

## ***Blanket Permission to Conflict***

***compiled by Modar Neznanich & Briana Etain MacKorkhill***

What is a Blanket Permission to Conflict? This is when a gentle grants permission to the SCA College of Arms to allow other SCA members to register an item that would conflict with an item they have previously registered because it is very similar. This consent only gives permission to register items that are close to, but not exactly the same as, the item they have registered. So no completely identical registration would be possible.

Why would someone wish to grant such permission? Because their perspective of uniqueness is not as stringent as the rules the SCA College of Arms has set. For example, by current SCA College of Arms precedent concerning names, Alianora de Grey would conflict with Eleanor the Gray. If the bearer of a name does not feel variants of their name would be too close and intrude on them having name uniqueness, they can –and should– grant blanket permission to conflict with their name. For many folks, as long as there is at least one letter different between names, they feel name uniqueness is maintained.

Additionally, the concept of name uniqueness is an artificial one found only within organizations like the SCA. In the historical world as well as the modern world, there were many people who shared names in common. Thus some gentles in the SCA feel that there is no need to have any sort of name uniqueness, that to do so takes away an aspect of periodness.

Blanket Permission to Conflict can also be granted for heraldic devices and badges a person has registered. Again the question of why someone would want to provide such permission comes up. Well as an example, by current SCA College of Arms precedent concerning armory, “Per pale gules and argent, an estoille sable” conflicts with “Per fess Or and azure, an estoille sable”. To many folk visually there is quite a bit of difference between the two designs because one has a background split left and right while the other is split top and bottom and the background tinctures are completely different. However by the SCA Heraldic Rules for Submission which is based on how (later-period) cadency differences were determined, only one difference is granted between the two, no matter how many changes are made to the background. [Editor's Note: The Rules for Submission have been replaced by the Standards for Evaluation of Names and Armory, SENA].

For many people, as long as there is at least one visual different between heraldic designs, they feel armory uniqueness is maintained. If the bearer of a particular piece of heraldry does not feel that variants of their design with only one difference does not intrude on them having armory uniqueness, they can –and should– grant blanket permission to conflict with their design.

Now, several reasons why some may want to grant such permission have been given. But realize that many people like having very unique names and/or armory. There is nothing wrong with that. While gentles should be made aware of the option to grant Blanket Permission to Conflict so they can decide if they would like to, they should not be pressured to give such permission. The choice is up to each individual to make. One of the wonderful things about the SCA is that there is room for many visions.

Examples of forms for Blanket Permission to Conflict as per Appendix D of the Administrative Handbook of the CoA follow.

Blanket Permission to Conflict

For Name

I, [Name], known in the SCA as [Society name] waive the full protection of my registered name "[Registered name]". I grant permission to any future submitter to register a name that is (not identical to/at least a syllable different from) my registered name. I understand that this permission can be withdrawn by written notice to the Laurel Sovereign of Arms, but that conflicting items registered while it is in force will remain registered.

[Date] [Signature of [Name]]

For Fielded Armory

I, [Name], known in the SCA as [Society name] waive the full protection of my registered armory "[Blazon of registered armory]". I grant permission to any future submitter to register armory that is (not identical to|at least one countable step different from) my registered armory. I understand that this permission can be withdrawn by written notice to the Laurel Sovereign of Arms, but that conflicting items registered while it is in force will remain registered.

[Date] [Signature of [Name]]

For Fieldless Armory:

I, [Name], known in the SCA as [Society name] waive the full protection of my registered armory "[Blazon of registered armory]". I grant permission to any future submitter to register armory that is not identical to my registered armory. I understand that this permission can be withdrawn by written notice to the Laurel Sovereign of Arms, but that conflicting items registered while it is in force will remain registered.

[Date] [Signature of [Name]]

Note that a blanket permission to conflict will under no circumstances allow the registration of identical names or armory.

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