

Corpora interpretation with regard to the term “just cause” as it appears in sections III E.2, 4; IV.G.7, IV. H.4, V.A.2-3, VII. K.3 and VII. L.1 Corpora

It was suggested that a Corpora interpretation was needed for the term “just cause” in Corpora VII. L.1

Corpora VII.L.1. “Kingdom, principality, and local officers, Suspension of an officer” states:

“Officers may be suspended by either the appropriate Royalty or the superior officer for just cause, stated in writing to the officer. Suspensions by the Royalty are for not more than the duration of the current reign. Suspensions by the superior officer are for not more than 90 days. A suspension takes effect upon declaration to the officer, but the Royalty or the superior officer must be informed as soon as possible. The suspension of a kingdom or principality great officer must be announced in the next available issue of the kingdom or principality newsletter.” (emphasis added).

However, while making this interpretation, I noted the phrase “just cause”, in reference to appears in seven other areas of Corpora:

III. E. 2.: “The Board specifically reserves to itself the following functions with respect to branches of the Society:

1. To set and revise the borders of principalities and kingdoms.
2. To deny recognition to any group, regardless of other criteria met, for just cause, stated in writing to the affected people.” (emphasis added).

III. E. 4.: “To dissolve a branch should it fail to continue to meet the qualifications for a branch of any level, or for other just cause, stated in writing to the affected people.” (emphasis added).

IV. G.7.: “The Crown may suspend any officer of the kingdom for just cause, stated in writing to the affected person, for the duration of the reign.” (emphasis added).

IV. H.4.: “If authority has been delegated by the Crown, the Coronet may appoint, remove, or replace Great Officers of the principality in conjunction with the appropriate kingdom Great Officers. The Coronet may likewise appoint, remove, and replace Lesser Officers of the principality in conjunction with the appropriate kingdom or principality Great Officers, if any. The Crown may require consultation and prior approval for any or all of these steps. The Coronet may suspend any officer of the principality for just cause, stated in writing to the affected person, for the duration of the reign.” (emphasis added).

V. A.2.: “The Crown may suspend a territorial Baron and/or Baroness for the duration of a reign, for just cause stated in writing and presented only to the Baron and/or Baroness. Suspension prohibits the use of the baronial titles and arms, the conduct of baronial courts, and the presentation of baronial awards.” (emphasis added).

V.A.3.: “The Crown may remove a territorial Baron and/or Baroness for just cause stated in writing and presented only to the Baron and/or Baroness; however, the Crown must request a written opinion from the populace of the barony before taking such action.” (emphasis added).

VII. K. 3.: “Officers may be removed for just cause, stated in writing to the officer, by joint action of the Crown and the corresponding superior officer. If there is no superior officer, the Crown may act unilaterally, in accordance with law and custom. An officer so removed may appeal to the Board.” (emphasis added).

“Just cause” is a very open phrase with what is “just” very much the opinion of the Royalty or superior officer doing the suspending.

I gave this a great deal of thought as the suspension or removal of any officer causes confusion in a kingdom, particularly if there is not a designated successor; such turmoil may reach outside and beyond the administrative structure.

My interpretation of the term “just cause” as it appears in Corpora is: The Royalty or superior officer must show sufficient cause to support the action taken, as well as satisfying the oversight and review functions of the superior officer up to and including the Board of Directors.

Vague causes for suspension without a sufficient basis to support the review function of the Board on appeal, or for instruction/correction of the issue(s) that led to the suspension do not constitute “just cause”.

Examples of a vague reason for suspension may include:

- The officer is unreliable.

Examples of a specific reason for suspension may include:

- The officer is unreliable as they have failed to submit a quarterly report for two consecutive quarters without notifying or contacting the superior officer.