

Swedish Code of Statutes no: 2009:600

Ministry/agency: **Ministry of Culture**

Title: **Language Act (2009:600)**

Issued: 28 May 2009

Contents and purpose of the Act

Section 1

This Act contains provisions on the Swedish language, the national minority languages and Swedish sign language. The Act also contains provisions on the responsibility of the public sector to ensure that the individual is given access to language and on the use of language in the public sector and in international contexts.

Section 2

The purpose of the Act is to specify the position and usage of the Swedish language and other languages in Swedish society. The Act is also intended to protect the Swedish language and language diversity in Sweden, and the individual's access to language.

Section 3

If another act or ordinance contains a provision that diverges from this Act, that provision applies.

The Swedish language

Section 4

Swedish is the principal language in Sweden.

Section 5

As principal language, Swedish is the common language in society that everyone resident in Sweden is to have access to and that is to be usable in all areas of society.

Section 6

The public sector has a particular responsibility for the use and development of Swedish.

The national minority languages

Section 7

The national minority languages are Finnish, Yiddish, Meänkieli (Tornedal Finnish), Romany Chib and Sami.

Section 8

The public sector has a particular responsibility to protect and promote the national minority languages.

Swedish sign language

Section 9

The public sector has a particular responsibility to protect and promote Swedish sign language.

The use of language in the public sector

Section 10

The language of the courts, administrative authorities and other bodies that perform tasks in the public sector is Swedish.

Other legislation contains provisions on the right to use national minority languages and other Nordic languages.

There are separate provisions concerning the obligation of courts and administrative authorities to use interpreters and to translate documents.

Section 11

The language of the public sector is to be cultivated, simple and comprehensible.

Section 12

Government agencies have a special responsibility for ensuring that Swedish terminology in their various areas of expertise is accessible, and that it is used and developed.

Swedish in international contexts

Section 13

Swedish is the official language of Sweden in international contexts.

The status of Swedish as an official EU language is to be safeguarded.

Individuals' access to language

Section 14

All residents of Sweden are to be given the opportunity to learn, develop and use Swedish. In addition

1. persons belonging to a national minority are to be given the opportunity to learn, develop and use the minority language, and
2. persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, and persons who, for other reasons, require sign language, are to be given the opportunity to learn, develop and use Swedish sign language.

Persons whose mother tongue is not one of the languages specified in the first paragraph are to be given the opportunity to develop and use their mother tongue.

Section 15

The public sector is responsible for ensuring that the individual is given access to language in accordance with Section 14.

