

**"ON PROVISION OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION RELATED TO  
ACTIVITIES OF COURTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION" (FL No. 3262  
of 22.12.2008)**

**Chapter 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1. Basic concepts used in this Federal Law**

For the purposes of this Federal Law the following basic concepts are used:

1) request — an application of the information user in verbal or written form, including a document in the electronic format, to the courts, Judicial Department at the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (further – the Judicial Department), offices (divisions) of the Judicial Department in the subjects of the Russian Federation (further – the bodies of the Judicial Department), bodies of the judicial community for provision of the information related to activities of the courts in the Russian Federation (further – the information related to activities of the courts);

2) information related to activities of the courts – the information prepared by the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community within the limits of their powers or received by the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community and related to activities of the courts. Laws of the Russian Federation, which establish the judicial procedure, powers and procedure of functioning of the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community, judicial acts on the specific cases and other acts regulating the issues of activities of the courts shall also belong to the information related to activities of the courts;

3) information user - a citizen (natural person), organization (legal entity), public association, bodies of state authority or local self-government bodies performing retrieval of the information related to activities of the courts;

4) judicial act - a judgment passed in the form, which is established by the corresponding law on the merits of the case considered in the process of conducting the constitutional, civil, administrative or criminal proceedings or proceedings at the arbitration court. The judicial acts shall also include the judgments of the courts of appellate, cassation and supervisory instances passed in the form established by the corresponding law and based on the results of processing the appeals and cassations (presentations) or judgments revised due to supervision;

5) courts — the federal courts, constitutional (charter) courts of the subjects of the Russian Federation and justices of the peace of the subjects of the Russian Federation (further – the justices of the peace) constituting the judicial system of the Russian Federation.

## Article 2. Domain of this Federal Law

1. Domain of this Federal Law shall cover the relations associated with provision of access for the information users to the information related to activities of the courts.

2. If the laws of the Russian Federation, which establish the judicial procedure, powers and procedure of functioning of the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community or if the laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, which establish the powers and procedure of functioning of the constitutional (charter) courts of the subjects of the Russian Federation and justices of the peace, envisage the requirements to provision of the information related to activities of the courts other than those set by this Federal Law, the provisions of this Federal Law shall be applicable with regard to the requirements of the laws of the Russian Federation and in respect to the information related to activities of the constitutional (charter) courts of the subjects of the Russian Federation and justices of the peace – with regard to the laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation as well.

3. Force of this Federal Law shall cover the relations associated with provision of the information related to activities of the courts to the mass media editorial offices in the part not regulated by the mass media laws of the Russian Federation.

4. Force of this Federal Law shall not cover:

1) procedure of conducting the constitutional, civil, administrative and criminal proceedings, proceedings at the arbitration court, proceedings at the qualification collegia of judges;

2) procedure of the judicial act enforcement;

3) relations associated with provision of access to the personal data being processed by the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community;

4) procedure of the information communication between the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community.

## Article 3. Legal regulation of the relations associated with provision of access to the information related to activities of the courts

1. Legal regulation of the relations associated with provision of access to the information related to activities of the courts shall conform to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal constitutional laws, federal laws, which establish the judicial procedure, powers and procedure of functioning of the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community, this Federal Law, other federal laws and in respect to the constitutional (charter) courts of the subjects of the Russian Federation and justices of the peace – to the laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation as well. Legal regulation of the relations

associated with provision of access to the information related to activities of the courts shall also conform to the court rules and (or) other acts regulating the internal activities of the courts, acts of the Judicial Department, acts of bodies of the judicial community.

2. If the international treaty of the Russian Federation establishes the rules other than those envisaged by this Federal Law, the rules of the international treaty shall be applicable.

Article 4. Basic principles of access provision to the information related to activities of the courts

The basic principles of providing access to the information related to activities of the courts shall include:

1) openness and accessibility of the information related to activities of the courts with the exception of the cases envisaged by the laws of the Russian Federation;

2) validity of the information related to activities of the courts and timeliness of its provision;

3) freedom of retrieval, obtaining, transfer and distribution of the information related to activities of the courts by any legitimate method;

4) respect for the citizens' rights to privacy, to personal and family secrets, to protection of their honor and good name, for the organizations' rights to protection of their good name; respect for the rights and legitimate interests of the parties to the judicial proceedings when furnishing the information related to activities of the courts;

5) noninterference in the justice execution when furnishing the information related to activities of the courts.

