Private Professional Educational Institution "Krasnoyarsk Cooperative College of Economics, Commerce and Law"

Interdisciplinary educational project on “Legal Status and Organization of Juvenile Affairs Units” and “Foreign Language”

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**Annotation:**

This work is devoted to studying the legal status and organization of activities of juvenile affairs units in the Russian Federation. These divisions within the Ministry of Internal Affairs play a key role in protecting the rights and legitimate interests of minors as well as preventing offenses among this category of citizens. The main legislation regulating their activities includes Federal Law No. 120-FZ "On Prevention of Offenses," along with other regulatory acts concerning youth-related issues. Special attention is given to interactions between these departments and state authorities, municipal bodies, educational institutions, and public organizations, which contribute to creating an integrated approach towards addressing problems related to minors. Existing methods of working with children and adolescents are analyzed alongside their effectiveness. Finally, major challenges faced by these units are highlighted, followed by recommendations aimed at improving their performance and enhancing protection mechanisms for minors.

Keywords (10):legal status, juvenile affairs units, organizational activity, minor's rights, crime prevention, social adaptation, legislation, interaction, non-governmental organizations, rights protection, prevention, work with young people, comprehensive approach, efficiency, recommendations.

**Introduction**

Relevance: There has been a noticeable increase in crimes committed by minors due to complex socio-economic conditions, negative influences from the internet, insufficient parental supervision, etc. As such, juvenile affairs units (PDN) have become crucial in preventing criminal behavior among young individuals. Economic difficulties, family breakdowns, lack of proper childcare control all create risks leading to delinquency among teenagers. PDNs provide support during critical situations.

Objective: This study aims to analyze the legal framework, functional roles, and organizational structure of juvenile affairs units while identifying problem areas and proposing improvements for better preventive measures against crimes involving minors and ensuring their rights and lawful interests.

**Tasks:**

1. Examine legislative regulations governing the activities of juvenile affairs units, including federal laws, subordinate acts, and local normative documents.
2. Study the organizational structure, responsibilities, and primary directions of these units’ operations.
3. Analyze how PDNs collaborate with schools, social services, courts, and other relevant entities.
4. Evaluate current methods used for preventing crimes and violations among minors.
5. Enhance professional vocabulary related to law enforcement.

**Hypothesis:** The effectiveness of juvenile affairs units directly depends on the quality of legal regulation, interagency cooperation, and implementation of modern preventive strategies that reduce crime rates and improve social integration outcomes for minors.

**Research Object:** Activities of juvenile affairs units as part of the system for preventing offenses and safeguarding the rights of minors.

**Legal Regulation of Activities of Juvenile Affairs Units**

Juvenile affairs units (hereinafter referred to as PDNs) are specialized governmental structures established to prevent offenses among minors, protect their rights and interests, and ensure their overall welfare. Their activities are strictly regulated by Russian legislation based on principles of respect for individual rights, humanism, and justice.

**Federal Legislation**

**The principal sources of legal regulation include:**

1. Constitution of the Russian Federation: Outlines general principles of governance, guaranteeing every citizen’s right to life, dignity, freedom, and personal inviolability.
2. Federal Law No. 120-FZ "On Foundations of System for Preventing Homelessness and Offenses Among Minors" (June 24, 1999): Defines tasks, forms, and methods of operation for PDNs, specifying duties and responsibilities of employees.
3. Criminal Execution Code, Administrative Violations Code, Family Code of Russia: These codified acts regulate penalties imposed on minors for criminal or administrative violations, procedures for reviewing cases, and defining victims' and defendants' rights and obligations.
4. Orders issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs: Include internal guidelines, instructions, and standards for PDN officers.Additionally, international treaties ratified by Russia, UN conventions, European Convention on Human Rights, and other international instruments concerning children's rights also play a significant role.

**Powers and Responsibilities of Juvenile Affairs Units**

**According to Article 21 of Law No. 120-FZ, the core objectives of PDNs are:**

1. Prevention of offenses among minors.
2. Protection of minors' rights and lawful interests.
3. Coordination of efforts across various government agencies and civil society institutions focused on preventing offenses and promoting youth welfare.Key powers of PDNs encompass:
4. Conducting individual preventative interventions with minors registered under anti-social behaviors.
5. Investigating circumstances surrounding offenses committed by minors.
6. Initiating proceedings regarding administrative violations and participating in court hearings.
7. Maintaining records of minors displaying antisocial tendencies.
8. Providing consultancy to parents and educators.
9. Collaborating with other governmental authorities and advocacy groups.

