.
10. Ignorance of the Law is no defence.

11. Mauritanjans of low rank may approach the Justice Ministry to investigate suspected crimes by Mauritanjans of higher rank.

12. All members of the Justice Ministry are to uphold and defend the Imperial Family, Mauritanjan nobility and the law from outside influence.

These Common laws if broken will be tried and punished by a single judge, but the defendant may appeal the decision to the Empress or the Chief justice to allow a retrial which would be presided over by a privy council member or the Chief justice and two other appointed judges. The only exception will be in the case of Common law one or seven being broken which will always result in a trial by three judges. If found guilty the type of punishment will be chosen by the Judges from the various punishments which are listed below. The Judges will set the level of the punishment but may allow the guilty party to choose his own punishment from a list they provide. A trial will not be required if the defendant admits to the crime, as long as he does this of his own free will and under no coercion. Written confessions will not be allowed.

The punishment types are: - 1. Execution / Destruction

2. Imprisonment

3. Exile

4. Bonded /Community service

5. Fines

6. Damages

7. Branding

8. Edict

The Justice Ministry comprises of the following people: -

1. The Chief Justice

2. The Chief of Police and Militia Liaison

3. The Mauritanjan Judges

4. The Mauritanjan Police Department

The Empress has also decreed that all who uphold the law in her name must swear the following oath.

I do solemnly swear to obey and serve the Leader of the Unicorn faction in all things and act with justice, following the spirit of the law above the word of the law and were possible acting with compassion, and to defend the Leader, People and land of Mauritanja with my life.

No being may hold a position in the Justice Ministry without taking this oath. Breaking the oath is punishable by death.