

CONVOCATION OF THE AD HOC DERBHFINE  
OF THE MACCARTHY REAGH  
FOR THE ELECTION OF A NEW CHIEF OF THE NAME

**I. Preamble**

WHEREAS the derbhfine of The MacCarthy Reagh today comprises the proven agnatic descendants of the last chiefly derbhfine of 1754 – namely, agnatic descendants Domhnall na bPíopaí – and are the only kin who, in accordance with the *fénechas* (Brehon Law), may either present themselves as a candidate for, or elect, a Chief of the Name; AND WHEREAS every effort has been made to notify the clan and the general public through various media of an election for the Chief of the Name to occur on 13 August 2025; AND WHEREAS all known proven agnatically descended families of Domhnall na bPíopaí have been contacted and successfully notified of the Ad Hoc Derbhfine election; AND WHEREAS the hereditary Brehon of the MacCarthy Clan has endorsed and certified the legality of this election in accordance with the *fénechas*;

I DO HEREBY issue this 60 day notice of the convocation of the Ad Hoc Derbhfine for the election of the next Chief of the Name MacCarthy Reagh.

**II. Recitals**

- A. Native Jurisprudence. Under the *fénechas* codified in the *Senchus Mór* and related tracts, the Chiefship of the Name is a hereditary clan office of vested in the clan derbhfine. Neither the 1922 Constitution of the Irish Free State nor *Bunreacht na hÉireann* (1937) abrogated Gaelic chieftainships, and with courtesy recognitions by the Chief Herald of Ireland having lapsed for want of statutory footing in 2003, the authority to identify, elect, and proclaim a Chief of the Name remains wholly vested in the clan derbhfine *in foro domestico*.
- B. Non-dissolution of the Standing Derbhfine. With the Tenures Abolition Acts of 1660 and 1662, and the Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act 2009 which have abrogated any infeudating incidents of the Tudor era, there is no legal statute dissolving either derbhfine or chiefship, and with no succession being made after 1754, the last chief's derbhfine persists into the modern era and continues to comprise the agnatic descendants of Domhnall na bPíopaí, the great-grandfather of the last chief, just as the derbhfine was comprised upon the last chief's decease in 1754. Therefore, there remains a presently constituted derbhfine which continues to comprise the agnatic descendants of Domhnall na bPíopaí.
- C. Verified Member Families of The MacCarthy Reagh Derbhfine. Extensive research into the descended families and pedigrees of the MacCarthy Reagh chiefly families has been completed over the last three centuries, as documented in
  - i. the 1607 Pedigree of Domhnall na bPíopaí MacCarthy Reagh's family,

- ii. the Cherín Genealogies of the MacCarthy Reagh, certified on 8 June 1776 by both Cherín and Ralph Bigland, the Clarenceux King of Arms,
- iii. the 1937 registration of Francis MacCarthy-Willis-Bund's pedigree, certified by the Norroy & Ulster Herald,
- iv. the 1636 Inquisition Post Mortem for Donal MacCarthy Reagh, which corrects that 1937 pedigree of Francis MacCarthy-Willis-Bund,
- v. and the 2023 Certification of Arms and Genealogy of Sir Evan Patrick McCarthy by the Chronicler of Arms of Castile and Leon which records that correction.

Together these records document the descents of the MacCarthy Reagh families of Toronto, Oak Bluffs, Washington, Vancouver, and Springhouse.

D. Participating Families. These above-mentioned families, being the extant derbhfine, are now, and have been, invited to participate in the election for the Chief of the Name. Each family has been contacted and solicited for candidates to be put forward for election, with the following responses:

- i. McCarthy of Toronto – consent and support for the election of a chief has been given, with no candidate put forward,
- ii. McCarthy of Oak Bluffs – consent and support for the election of a chief has been given, with Sir Evan McCarthy put forward as a candidate,
- iii. McCarthy of Washington – no response; consent implied *de non apparentibus et non existentibus*,
- iv. MacCarthy of Vancouver – consent and support for the election of a chief has been given, with no candidate put forward,
- v. MacCarthy of Springhouse – proven agnatic lines are extinct. Springhouse sept remains dormant, with no candidate put forward by the only *presumed* agnatically descended family.

E. Final Solicitation. As the election is 60 days from the date of this notice, ***this is the final solicitation for chiefly candidates.***

### III. Operative Clauses

1. Constitution of the Derbhfine. The derbhfine of The MacCarthy Reagh today comprises the descendants of Domhnall na bPíopaí who (a) have a proven and certified genealogy, (b) have demonstrated lineal agnatic descent, and (c) attained the age of majority, and (d) are the only kin who may lawfully either present themselves as a candidate for, or cast a vote in a future election for, Chief of the Name.
2. Execution of the Election. Due to the vast geographic dispersion of clan members, the election will be held via the secure online election platform, 'ElectionRunner,' on 13 August 2025, at 12:00am Irish Standard Time (IST) and will run through 13 August 2025 at 11:59pm IST. Voting participants will receive an email as soon as the election window opens and will have 24 hours

to submit their vote. Each member will have a unique identifier which will limit one vote per person and provide anonymity of the voter.

3. Succession and Reconstitution of the Derbhfine. The derbhfine of 1754 will dissolve upon the election of a new Chief of the Name, and the new Chief's derbhfine will constitute the new Derbhfine of The MacCarthy Reagh.
4. Preservation of Domestic Jurisdiction. In accordance with the *fénechas*, the determination of future succession shall remain exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Derbhfine of The MacCarthy Reagh.
5. Non-Derogation from Civil Law. Nothing herein shall be construed to derogate from the sovereignty of the State of, or from the rights of any citizen under the laws of, the Republic of Ireland; this Instrument operates *in foro domestico* and within the sphere of the MacCarthy Reagh Clan.

#### **IV. Execution**

In witness whereof, I, as Chief of The MacAodhagain of Tethbae, Hereditary Brehon of The MacCarthy Clan of Munster, have hereunto set my hand on this the 14th day of June in the year of Our Lord 2025.