Annex to the letter of the Ministry of Social Policy

Unofficial translation

Information from the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine

on the state of social protection of homeless persons

The general principles of social protection of homeless persons are determined by the Law of Ukraine "On the Basics of Social Protection of Homeless Persons and Homeless Children" dated June 2, 2005 No. 2623-IV (hereinafter - Law No. 2623).

According to Law No.2623, a homeless person is a person who is in the social position of a person, caused by the lack of any housing, designated and suitable for living.

In order to create the necessary conditions for ensuring the rights and freedoms of homeless persons, their records are introduced, which are kept at their place of residence or place of stay on the basis of a personal request or their detection by the registration centers created by local self-government bodies can provide and local executive authorities.

Registration centers can also be formed by public and charitable organizations and, on a contractual basis with local executive authorities and local self-government bodies, can provide services related to the identification and registration of homeless persons.

Among the tasks of the registration center, in addition to identifying and keeping records, is the research avaibility of social protection institutions for homeless people in the region and free beds in these institutions to provide temporary shelter for homeless people, the provision of the social service "representation of interests" (assistance in documents issuing and re-issuing, assistance in registering the place of residence; assistance in access to resources and services at the place of residence, establishing connections with other specialists, services, organizations, enterprises, bodies, institutions, institutions, etc.).

During 2022, 57 centers for registration of homeless persons functioned, the number of homeless persons registered as of the end of the reporting year was 46,266. During 2022, 12,674 homeless persons were identified by the registration centers. Statistical data do not include temporarily occupied territories, or territories where active hostilities were or are being conducted.

The system of reintegration of homeless persons is a set of activities to implement the process of returning homeless persons to life in society as full members of it. Entities that ensure the reintegration of homeless persons may provide the following services: temporary shelter, social, medical, legal, educational and rehabilitation.

Temporary shelter and social services for homeless persons are provided in institutions for persons of this category (night-stay houses, reintegration centers, social hotels), as well as outside of such institutions using a mobile form of providing social services - social patrolling.

Institutions of social protection for homeless persons are created by local executive bodies and local self-government bodies, citizen associations, religious organizations, enterprises, institutions, organizations regardless of the form of ownership, by individuals in accordance with the needs of the region.

The following social services are provided to homeless persons:

social integration and reintegration (assistance in obtaining housing, employment, etc.; correction of psychological state and behavior in everyday life; provision of psychological support, etc.);

social support during employment and at the workplace (regular meetings with the recipient of the service; assistance in employment through assistance in finding a job/preparation for work; visits at the workplace; assistance in adaptatio of a person for work functions, etc.);

night shelter (providing accommodation at night, with one-time meals, personal hygiene products and creating conditions for carrying out sanitary and hygienic measures, observing personal hygiene);

supported accommodation (providing accommodation for a person or a group of persons, counseling, training, development and support of independent living skills; assistance in organizing daily routines; assistance in organizing interaction with other specialists and services);

other social services.

During 2022, 42 institutions of social protection for homeless persons functioned, the number of homeless persons who received social services is 18,243 persons. Statistical data do not include temporarily occupied territories, or territories where active hostilities were or are being conducted.

The main organizational and legal principles of providing social services, aimed at preventing difficult life circumstances, overcoming or minimizing their negative consequences, to persons/families in difficult life circumstances, are defined by the Law of Ukraine "On Social Services" dated 17.01.2019 No. 2671- VIII (hereinafter - Law No. 2671).

According to Law No. 2671, difficult life circumstances are circumstances that negatively affect the life, health and development of a person, the functioning of the family, which the person/family cannot overcome on their own.

Homelessness is defined as one of the factors that can lead to difficult life circumstances.

Social services are provided at the expense of budget funds; with differentiated fee set on the income of the recipient of social services; at the expense of the recipient of social services or third parties.

Thus, providers of social services in the public sector provide social services at the expense of budget funds:

social services in informing, consulting, providing asylum, representation of interests, as well as social services provided in an emergency (crisis) - regardless of the income of the recipient of social services:

all social services - to recipients of social services whose average monthly income is less than two living wages.

Social services are provided in accordance with state standards, which establish requirements for ensuring the necessary level of availability of social services, in particular at each stage of their provision; the content and scope, norms and standards, conditions and procedure for providing social services, and their quality indicators are determined.

The provision of social services is based on the principles of respect for human rights, impartiality and safety; voluntariness; individual approach.

The Constitution of Ukraine, in particular Article 62, defines that a person is considered innocent of committing a crime and cannot be subjected to criminal punishment until his guilt is proven in a legal manner and established by a court verdict.

The Criminal Code of Ukraine defines the legal protection of human and citizen rights and freedoms, property, public order and public safety, the environment, the constitutional system of Ukraine from criminal and illegal encroachments, ensuring the peace and security of mankind, as well as preventing criminal offenses.

The Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Regarding Humanization of Liability for Offenses in the Field of Economic Activities" dated November 15, 2011 No. 4025-VI removed from the Criminal Code of Ukraine the article on the imposition of a prison sentence for systematic vagrancy or begging.