**Principles Guiding the Operations of Juvenile Affairs Units**

**PDN operations rest upon several fundamental principles enshrined in federal law:**

1. Compliance with the rights and freedoms of minors.
2. Individualized treatment of each child.
3. Confidentiality regarding information about minors' private lives.
4. Prohibition of cruel treatment or humiliation of children.
5. Cooperation with parents and official representatives of minors.
6. Prioritization of rehabilitation and preventative measures over punitive actions.

**Procedure for Admission and Registration of Minors**

Registration protocols for listing and removing minors from lists are determined by orders issued by the Ministry of Interior. Grounds for inclusion involve committing administrative misconduct, petty thefts, running away from home, vagrancy, drug use, alcohol consumption, or other anti-social conduct.Decisions on registration are made collectively through commissions composed of parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, and minors themselves.Prior to registering, preliminary inspections of living conditions, interviews with the child and his/her family members take place, followed by personalized plans for preventative intervention.

**Accountability of Employees of Juvenile Affairs Units**

Employees who fail to fulfill their duties may face disciplinary, administrative, or even criminal liability. Breaches in procedural handling of cases, disclosure of confidential data, abuse of authority can lead to sanctions ranging from dismissal to disqualification from holding positions within police forces. Monitoring of PDN activities falls under higher-level oversight bodies, prosecutors, and authorized representatives of Russia's Public Chamber.

**Interdepartmental Collaboration of Juvenile Affairs Units**

A substantial portion of PDN success hinges on collaboration with external partners like:

1. Educational Institutions (schools, colleges)
2. Medical Facilities (psychiatric clinics, addiction centers)
3. Youth Committees and Cultural Organizations
4. Charitable Foundations and Volunteer Movements. Coordination enhances early detection of threats jeopardizing minors' wellbeing, ensures timely responses to alarm signals, and boosts overall preventative efficacy.

**Organization of Activities of Juvenile Affairs Units**

**Structure of Juvenile Affairs Divisions**

**PDN systems operate according to the following structure:**

**Territorial Affiliation:** Active in cities, districts, municipalities, and republics throughout Russia.

**Hierarchical Structure:** Subordinated to regional police departments, provincial interior ministry offices, and similar agencies within the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

**Leadership Body:** Headed by chiefs of respective regions coordinating local branches.

**Each division typically consists of:**

1. Chief Officer
2. Deputy Chief
3. Inspectors for Juvenile Affairs
4. Social Workers
5. Legal Experts
6. Psychologists

**Personnel Composition:**

**Depending on regionality, staff numbers vary but generally follow this standard configuration:**

1. Division Head: Oversees management and bears ultimate responsibility for service delivery.
2. Deputy Head: Coordinates operational workflows, collaborates with local governments and agencies.
3. Inspector for Juvenile Affairs: Directly engages in preventative programs, investigates domestic conditions, prepares documentation on juvenile offenders.
4. Social Worker: Provides social assistance to families facing adversities.
5. Legal Expert: Advises on legal matters, drafts procedural papers.
6. Psychologist: Diagnoses emotional states of minors, designs social adjustment and behavioral correction programs.

All personnel undergo training and retraining courses tailored to enhance knowledge in psychology, pedagogy, jurisprudence, and sociology.

**Functions of Juvenile Affairs Units**

**Core responsibilities of PDNs include:**

1. Carrying out preventative initiatives targeting troubled families and high-risk youth prone to illegal behavior.
2. Preparing and maintaining case records for juvenile offense incidents.
3. Counseling minors and their guardians on rights and responsibilities.
4. Organizing collaborative events with schools, universities, NGOs fostering law-abiding conduct.
5. Participating in investigations of criminal cases and administrative litigation affecting minors.
6. Rehabilitating and socially reintegrating ex-convicted minors.
7. Overseeing the functioning of local committees responsible for juvenile affairs.

**Procedures for Registering and Deregistering Minors**

**Minors enter PDN registries if they meet any of the following criteria:**

1. Commission of serious criminal offenses or noteworthy administrative violations.
2. Consumption of alcoholic beverages, drugs, tobacco products.
3. Inclinations toward vagrancy, absconding from homes, refusing school attendance.
4. Lack of parental care and monitoring.