Article 5. Restricted information related to activities of the courts

1. Access to the information related to activities of the courts shall be restricted if according to the procedure set by the federal law this information falls into the data constituting a state or any other secret, which is protected by the law.

2. List of the data assigned to the restricted information as well as procedure of the said data assigning to the restricted information shall be set by the federal law.

Article 6. Methods of provision of access to the information related to activities of the courts

Access to the information related to activities of the courts shall be provided by the following methods:

1) attendance of the citizens (natural persons), including representatives of the organizations (legal entities), public associations, bodies of state authority and local self-government bodies at the proceedings in open court;

2) disclosure (publication) of the information related to activities of the courts in mass media;

3) posting the information related to activities of the courts on the Internet information and telecommunication network (further – the Internet );

4) location of the information related to activities of the courts in the rooms occupied by the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community;

5) familiarization of the information users with the information related to activities of the courts and kept at the archives;

6) provision of the information related to activities of the courts to the information users at their request.

Article 7. Forms of provision of the information related to activities of the courts

1. The information related to activities of the courts shall be provided verbally and as the documented data, including a document in the electronic format.

2. Form of provision of the information related to activities of the courts shall be envisaged by the laws of the Russian Federation, which establish the judicial procedure, powers and procedure of functioning of the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community, this Federal Law, other federal laws and in respect to the constitutional (charter) courts of the subjects of the Russian Federation and justices of the peace – by the laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation as well. The form of the above information provision shall be stipulated by the court rules and (or) other acts, which regulate the issues of court internal functioning, acts of the Judicial Department, acts of the bodies of the judicial community. If the form of provision of the information related to activities of the courts is not stipulated, it may be determined by request of the information user. If it is impossible to provide the above information in the requested form, the information shall be furnished as it is available at the court, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community.

3. The information related to activities of the courts in the verbal form shall be provided to the citizens (natural persons), including the representatives of the organizations (legal entities), public associations, bodies of state authority and local self-government bodies, during the reception. The above information shall be also provided by telephones of the corresponding structural units of the staff of courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, staff of the bodies of the judicial community (if any) or by telephones of the authorized officials.

4. The information related to activities of the courts may be transmitted using the public communication networks.

#### Article 8. Rights of the information users

The information user shall have the right:

- 1) to obtain the reliable information related to activities of the courts;
- 2) not to substantiate the need for obtaining the requested information related to activities of the courts, if it is unrestricted for access;
- 3) to appeal according to the procedure set by the law against action (inaction) of the officials, which violate the right to access to the information related to activities of the courts and the established procedure of its exercising;
- 4) to claim according to the procedure established by the law the indemnification of damage caused by violating its right to access to the information related to activities of the courts.

### **Chapter 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION RELATED TO ACTIVITIES OF THE COURTS AND MAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVISION OF ACCESS TO THE SAID INFORMATION**

Article 9. Organization of access to the information related to activities of the courts

1. Access to the information related to activities of the courts shall be provided by the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community within the limits of their powers. In cases envisaged by this Federal Law, other federal laws, the access to information related to activities of the courts and available at the bodies of the judicial community shall be provided by the Judicial Department and bodies of the Judicial Department.

2. With the aim to organize access to the information related to activities of the courts, the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community shall determine the corresponding structural units of their staff or authorized officials. Rights and duties of the above units and officials shall be established respectively by the court rules and (or) other acts regulating the issues of internal functioning of the courts, acts of the Judicial Department, acts of the bodies of the judicial community.

3. Organization of access to the information related to activities of the courts shall be provided with regard to the requirements of this Federal Law according to the procedure established within the limits of their powers by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, Higher Arbitration Court of the Russian Federation, Judicial Department, bodies of the

judicial community and in respect to the constitutional (charter) courts of the subjects of the Russian Federation – by the subjects of the Russian Federation.

