

Society Seneschal's Corpora interpretation regarding the status of Crown edicts, upheld by the Board January 30, 2022:

A question arose regarding the status of “edicts” by the Crown and whether they temporarily override kingdom law for the duration of a reign.

Corpora I.A.3 lists the “Precedence of Law” within the Society in an 8-point list, designated by the letters a-h. After the various Corporate and Society Laws, it reads:

- e. Kingdom Law (within the kingdom that enacts it)
- f. Decision of the Crown (within the kingdom and for the duration of the current reign)

As an “edict” is clearly a “decision of the Crown” it comes after Kingdom Law in the hierarchy of SCA rules. Further, Corpora IV.E, “Royalty-Limitations” has as its very first point the statement, “Royalty are subject to all current Society rules and kingdom and/or principality laws.”

Corpora is very clear on this subject and does not actually require interpretation so much as a reading of the words that are there: Royalty may not act or instruct their populace to act in ways that are contrary to their own kingdom laws. They have the right to change a law with which they disagree, following the procedures spelled out in Corpora and their own kingdom law, but not to temporarily override it. If for some reason it is believed that a temporary override of a kingdom law is necessary, a specific variance must be requested from the Society Seneschal.