Enrollment involves inspecting residential environments, interviewing children and caregivers, gathering necessary details, and filing special case reports. Decisions are taken collaboratively by department leaders with participation from relevant stakeholders.

Deregistration occurs when the minor corrects their behavior, completes required adjustments, and no longer poses societal risk. Such decisions are made by the same commission involved in initial enrollment.

**Documentation and Reporting**

**Daily paperwork maintained by PDN staff includes:**

1. Logs recording complaints and notifications of juvenile offenses.
2. Reports documenting inspections of residences, academic progress, employment status.
3. Personal dossiers for monitored minors.
4. Materials tracking grievances and requests filed by citizens.

Regular reporting schedules exist, covering monthly updates, quarterly summaries, annual consolidated data per district, city, or region.

**Directions for Enhancing Performance**

Modern realities demand continuous refining of PDN systems, technological upgrades, and enhanced workforce skills. Critical priorities for future development include:

1. Expanding digital infrastructure and digitizing processes.
2. Implementing new technologies for preventative work (mobile apps, interactive platforms).
3. Regular training sessions and internships to elevate employee qualifications.
4. Strengthening partnerships with education facilities, medical establishments, religious communities, and NGOs.

**Specific Characteristics of Activities of Juvenile Affairs Units**

**Focus on Crime Prevention Among Minors**

Preventing crimes rather than punishment constitutes one of PDNs' chief goals. Early signs of deviant behavior triggering potential criminal consequences receive considerable attention. Tailored approaches consider age-specific psychological traits of adolescence.

Examples of preventative measures include involvement in sports clubs, creative workshops, group counseling sessions conducted by psychologists and social workers.

**Use of Unique Interaction Methods With Minors**

Engaging minors requires specific communication techniques since traditional adult-oriented methodologies often prove ineffective. Emphasis lies on persuasion, clarifying consequences of wrongdoing, engaging respected adults (parents, mentors, teachers), and employing non-violent influence tactics.Such methods reflect understanding that many minors require guidance rather than harsh reprimands lest they provoke counterproductive reactions exacerbating existing issues.

**Mandatory Confidentiality Requirements**

Confidentiality represents another vital aspect of PDN work given its sensitive nature. Information collected about minors subjected to PDN scrutiny remains legally protected, prohibiting unauthorized third-party access without judicial consent or approval from prosecution authorities.

This measure safeguards minors' reputations and prevents discriminatory practices later in life.

**Partnerships Across Multiple Agencies and Communities**

In dealing with minors, PDNs actively engage diverse external partners such as:

1. Schools and Other Educational Establishments
2. Families and Relatives
3. Employment Services and Social Assistance Centers
4. Commissions Handling Minor Issues and Protecting Their Rights
5. Volunteers and Non-Governmental Activists
6. Collaborations enable holistic support networks benefitting children and facilitating successful re-integration into society.

Multi-dimensional Roles Performed by PDN Officials

**Beyond mere compliance checks, PDN personnel handle a broad spectrum of responsibilities:**

1. Deliver preventative talks and lectures.
2. Arrange meetings featuring notable personalities, athletes, cultural figures.
3. Host campaigns and sporting competitions focusing on substance abuse prevention, violence reduction.

**Assist in repairing broken familial relationships.**

Thus, PDN officers function as intermediaries bridging gaps between state authorities and families, combining policing, teaching, psychological counseling, and social work roles.

**Application of Flexible Approaches to Minors' Challenges**

Many teenage conflicts arise from developmental crises, inadequate experience, or adverse life circumstances. Therefore, PDNs adopt flexible solutions catered to unique contexts aiming to minimize detrimental impacts of unfavorable factors. For instance, sometimes simply conducting a preventative conversation with both the child and parents suffices to avoid further infractions.

**Account for Needs of Each Specific Situation**

A hallmark feature of PDN operations entails swift adaptability to evolving scenarios. Each situation receives individual consideration factoring multiple variables such as family background, environmental context, scholastic achievements, and personal attributes of affected minors. This nuanced strategy enables effective engagement with varied forms of deviation while successfully resolving most arising concerns.

**Problems and Future Development Directions for Juvenile Affairs Units**

Despite fulfilling essential functions combating juvenile crime, upholding rights, and securing benefits, PDNs confront numerous challenges impeding optimal functionality. Below we examine these obstacles and propose remedies.

