

and
BRAZIL

Convention concerning free legal aid. Signed at Rio de Janeiro, on 10 January 1955

Official texts: French and Portuguese.

Registered by Brazil on 14 July 1957.

BELGIQUE
et
BRÉSIL

**Convention concernant l'assistance judiciaire gratuite.
Signée à Rio-de-Janeiro, le 10 janvier 1955**

Textes officiels français et portugais.

Enregistrée par la Belgique le 14 juillet 1957.

made by the applicant before the chief police officer of the commune in which he lives or, in the absence of the latter, before the mayor (*bourgmestre*), indicating what means he possesses apart from the income indicated by the Inspector of Taxes, as well as any recent changes in that income during the year in which the application is made.

1. If in the locality there is no authority competent to issue the certificate referred to in the present article, a declaration made by the consular officer or diplomatic mission of the country of the applicant shall be submitted in place of the certificate.

2. If the applicant is not resident in the territory of one of the High Contracting Parties, the documents to be furnished in proof of his indigence shall be those required by the law of the country in which he resides.

If the matter is not regulated by law in the country of residence or if it proves impossible to comply with the law in force in that country, the applicant shall attach to his application a declaration made before the consular officer of his place of residence; the declaration shall indicate the applicant's place of residence and give particulars of his financial means and responsibilities.

3. If the applicant does not reside in the country in which he proposes to apply for free legal aid, the consular officer or the diplomatic mission of the country to which the application is to be made shall authenticate free of charge the certificate issued by the competent local authority of the applicant's place of residence.

4. The authority to whom application for a certificate of indigence is made may for the purposes of the present article make any necessary inquiries into the applicant's economic and financial position.

Article III

Applications for free legal aid, which shall be made in Brazil to the judge having jurisdiction in the matter and in Belgium to the legal aid department at the place where the aid is to be granted, shall be governed, up to and including the final ruling, by the domestic law of the country concerned, and applicants shall enjoy any privileges granted under that law to nationals of that country.

Article IV

All rulings, certificates, documents and instruments relating to the application for and granting of free legal aid shall be exempt from all charges, taxes and fees.

Article V

This Convention shall be ratified after the legal formalities observed in the territory of each of the High Contracting Parties have been completed and shall enter into force one month after the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which shall take place at Brussels as soon as possible.

Each of the High Contracting Parties may denounce the Convention at any time, but the Convention shall not cease to have effect until three months after it is denounced.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries have signed this Convention and have thereto affixed their seals.

DONE at Rio de Janeiro, on 10 January 1955.

R. VAN MEERBEKE
Raul FERNANDES