Article 10. Organization of access to the information related to activities of the courts and posted on the Internet portal

1. To post the information related to activities of the courts, the Internet portal shall be used by the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department for creation of their official websites with e-mail for sending the requests. If the court of general jurisdiction (district court, military court of garrison, justice of the peace) does not possess an official website and cannot post the information related to its activities on the Internet portal, the said information shall be posted on the official website of the body of the Judicial Department in the subject of the Russian Federation at which territory the court of general jurisdiction is accommodated.

2. Procedure of creation of the official websites, posting the information related to activities of the courts on them, time limits for updating the said information with reference to the requirements of this Federal Law shall be established by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, Higher Arbitration Court of the Russian Federation, Judicial Department within the limits of their powers and in respect to the constitutional (charter) courts of the subjects of the Russian Federation – by the subjects of the Russian Federation.

3. With the aim to secure the right of general public to access to the information specified in part 1 of this Article, the Internet centers may be arranged in the areas accessible for the information users (in the rooms of the bodies of state authority, local self-government bodies, state and municipal libraries and other accessible places).

4. With the aim to secure the right of the information users to access to the information specified in part 1 of this Article, the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department shall take action for its protection according to the laws of the Russian Federation.

5. Requirements to the hardware, software and linguistic means for provision of use of the official websites shall be established by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, Higher Arbitration Court of the Russian Federation, Judicial Department within the limits of their powers. For the constitutional (charter) courts of the subjects of the Russian Federation and judges of the peace the above requirements shall be established according to the procedure envisaged by the laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

Article 11. Main requirements to provision of access to the information related to activities of the courts

The main requirements to provision of access to the information related to activities of the courts shall include:

- 1) reliability of the provided information related to activities of the courts;
- 2) observance of the time limits and procedure of provision of the information related to activities of the courts;
- 3) withdrawal of the restricted data from the information related to activities of the courts and intended for provision;
- 4) creation of the organizational-technical and other conditions, which are required for exercising the right to access to the information related to activities of the courts, and establishing of the state information systems;
- 5) accounting for the costs of provision of access to the information related to activities of the courts when planning the budget financing of the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department.

### **Chapter 3. PROVISION OF THE INFORMATION RELATED TO ACTIVITIES OF THE COURTS**

#### **Article 12. Attendance at the court proceedings**

1. Citizens (natural persons), including the representatives of organizations (legal entities), public associations, bodies of state authority and local self-government bodies shall have the right to attend the open court and to record the proceedings according to the procedure and in the forms envisaged by the laws of the Russian Federation.

2. Procedure of provision of access for the persons stated in part 1 of this Article to the courtrooms and rooms used by the courts shall be established by the court rules and (or) other acts regulating the issues of internal functioning of the courts.

#### **Article 13. Disclosure (publication) of the information related to activities of the courts**

1. Disclosure (publication) of the information related to activities of the courts in mass media shall be provided according to the laws of the Russian Federation on mass media with the exception of the cases envisaged in part 2 of this Article.

2. If the laws of the Russian Federation, which establish the judicial procedure, powers and procedure of functioning of the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community, and in respect to the constitutional (charter) courts of the subjects of the Russian Federation – the laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation envisage the requirements to publishing the judicial acts and other information related to activities of the courts, the judicial acts and above information shall be published according to the laws of the Russian Federation, laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

Article 14. Internet-posted information related to activities of the courts

1. The Internet-posted information shall include:

1) general information about the court:

a) name of the court, name of the court district, which territory is under jurisdiction of the court, mail address, e-mail (if any), telephone number for reference;

b) organizational structure of the court – the court plenum, court presidium, court chambers, court collegia, permanent court benches, consultative and (or) deliberative bodies (if any) and structural units of the court staff;

c) court powers;

d) list of the laws regulating the activities of the courts;

e) court rules, court office-work instruction and other acts regulating the issues of internal functioning of the court;

f) names, first names and patronymics of the chairman of court, deputy chairmen of court, judges, head of the court staff and, subject to consent of these persons, their other data; grounds for vesting the chairman of court, deputy chairmen of court and judges with the authority;

g) lists of the information systems and databanks in the authority of the court (if any);

h) name of the mass medium established by the court (if any);

