



COVID-19

Legal Insights no. 26

Exceptional and temporary regime regarding the formalities of postal notification under the pandemic of COVID-19

On April 18, it was published, in the Portuguese Official Gazette, the Law no. 10/2020 of April 18, which establishes an exceptional and temporary regime regarding the formalities of postal notification provided for in proceeding and procedural laws and regarding the sending of postal packages services, given the epidemiological situation caused by COVID-19.

Under this new regime, and until the termination of the exceptional situation of prevention, restraint, mitigation and treatment of COVID-19, the collection of signature on the delivery of registered mail and packages is suspended.

The signature collection is replaced by verbal identification and collection of the citizen card number or of any other suitable mean of identification, through the relevant presentation and insertion of the collection date.

In the event of refusal of the presentation and of the provision of identification data, the postal service distributor shall write a note of the incident in the letter or in the acknowledgement of receipt and shall return it to the sender. In these situations, the act of certification of the incident serves as notification, as the case may be.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned, notifications performed by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt shall be deemed to have been made on the date on which the citizen card number or any other legal means of identification is collected.

This regime shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to notification by personal contact.

To access the full version of Law no. 10/2020, please click on the following link:

<https://dre.pt/web/guest/pesquisa/-/search/131908529/details/maximized>

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