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REGULATORY AND LEGAL SUPPORT OF STATE POLICY
IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL PROTECTION OF THE ELDERLY:
CURRENT STATUS AND DIRECTIONS OF IMPROVEMENT

Under present conditions of socio-economic and demographic crisis, one of the priorities in the hierarchy of state policy priorities should be the formation of normative foundations, effective legal framework aimed at regulating the social protection of the elderly people. Analysis of the current system of legal regulation and practice of its implementation shows that the effective system of regulatory support of the elderly people social protection isn't yet formed.

The article is an analysis of the regulatory framework of state policy on social protection of the elderly people and definitions of the main aspects in the study area that need some improvement.

The primary source of national law are legal acts developed by the international community - the United Nations, therefore, one of the key areas of the modern state policy on social protection is internal compliance of national legislation with the universally recognized international norms and standards. Ukraine, as a full-fledged member of the organization, is obliged to consider the above international standards while developing the national legislation on life support of the elderly people.

There are currently no single national regulatory act that comprehensively regulates the life-support system of the senior citizens.

Legal principles of the state policy for senior citizens are governed by the Law of Ukraine «On Basic Principles of Social Protection of Labor Veterans and Other Elderly Citizens in Ukraine», some aspects of which, particularly in terms of social service rights, duplicate with the provisions of the law «On social services».

Pensions on general conditions are regulated by the Law of Ukraine «On Compulsory State Pension Insurance». By the Law of Ukraine «On Pension Provision» pensions are assigned to individual categories, whose socially useful activities were connected with the increased physical or emotional stress.

In addition, the pension provision is regulated by the special regulations for some categories, such as people discharged from military service and people equated to them; science and teaching staff; state employees; people affected by the Chernobyl disaster; people having special merits to Ukraine.

Analysis of the regulatory framework of state policy in social protection of the elderly people gives reason to believe that this area is too overloaded with a large number of law documents on pension issues, state social benefits, social services and so on.

Each component of the system of social protection of the elderly citizens is regulated by a separate regulatory legal act which complicates the law enforcement practice in the outlined field, therefore, there is an obvious expediency in developing and making single codified legal act that corresponds to the international norms and standards, and would comprehensively regulate conditions of appointment and procedures for obtaining organizational and legal forms of social protection by the elderly citizens.

Some legal clarification is necessary for the legal aspects of the duty of children to maintain their disabled parents, mechanism of the elderly person's stay on a full state maintenance and making the appropriate changes to reduce the age limit in terms of funeral payments for people that at the moment of death had no right to retire from 63 to 60 years.