In February, the following main amendments were introduced into the legislation: a Civil Code norm as regards refusal of the heir from the estate in favor of other persons was brought in compliance with the Resolution of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation; provisions of a number of laws on individual types of non-profit organizations were brought in harmony with provisions of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation; the list of higher education establishments which were granted the right to carry out supplementary profile testing for admission was approved.\footnote{The Review was prepared with assistance of the KonsultantPlus legal system.}

I. Federal Laws of the Russian Federation


Amendments were introduced to Article 1158 of Part III of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation.

By Resolution No.29-P of 23 December 2013 of the Constitution Court of the Russian Federation, Article 1158.1.(1) of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation was recognized as partially incompatible with the Constitution of the Russian. In accordance with Article 79 of Part III of the Federal Constitutional Law No.1-FKZ of 21 July 1994, acts and individual provisions thereof were recognized as unconstitutional and void.

In accordance with the above provision as amended, the heir has the right to give up the estate in favor of other persons from among heirs by will or heirs at law of any order regardless of the fact whether they were called upon to accept the estate or not, heirs who were not deprived of the right to inherit and those who were called upon to inherit on the basis of the right of representation or by way of devolution of the estate to representatives of a deceased heir (devolution of the right to acceptance of the estate).

The above persons’ refusal in favor of anybody is inadmissible:
- from the estate inherited by will if the legator’s entire estate was left to the heirs appointed by him/her;
- from the hereditary portion in the estate;
- in case there is a substitute.


Due to introduction by Federal Law No.99-FZ of 5 May 2014 on Amendment of Chapter 4 of Part I of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation and on Recognition as Null and Void of Individual Provisions of Statutory Acts of the Russian Federation of provisions on condominiums, amendments were introduced to Federal Law No. 82-FZ of 19 May 1995 on Public Associations, Federal Law No.7-FZ of 12 January 1996 on Non-Profit Organizations,

In addition to the above, the Federal Law on Non-Profit Organizations was supplemented with the article on norms of territorial units of public organizations and associations (unions).

Presently, public organizations and associations (unions) may have territorial units which are legal entities performing the functions of public organizations and associations (unions) in the respective territory and are not branches or representative offices thereof. Territorial units are not participants in such public organizations and associations (unions).

The Federal Law becomes effective from the day of official publication. Founding documents, as well as names of territorial units – established before the federal law in question became effective – of public organizations and associations (unions) and which are not branches or representative offices thereof are subject to harmonization with the Federal Law on Non-Profit Organizations as revised in the present Federal Law upon the first amendment of founding documents.

Entitling and other documents which included former names of territorial units of public organizations and associations (unions) established before the present Federal Law became effective and which are not branches or representative offices thereof do not require re-legalization.

II. Instructions of the Government of the Russian Federation

Instruction No.96-r of 27 January 2016 ON APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF HIGHER EDUCATION ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH ARE GRANTED THE RIGHT TO CARRY OUT SUPPLEMENTARY PROFILE TESTING FOR ADMISSION IN 2016

In 2016, the right to carry out supplementary profile testing for admission to training in Bachelor’s and Specialist’s degree programs was granted to four higher education establishments as regards 13 lines of professions.

The approved list includes the following educational establishments:
- The O.E. Kutafin Moscow State University of Law (legal studies);
- The Moscow State Linguistic University (legal studies, political science, international relations, linguistics, translation and theory of translation);
- The N.A. Dobrolyubov Nizhny Novgorod State Linguistic University (translation and theory of translation);
- The Moscow State Institute for International Relations (university) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (economics, business, legal studies, foreign regional studies, international relations, advertising and public relations).