2) information related to legal proceeding of cases:

a) requirements laid to the form and contents of the documents to be used for legal action and (or) patterns of these documents, procedure of these documents presentation to the court;

b) information related to the amount and procedure of the state tax payment by categories of the cases to be subjected to proceeding;

c) information related to the cases at hearing: registration numbers of the cases, their description or subject of dispute, information related to the case processing at the court as well as rendering the judicial acts based on results of the case consideration (called on trial with stating the day, time and place of the court sitting, examined, postponed, suspended, closed, consent decree made, claim shelved, other with reference to specifics of the corresponding judicial procedure);

d) texts of the judicial acts presented with regard to the requirements stipulated by Article 15 of this Federal Law, information related to appealing against them and results of such appealing and if the judicial acts are published – information about the sources of publishing;

e) procedure of appealing against the judicial acts;



f) explanation, generalization and reviews of the issues of judicial practice of case consideration at the courts;

g) procedure of familiarizing the parties to the case with materials of the case;

h) telephone numbers for reference, including the information related to progress of the case processing at the court;

3) texts of the draft normative acts submitted by the courts to the legislative (representative) bodies of state authority (for the courts being the entities of legislative initiative);

4) judicial statistical data submitted in the scope set by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, Higher Arbitration Court of the Russian Federation, Judicial Department within the limits of their power;

5) information related to the court staffing:

a) procedure of vesting the judges with powers, requirements to the candidates to the post of the judge and procedure of their selection;

b) information related to vacancy in the judge office, vacancies in the state service offices of the court staff;

c) procedure of taking state employment at the court staff by the citizens, qualification requirements to the candidates for filling the vacancies at the state offices of the court staff;

d) conditions of holding and results of the competitions for filling the vacancies at the state offices of the court staff;

e) telephone numbers for getting the information related to filling the vacancy of the judge office, vacancies at the state offices of the court staff;

6) information related to the procedure and hours of receiving the citizens (natural persons), including the representatives of organizations (legal entities), public associations, bodies of state authority and local self-government bodies, procedure of considering their applications on the issues of organization of the court activities, complaints against action (inaction) of the judges or personnel of the court staff other than those related to consideration of the specific cases, appealing against the judicial acts and procedural action of the judges as well as the telephone number for reference;

7) information related to placing the orders for supply of the goods, performance of the work, rendering of the service for the needs of the courts according to the laws of the Russian Federation on placing the orders for supply of the goods, performance of the work, rendering of the service for the state and municipal needs.

2. The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, along with the information stated in part 1 of this Article, shall post on its official website the message of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation to the Federal

Assembly of the Russian Federation on the state of constitutionality in the Russian Federation.

3. The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, Higher Arbitration Court of the Russian Federation, along with the information stated in part 1 of this Article, shall post on their official websites the information related to the judicial system of the Russian Federation.

4. The Judicial Department shall post on the Internet portal:

1) general information about the Judicial Department:

a) powers and structure of the Judicial Department, mail address, e-mail, telephone number for reference;

b) list of the normative acts regulating the activities of the Judicial Department;

c) list of the bodies of the Judicial Department, their powers as well as mail addresses, e-mails, telephone numbers of the reference services of the bodies of the Judicial Department;

d) names, first names and patronymics of the General Director of the Judicial Department at the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, deputies of the General Director of the Judicial Department at the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and heads of the bodies of the Judicial Department and subject to consent of the above officials – their other data;

e) federal purpose-oriented programs and other programs on the issues of development of the judicial system of the Russian Federation (if any);

f) lists of the information systems and databanks in the authority of the Judicial Department;

2) information related to the bodies of the judicial community:

a) list of the bodies of the judicial community acting at the territory of the Russian Federation and their powers;

b) list of the normative acts regulating the functioning of the bodies of the judicial community;

c) resolutions of the Highest Qualification Collegium of Judges of the Russian Federation on suspension, renewal or termination of powers of the judges of corresponding courts, certification of competence of the judges and information about their disciplinary punishment.

5. The Judicial Department, along with the information stated in part 4 of this Article, shall post on the Internet portal:

1) annual reports of the General Director of the Judicial Department at the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on activities of the Judicial Department to be submitted to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, Council of Judges of the Russian Federation and all-Russian congress of judges;

2) reviews of activities of the courts of general jurisdiction, judicial statistics published in mass media according to the acts regulating the activities of the Judicial Department with relation to the judicial statistics keeping;

3) information related to placing the orders for supply of the goods, performance of the work, rendering of the service for the needs of the courts of general jurisdiction according to the laws of the Russian Federation on placing the orders for supply of the goods, performance of the work, rendering of the service for the state and municipal needs.

