



## THE CONCEPT AND ESSENCE OF SOCIO-LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR MINORS

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### Abstract:

This article comprehensively analyzes the concept and essence of socio-legal assistance for minors. It examines the importance of this assistance in ensuring the social and legal protection of minors, its main directions, and practical aspects. The role of state bodies, non-governmental organizations, and the public in protecting the rights of minors is also emphasized. Proposals and recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of socio-legal assistance are presented.

**Keywords:** minors, socio-legal assistance, legal protection, social support, state bodies, non-governmental organizations, rights protection, youth policy.

In recent years, the number of offenses committed by minors has been increasing in many countries worldwide. Political, social, economic, and ideological changes occurring globally, as well as innovations in the spiritual and moral life of society, are also influencing this trend.

Since our country gained independence, various reforms have been implemented across all spheres, and these reforms are directly reflected in legislation. In particular, several regulatory legal acts have been adopted on the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

These regulatory legal acts include the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Prevention of Neglect and Offenses among Minors" dated September 29, 2010, "On the Prevention of Offenses" dated May 14, 2014, "On State Youth Policy" dated September 14, 2016, "On Internal Affairs Bodies" dated September 16, 2016, and the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-2833 "On Measures for Further Improvement of the System of Crime Prevention and Combating Crime" dated March 14, 2017.

During the years of independence, comprehensive measures have been implemented in the republic to prevent offenses and combat crime, resulting in positive outcomes in ensuring law and order in the country, as well as a significant improvement in the criminogenic situation.

Effective work has also been carried out to provide social and legal assistance to minors. In particular, centers for the effective organization of work with minors left without the supervision and care of parents or persons replacing parents, living in socially dangerous families, in need of state and public assistance, as well as centers for the provision of socio-legal assistance to minors, have begun their activities.

The main goal of the activities of these centers is to provide social and legal assistance to minors.

Therefore, let's first understand the legal definition of the concept of providing social and legal assistance to minors. In order to understand this concept, it is necessary to analyze the concepts of minors and the provision of socio-legal assistance separately.

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 29, 2010 No. 3PY-263 "On the Prevention of Neglect and Delinquency among Minors," a minor is defined as a person under the age of eighteen[1].

Minors are citizens under the age of 18 according to the current legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The task of educating minors is a state duty, and the constitutional obligation of citizens. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, like citizens, guarantees

the right to education, work, rest, and own property (Articles 36, 40, and 41). The Civil Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes the legal capacity of minors aged 14 to 18 years, who independently, without the consent of their parents, adoptive parents, and guardians:

- 1) manage their wages, scholarships, and other income;
- 2) exercise the rights of the author of a work of science, literature or art, invention or other result of their intellectual activity, protected by law;
- 3) deposit and dispose of deposits in credit institutions in accordance with the law;

On May 4, it is indicated that they have the right to conclude household and other transactions, which they conclude with the written consent of their parents, adoptive parents, or guardians. With their consent, a citizen who has reached the age of 16 and is engaged in entrepreneurial activity or working under an employment contract may be declared legally competent (Articles 27, 28, 29). V.e. are equated to adult employees in labor relations, but enjoy additional benefits in terms of labor protection, working hours, provision of vacations, and other working conditions. The Labor Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes guarantees for the employment of persons under 18 years of age, their labor rights, etc. (Articles 239-247). In the criminal proceedings of V.E., additional rights are guaranteed by special legal norms (see Responsibility of Minors). Commissions for Children's Affairs have been created under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regional, city, and district khokimiyats[2].

According to B.B. Normurodov, a minor is a person who has reached the age of sixteen before committing a crime, but has not reached the age of eighteen[3].

In our opinion, based on the above-mentioned scholars and regulatory legal documents, Minors are understood as citizens under the age of 18 or persons who have not reached legal capacity, according to current legislation, except for the case of emancipation.

Now, as mentioned above, it is necessary to understand what social and legal protection is. In particular, L. Rajabova emphasizes this. In his opinion, in implementing social protection measures, the state does not relinquish its main functions, but, on the contrary, uses the support of various enterprises and organizations, public associations, charitable foundations, and citizens' self-government bodies in their implementation[4].