1. **Challenges Facing Juvenile Affairs Units**
   1. **Low Awareness Levels and Misunderstandings About PDNs Among Citizens**

Public awareness regarding PDNs' scope and capabilities remains limited. Many parents view seeking help only as a last resort once conflicts escalate critically. Late intervention complicates PDN efforts.

**1.2 Weakened Synergy Between Education Systems and Families**

Although legislation mandates school-PDN collaboration, practical coordination frequently proves superficial, confined to sporadic visits by officers. Factors contributing include teacher overload, insufficient appreciation of partnership importance, low parent motivation.

**1.3 Insufficient Technological Infrastructure and Resource Constraints**

Contemporary technology could significantly streamline PDN operations yet aging hardware and deficient resources hinder efficiencies. Absence of advanced computer databases, analytical tools, and digital platforms slows down response times.

* 1. **High Employee Workloads Leading to Burnout**

Average PDN inspectors manage extensive daily caseloads resulting in diminished decision-making quality. Persistent stress erodes trust-building capacities with teens and families.

**1.5 Struggles Engaging Civil Society Partners**

Though abundant NGO networks focus on youth empowerment, few embrace close ties with police. Negative perceptions of law enforcement deter active community contributions.

**1.6 Skills Gap Limiting Effective Interventions**

Certain PDN staff struggle implementing diagnostic and remediation programs for complex teen behaviors especially those linked to mental health disorders. Further qualification enhancement is urgently needed.

1. **Improvement Strategies for Juvenile Affairs Units**

To overcome these hurdles and optimize PDN productivity, targeted steps must be implemented:

**2.1 Boost Transparency and Accessibility of Information Regarding PDNs**

Regular outreach campaigns should disseminate successes achieved by PDNs, foster two-way communication channels, cultivating trust and esteem for officers.

**2.2 Build Integrated Digital Platforms Connecting Schools and PDNs**

Digitization would simplify data exchange between school inspectors, doctors, social workers, and PDN teams. Unified systems will sharpen risk assessments and expedite resolutions.

**2.3 Harness Innovative Technologies**

Leveraging cutting-edge IT solutions like remote consultation, video conferencing, electronic record keeping simplifies workload distribution and improves communications with youth and parents alike.

**2.4 Optimize Work Hours and Balance Tasks More Efficiently**

Introducing flexible scheduling models relieving routine burdens increases output and reduces errors.

**2.5 Shape Positive Images for PDN Professionals**

Creating friendly relations with citizens possible through media appearances, civic engagement, cultural events helps reshape public perception favorably raising professions' prestige.

**2.6 Enhance Staff Competence Through Continuous Training Programs**

Training modules should deepen expertise in adolescent psychology, mediation techniques, interpersonal communication skills, recognizing symptoms of mental distress, managing violent episodes effectively.

**Future Perspectives for Improvement**

These reforms promise to transform PDN performance delivering tangible results:

1. Enhanced Trust Building Between Community Members and PDNs.
2. Quicker Response Times To Emergent Threats.
3. Reduced Overall Rates Of Juvenile Crimes.
4. Higher Professional Standards Among Personnel.
5. Greater Parent Satisfaction With Service Delivery From PDNs.

Subsequent advancements aim to strengthen links between PDNs, educational sectors, healthcare providers, social welfare systems thereby constructing robust protective frameworks safeguarding our youth.

**Conclusion**

Juvenile affairs units form pivotal components within Russia's system for preventing crimes among minors and defending their rights. This project provided detailed insights into the legal basis, organizational setup, distinctive features, encountered challenges, and proposed improvements for these units.

**Key Findings:**

1. Legal Framework: Core norms derive from the Russian Constitution, Federal Law No. 120-FZ, and associated decrees establishing unit responsibilities and operating parameters.
2. Operational Mechanisms: Nationwide presence, hierarchical hierarchy, strong emphasis on preventative measures, cross-sectoral collaboration with schools, hospitals, families, courts, etc.
3. Practical Implementation: Adopts person-centric approaches prioritizing preemptive action over penal sanctions combined with strict confidentiality protections.
4. Future Outlook:
5. Continued Modernization Efforts Via Technology Integration.
6. Automation And Digitization Of Documentation Processes.
7. Cultivating Positive Public Opinion Towards PDN Staff.
8. Upgrading Curriculum For Better Trained Personnel Resulting In Stronger Preventative Measures.

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