6. The body of the Judicial Department shall post on the Internet portal:

1) general information related to the body of the Judicial Department:

a) name, powers and structure of the body of the Judicial Department, mail address, e-mail, telephone number of the reference service of the body of the Judicial Department;

b) list of the normative acts regulating the activities of the body of the Judicial Department;

c) names, first names and patronymics of the head of body of the Judicial Department, deputy heads of the body of the Judicial Department and with consent of these officials – their other data;

2) information related to the bodies of the judicial community acting at the territory of corresponding subject of the Russian Federation:

a) list of the bodies of the judiciary community and their powers;

b) list of the normative acts regulating the activities of bodies of the judicial community;

c) resolutions of the qualification collegium of judges of corresponding subject of the Russian Federation on suspension, renewal or termination of powers of the judges of corresponding courts, certification of competence of the judges and information about their disciplinary punishment.

7. The information envisaged by this Article shall be posted on the Internet portal within the time limits set to provide timeliness of exercising and protection by the information users of their rights and legitimate interests.

Article 15. Specific requirements to posting the judicial act texts on the Internet portal

1. Texts of the judicial acts with the exception of sentences shall be posted on the Internet portal after their passing. Texts of the sentences shall be posted after their coming into validity.

2. Texts of the judicial acts to be published according to the law as well as texts of other judicial acts passed by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, constitutional (charter) courts of the subjects of the Russian Federation,

arbitration courts with the exception of texts of the judicial acts stated in part 4 of this Article shall be posted in full on the Internet portal.

3. When posting on the Internet portal the texts of judiciary acts passed by the courts of general jurisdiction, with the exception of the texts of judicial acts subject to publishing according to the law, in an effort to provide security of the parties to the judicial proceedings, the personal data shall be excluded from the said acts, with the exception of the names and initials of the claimant, defendant, third person, civil claimant, civil defendant, convict, acquitted person, person prosecuted for administrative offense, secretary of the judicial sitting, judge(s) considering the case as well as procurator, lawyer and representative if they participated in the proceedings. In lieu of the excluded personal data, use shall be made of the initials, pseudonyms and other designations, which permit no identification of the proceedings participants (part 3 in the wording of the Federal Law of 28.06.2010 No. 123-Φ3).

4. When posting on the Internet portal the texts of judiciary acts envisaging the provisions, which include the data constituting a state or any other law-protected secret, such provision shall be excluded from the texts of judicial acts.

5. Texts of the judicial acts shall not be posted on the Internet portal, if they are passed for the cases:

- 1) affecting the state security;
- 2) arising out of the family-legal relations, including the cases of child adoption, other cases concerning the juvenile rights and legitimate interests;
- 3) regarding the crimes against the sexual immunity and sexual freedom of the individual;
- 4) regarding the legal incapacity of a citizen or his recognition as incapable;
- 5) regarding the compulsory institutionalization of a citizen in the mental hospital and compulsory psychiatric examination;
- 6) regarding the corrections and changes to be entered in the records of civil registration;
- 7) regarding ascertainment of the facts of legal value considered by the courts of general jurisdiction;
- 8) to be decided according to Article 126 of the Civil Procedural Code of the Russian Federation (Paragraph 8 introduced by the Federal Law of 28.06.2010 No. 123-Φ3).

Article 16. Location of the information related to activities of the courts in the rooms occupied by the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community

1. Information boards and (or) similar facilities shall be arranged in accessible areas of the rooms occupied by the courts for familiarization of the information users

with current information related to activities of the corresponding court and including:

1) work procedure of the court and procedure of receiving the citizens (natural persons), including the representatives of the organizations (legal entities), public associations, bodies of state authority and local self-government bodies, on the issues of case consideration at the court and other issues related to activities of the court;

2) information related to the day, time, place and subject of the court sitting on the cases sanctioned for hearing;

3) procedure of attendance at the court sitting and measures to be taken against the disorderly persons, procedure of provision of access to the courtrooms and rooms occupied by the courts;

4) conditions and procedure of obtaining the information related to activities of the court;

5) other data required for prompt transfer to the information users.

