

Hungary

Hungarian Law expressly provides for confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors including explicitly documents. Article 15 of the provisions of Act XXXII of 1995 on patent attorneys, which came into force April 1, 2013, concerning confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors provides that

- “(1) A patent attorney – in the absence of a provision of law to the contrary – shall be under secrecy obligation with respect to all facts and data that come to his knowledge in connection with his activity as patent attorney; this obligation shall remain even after the termination of his activity as patent attorney.
- “(2) The secrecy obligation shall extend to those documents of patent attorney that contain facts and data subject to patent attorney secrecy. In the course of the administrative examination at the patent attorney, the patent attorney shall not disclose the documents and data concerning his client, but he cannot obstruct the procedure of the authority.
- “(3) The client and his successor in title may grant exemption from the secrecy obligation.
- “(4) The secrecy obligation shall extend to individual patent attorneys and their employees, patent attorneys’ office and their employees, patent attorneys’ partnership and their employees, Hungarian Chamber of Patent Attorneys and its officers and employees.

Article 22 of the same Act contains disciplinary sanctions for violation of these obligations.