According to Associate Professor M.M. Abdurakhmanova, social protection has long been located in the heart of every person and is reflected in such qualities as kindness, generosity, doing good, upbringing, and humanity. In reality, these qualities are transmitted to each other through the hearts of people[5].

In the holy book of Islam, the Holy Quran, in the Surah "An-Nisa," great attention is paid to..."observing the rights of orphans, protecting the rights of young children, vulnerable people, and women," as well as "strengthening the family and restoring kinship ties." Also, in the Hadiths, attention is paid to various aspects of social work, and it is narrated from Jabir ibn Abdullah (r.a.), who said: The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.) "It is said that every deed that is considered good is charity"[6].

In the teachings of Chinese Confucius (551-479 BC), a noble person possesses five qualities. The first is jen-foreignity, the second is i-justice, the third is li-practice, the fourth is zhi-healthy thinking, the fifth is sin-sami[7]. Thus, humanity consists of empathy, goodwill, compassion, love for people, and a sense of care for them[8]. According to the scientific analysis of these opinions by M.M. Abdurakhmanova, the five traditions cited in the teachings of Confucius cover the core of social protection activities carried out today[9].

The great Sahibkiran Amir Timur (1336-1405) paid great attention to social life, believing that all his victories in social life, politics, economics, administration, and military spheres were, first of all, due to his entrepreneurial activity, which he made the motto of his thinking and actions[10], he said:..."with justice and fairness, I made the servants of God pleased with me. I judged both the guilty and the innocent with mercy and justice. I won people's hearts with my charitable deeds. Through politics and conscience, I kept my troops

and subjects between hope and fear. I showed mercy to the citizens and those under my command, distributed gifts to my soldiers"[11], emphasizing the social work during the reign of the great Sahibqiran.

In addition, L.Rajabova believes that at the current stage of state development, social protection should be a set of measures aimed at monetary funds, moral support, benefits and services, meeting the needs of low-income citizens, creating conditions for their self-sufficiency. These measures should be carried out at the expense of local budgets, as well as other sources not traditionally implemented by the social security system. The need for a unified interpretation of social protection is also explained by the fact that they are implemented on the basis of relevant laws[12].

According to D. Akhmedov, the forms of activity of the executive branch in the field of social protection of the population are diverse, including: norm-making; organizational support for the implementation of programs and plans for social protection at the level of the relevant territory (republic, region, district, city) within its competence; formation of financial resources (budgetary, charitable, non-state funds) for the purposes of social protection; determination of general criteria for identifying persons in need of social assistance, development of general principles of social protection and assistance; coordination of the actions of various state and non-state bodies in the implementation of social protection of the population[13].

D.A.Anvarova's implementation of the state social protection policy is based on the "Strategy of Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Uzbekistan," which includes means and methods of ensuring social protection of citizens in all spheres of state activity[14].

E.Rakhmonov and M.Kholmatov also emphasized that the importance of social policy in our republic today depends not only on the economic and political situation, but also on raising a healthy generation based on the spiritual values of the people, supporting large families, caring for the elderly, and providing social support to people with disabilities[15].

M.Kutbitdinva notes that in the social protection of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan, priority areas have been identified for covering all families and individuals in need of social assistance and meeting the criteria for assigning social benefits with social assistance programs, expanding the possibility of using mandatory social guarantees, including types of social protection, through the digitalization of the sphere, introducing the principles of openness and transparency into this process, ensuring mandatory social guarantees for the population, strengthening the social protection of vulnerable segments of the population, a phased transition to the social model of disability determination and ensuring the employment of persons with disabilities, providing the needy part of the population with modern prosthetic and orthopedic products and rehabilitation tools, as well as introducing the practice of providing social services directly to the population at the mahalla level.

We observed that the concepts of the above-mentioned scientists cover different spheres, which means general social protection. In our view, social protection is the role of the state in contributing to the well-being of its citizens.

Providing social and legal assistance to minors, based on the above analysis, we found it appropriate to define it as follows. In particular, providing social and legal assistance to minors is understood as providing economic and moral support to minors who are left without the supervision and care of parents or persons replacing parents, living in socially dangerous families, and in need of state and public assistance.

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