2. Information boards and (or) similar facilities shall be arranged in accessible areas of the rooms occupied by the Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community for familiarization of the information users with the information related to the conditions and procedure of obtaining the information related to activities of the courts and other data required for prompt transfer to the information users.

Article 17. Familiarization with the information related to activities of the courts and kept at the archives

Familiarization of the information users with the information related to activities of the courts and kept at the archives shall be provided according to the procedure established by the laws of the Russian Federation on archiving activities and other corresponding normative acts and with the information related to activities of the constitutional (charter) courts of subjects of the Russian Federation and justices of the peace – according to the procedure established by the laws of subjects of the Russian Federation and other corresponding normative acts of subjects of the Russian Federation as well.

Article 18. Request for information related to activities of the courts

1. The information user shall have the right to apply to the court, Judiciary Department, bodies of the Judiciary Department, bodies of the judicial community with a request to be furnished directly by it and its representative, which powers are executed according to the procedure established by the laws of the Russian Federation.

2. The request shall include the mail address, telephone and (or) fax number or e-mail for sending the response to the request or for clarification of the request

contents as well as the name, first name and patronymic of the citizen (natural person) or name of the organization (legal entity), public association, body of state authority, local self-government body requesting the information related to activities of the courts. No anonymous request shall be considered. The request prepared in writing shall also indicate the title of corresponding court, Judicial Department, title of the corresponding body of the Judicial Department or body of the judicial community to which the request is forwarded or name and initials or position of the corresponding official.

3. The request shall be recorded at the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community according to the procedure and within the time limits set by the acts regulating the issues of office-work at the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community respectively.

4. The request shall be considered within a thirty-day period from the date of its recording unless it is stipulated otherwise by the laws of the Russian Federation. If the requested information cannot be provided within the set time limits, the information user within seven days from the date of request recording shall be notified about the delayed response to the request with the reason and time limits stated for provision of the requested information, which cannot exceed by more than fifteen days the time set for the response to the request according to this Federal Law.

5. If the request has no relation to activities of the court, Judicial Department, body of the Judicial Department or body of the judicial community, to which the request is furnished, the information user who sent the request shall be notified accordingly within a seven-day period from the date of the request recording. Possibility of the request re-addressing shall be set by the acts regulating the issues of office-work at the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community respectively.

6. The courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community shall have the right to clarify the request contents in an effort to provide the required information related to activities of the courts to the information user.

7. The requirements of this Federal Law to the request in writing and response to it shall be applicable to the request, which comes to the court, Judicial Department, body of the Judicial Department through Internet, and to the response to such request.

Article 19. Procedure of provision of the information related to activities of the courts upon the request

1. The response to the request shall include the requested information or motivated refusal of such information provision. The response to the request shall include the title, mail address of the court, Judicial Department, body of the Judicial Department, body of the judicial community, position of the official who signed the response as well as the data of response to the request (registration No. and date).

2. If the request refers to the information related to activities of the court and published in mass media or posted on the Internet portal, in its response to the request the court, Judicial Department, body of the Judicial Department, body of the judicial community may restrict itself to stating the description, date and No. of the issue of mass media in which the requested information was published and (or) electronic address of the official website where the requested information is posted.

3. If the requested information related to activities of the courts refers to the restricted information, the response to the request shall state the type, title, No. and date of the act adopted to restrict the access to that information. If part of the requested information refers to the restricted information and the rest if the information is public, the requested information shall be provided with the exception of the restricted information.

4. Responses to the requests shall be subject to obligatory recording at the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community.

5. The information related to activities of the courts shall be provided free of charge unless it is stipulated otherwise by the laws of the Russian Federation.

Article 20. Grounds for ruling out the possibility of provision of the information related to activities of the courts

1. The information related to activities of the courts shall not be provided if:

1) contents of the request do not allow determining the requested information related to activities of the courts;

2) request includes neither mail address, e-mail, fax number for sending the response nor telephone number for contact with the information user who sent the request;

3) requested information has no relation to activities of the court, Judicial Department, body of the Judicial Department, body of the judicial community, which received the request;

4) requested information refers to the restricted information;

5) requested information constitutes interference in execution of the justice;

6) requested information, if provided, will affect security of the court proceedings participants;

7) requested information has been previously provided to the information user;

8) request puts the question with relation to construction of the rule of law, explanation of its application or legal treatment of the judicial acts, work out of the legal position upon the request, analysis of the court practice or performance of other analytical work upon the request and having no immediate relation to protection of rights of the information user who forwarded the request.

