



AN CEANN FINE MHC CÁRTHAIGH RIABHAIGH
PRIONSA CHAIRBRE

11 May 2026
The Feast of Sts. Philip and James

It is the considered and official position of The MacCarthy Reagh that the surviving historical record, taken as a whole, establishes by a preponderance of evidence that Florence MacCarthy Reagh, son of Donogh MacCarthy Reagh and grandson of Donal mac Finghin, was the last MacCarthy Mór and Prince of Desmond lawfully inaugurated, having been presented the White Rod of Kingship by The O’Sullivan.

It is further the position of The MacCarthy Reagh that the lawful restoration of the dignity of MacCarthy Mór and Prince of Desmond — and, indeed, of any Gaelic-Irish chieftaincy where the proper chiefly line and dearbhfhine remain capable of identification — cannot arise by mere assumption, private assertion, or the sole recognition by a body other than the clan dearbhfhine, but through the identification, and election, of a legitimate successor from the clan dearbhfhine. In the present case, that pool is the surviving agnatic stock of the last duly inaugurated chief’s dearbhfhine: namely, the male-line descendants of Finghin MacCarthy Reagh, 10th Prince of Carbery, father of Donal mac Finghin and great-grandfather of Florence.

The MacCarthy Reagh nevertheless recognises that, in certain clans and kindreds, the historical chiefly dearbhfhine may be known to be extinct, or after reasonable genealogical and historical inquiry, may be demonstrated to have been lost to history beyond practical recovery. In such cases, where no proper pool of chiefly ríghdomna can any longer be identified with sufficient certainty, a chieftain elected by a representative body of that clan or kindred – provided that such election is conducted in good faith, with due regard for Gaelic-Irish tradition, historical continuity, and the welfare and consent of the wider clan community – may be acknowledged and recognized as the legitimate successor to the chieftaincy of his clan.

Accordingly, where the chiefly dearbhfhine is extant or capable of reasonable identification, no person may lawfully be acknowledged as chief or chieftain unless that person has been identified, genealogically proven, and elected from within that proper chiefly stock. With respect to the dignity of MacCarthy Mór and Prince of Desmond, until such a successor is identified, genealogically proven, and elected by the surviving dearbhfhine of the last duly inaugurated chief, and until a new chiefly dearbhfhine is thereby constituted around that successor, The MacCarthy Reagh maintains that no living person may lawfully be acknowledged as The MacCarthy Mór or Prince of Desmond. In the meantime, the only persons who may properly be regarded as rightful Ríghdomna of Desmond are those agnatic descendants of the aforesaid Finghin, 10th Prince of Carbery.

This declaration is made to clearly articulate the official position of The MacCarthy Reagh as one that endorses observance of Brehon Law and a strict adherence to the spirit thereof; it is not made as an assumption by The MacCarthy Reagh of the title or dignity of “MacCarthy Mór” or “Prince of Desmond.”

Therefore, The MacCarthy Reagh, together with his trusted advisors, namely, the hereditary White Rod, the hereditary Brehon of the MacCarthy clan, and the Chancellor of Carbery, set their names hereto under the Great Seal of The MacCarthy Reagh this eleventh day of May in the Year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-six.