2. The courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community shall have the right not to provide the information related to activities of the courts upon the request, if the said information is published in mass media or posted on the official websites of the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department.

#### **Chapter 4. RELATIONS OF THE COURTS, JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT, BODIES OF THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT, BODIES OF THE JUDICIAL COMMUNITY WITH THE MASS MEDIA EDITORIAL OFFICES**

Article 21. Objectives and forms of relations of the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community with the mass media editorial offices

1. Relations of the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community with the mass media editorial offices shall be maintained with the aim to provide the objective, reliable and prompt briefing of the information users on activities of the courts.

2. Relations of the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community with the mass media editorial offices may envisage:

1) free access of the representatives of mass media editorial offices to the court rooms where the information related to activities of the courts is located as well as their attendance at the open court sittings;

2) attendance of the representatives of mass media editorial offices at the sittings of the bodies of judicial community according to the procedure established by the acts regulating the activities of the said bodies;

3) provision of the information related to activities of the courts at the request of mass media editorial offices;

4) mass media coverage of activities of the courts, including the problems of upgrading the laws, which regulate the said activities;

5) participation of the representatives of the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community in the press conferences and other arrangements jointly with the representatives of mass media editorial offices;

6) accreditation of the representatives of mass media editorial offices to the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community;

7) other forms of relations for briefing the information users on activities of the courts.



Article 22. Official representatives of the courts, Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department, bodies of the judicial community

1. The chairman of court or the official authorized by the chairman of court shall be the official representative of court for maintaining the relations with mass media editorial offices.

2. The General Director of the Judicial Department at the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, heads of the bodies of the Judicial Department or the official authorized by the General Director of the Judicial Department at the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, heads of the bodies of the Judicial Department shall be the official representatives of the Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department respectively for maintaining the relations with mass media editorial offices.

3. With the aim to organize the relations with mass media editorial offices the courts (with the exception of the district courts, military courts of garrisons, justices of the peace), Judicial Department, bodies of the Judicial Department may determine the relevant structural units of their staff, which rights and duties related to maintaining the said relations are established by the court rules and (or) other acts regulating the issues of internal functioning of the courts, acts of the Judicial Department respectively.

4. Members of corresponding bodies of the judicial community, who are authorized to maintain the relations with mass media editorial offices by the federal laws regulating the activities of bodies of the judicial community and (or) by the acts of bodies of the judicial community shall be the official representatives of the bodies of the judicial community in charge of maintaining relations with the mass media editorial offices.

Article 23. Settlement of disputes arising in connection with the mass media coverage of activities of the courts

The disputes arising in connection with the mass media coverage of activities of the courts shall be settled at the court according to the procedure established by the law. The disputes arising in connection with the mass media coverage of activities of the courts may be also settled out of court by the bodies or organizations, which competence includes the information dispute consideration.

## **Chapter 5. PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION RELATED TO ACTIVITIES OF THE COURTS, SUPERVISION OVER PROVISION OF ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION RELATED TO ACTIVITIES OF THE COURTS**

Article 24. Protection of the right to access to the information related to activities of the courts

Decisions and action (inaction) of the official infringing the right to access to the information related to activities of the court may be appealed against according to the procedure established by the laws of the Russian Federation.

Article 25. Supervision over provision of access to the information related to activities of the courts

1. Supervision over provision of access to the information related to activities of the courts shall be exercised within the limits of their powers by the chairman of the courts, General Director of the Judicial Department at the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, heads of the bodies of the Judicial Department and members of the bodies of the judicial community authorized for exercising the said supervision.

2. Procedure of exercising the supervision over provision of access to the information related to activities of the courts shall be established by the rules and (or) other acts regulating the issues of internal functioning of the courts, acts of the Judicial Department, acts of the bodies of judicial community.

## **Chapter 6. FINAL PROVISIONS**

Article 26. This Federal Law entering into force

This Federal Law shall come into force from July 1, 2010.