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## **FAMILY-TYPE CHILDREN'S HOME AS AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF CHILDHOOD SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**Abstract.** The article, based on the analysis of theory and practice, characterizes the family-type orphanage as an alternative form of social protection of childhood.

The author proved that the social protection of children's rights is a necessary condition for the further formation and development of a child in society, the creation of conditions for its harmonious development, especially in the conditions of an increase in the number of orphans, children deprived of parental care and children who find themselves in difficult life circumstances.

The problem of orphanhood in Ukraine, the formation and implementation of state policy in the sphere of social orphanhood prevention through placement of orphans and children deprived of parental care is one of the key issues of the state's social policy.

The Ukrainian state decides the issue of placement of children without parental care. At the same time, many questions arise regarding the practical implementation of the main provisions of state documents that define family policy in Ukraine in general and family forms of education in particular.

In accordance with the Family Code of Ukraine and the Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring Organizational and Legal Conditions for the Social Protection of Orphans and Children Deprived of Parental Care" (2005, with amendments), the following forms of placement of orphans and children deprived of parental care are established: adoption; establishment of custody or guardianship; foster family; family-type orphanage; institutions for orphans and children deprived of parental care.

Practice has proven that the priority forms of placement of orphans and children deprived of parental care are family forms, in particular, a family-type orphanage. Organizational features, procedure for creating a family-type children's home, requirements for parent-educators, etc. determined by the Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring Organizational and Legal Conditions for the Social Protection of Orphans and Children Deprived of Parental Care" (2005, as amended) and Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 564 of April 26, 2002 "On Approval of the Regulations on Family-Type Orphanages" (2002, with modifications).

A family-type orphanage is a separate family, created at the request of a spouse or a single person who is not married, to provide family upbringing and joint living for at least five orphans and children deprived of parental care... General the number

of children, including relatives, in such a family cannot exceed ten people» (“Regulations on family-type orphanages”).

The development of family forms of education and the abandonment of residential institutions is a need of a civilized society, modern realities, and human morality. This is one of the conditions for Ukraine’s accession to the European Union. Organization and operation of family-type children’s homes is not new in Ukraine. Ukraine has experience in creating such alternative forms of family care. However, in modern realities, in the conditions of Russian military aggression and related socio-economic and socio-political challenges, the issues of social protection of children and providing them with opportunities for full-fledged development and family comfort remain relevant.

The problematic issues described in the article need to be solved, in particular, at the scientific, theoretical and practical levels, which are the subject of separate and further research.

**Keywords:** family-type orphanage, social policy, alternative form of social protection of childhood, family forms of education, orphanhood, childhood, orphans, children deprived of parental care.

**Problem formulation.** Social protection of children’s rights is a necessary condition for the further formation and development of a child in society, creating conditions for its harmonious development, especially in conditions of an increasing number of orphans, children deprived of parental care and children who find themselves in difficult life circumstances.

As of August 2023, there were about 70,000 children deprived of parental care and orphans in Ukraine. Of them, 31% are orphans, the rest are children removed from their families for various reasons (family violence, alcoholism or drug addiction of parents, etc. At the same time, 48.5 thousand of such children (69%) are raised by relatives, 16 thousand (23%) are in foster families or in family-type children’s homes, and only 5.5 thousand children (8%) are brought up in boarding schools (Черга за дітьми: чому інтернати не мають шансів).

The problem of orphanhood in Ukraine, the formation and implementation of state policy in the sphere of social orphanhood prevention through placement of orphans and children deprived of parental care is one of the key issues of the state’s social policy.

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**The state of research of a scientific problem.** Issues of social policy, children’s rights, protection of childhood, family forms of education were reflected in the works of O. Antonova-Turchenko, O. Bezpalko, L. Volynets, I. Ivanova, N. Yershova, A. Kapska, N. Komarova, I. Peshi, etc.; scientific and theoretical and practical developments of the Ukrainian Institute of Social Research (State Institute of Family and Youth Policy) Соціальне сирітство в Україні: експертна оцінка та аналіз існуючої в Україні системи утримання та виховання дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування).

Scientists, theoreticians and practitioners agree on the need to improve state policy in the field of placement of orphans and children deprived of parental care by finding and implementing new alternative forms of social protection.

**The purpose of the article** is to characterize the family-type orphanage as an alternative form of social protection of childhood based on the analysis of theory and practice.

**Presentation of the main material.** The phenomenon of orphanhood violates one of the basic rights of a child to family upbringing and parental care, proclaimed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Orphanage is defined as a social phenomenon caused by the presence in society of children whose parents have died, as well as children left without parental care as a result of deprivation of parental rights, recognition of parents as unfit for work, missing, etc.

The range of causes of child disadvantage and orphanhood is quite wide. This is a sharp drop in the standard of living of the population, and the deterioration of the living conditions of children, and an increase in the number of underage mothers and children with congenital pathologies caused by various environmental and economic factors. Children with congenital pathologies and children of underage mothers quite often become so-called «refusals», that is, they are left directly in the maternity hospital.

In the conditions of war, every child needs care, protection, understanding and support more than ever – from parents, the community, the state and state policy in the field of childhood protection in Ukraine.

Along with the term «orphanage», there is also the concept of “social orphanhood”, which is used only in domestic literature to define a social phenomenon caused by the avoidance or elimination of parents from fulfilling their parental duties towards their minor children and, as a result, the absence necessary care for the child and conditions for its full physical, emotional and social development.

The Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of Childhood” (April 20, 2001, with amendments) became the main law regulating issues related to the protection of the rights and interests of children, their education and care [3]. A number of acts regulating the social protection of orphans and children left without parental care have been adopted in the domestic regulatory legal field. The main ones are: Declaration of the Rights of the Child; The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Ukraine in 1991; Constitution of Ukraine; Code on Marriage and Family; Law of Ukraine “On Education”; Law of Ukraine “On Protection of Childhood” etc.

According to the Family Code of Ukraine and the Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring Organizational and Legal Conditions for the Social Protection of Orphans and Children Deprived of Parental Care” (2005, with amendments), the following forms of placement of orphans and children deprived of parental care are established: adoption; establishment of custody or guardianship; foster family; family-type orphanage; institutions for orphans and children deprived of parental care (Закон України «Про забезпечення організаційно-правових умов соціального захисту дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування»).

In addition to such forms of placement of children left without parental care, such as adoption, guardianship, foster family, family-type orphanage, there are others: patronage system; “SOS” children’s villages; family boarding houses; various forms of post-boarding adaptation of graduates of institutions for orphans etc.

Among the negative features of social education (in particular, in traditional orphanages), theorists and practitioners name the following:

improper organization of communication between adults and children, inadequacy of those forms that dominate in orphanages; reduced intimacy and trust, emotional impact of communication between adults and children; lack of opportunities to establish strong and lasting relationships of the child with certain adults; the presence of adults changing each other with inconsistent behavior programs, a high frequency of changing these adults; group, not individual, direction of educational influences, strict regulation of the child’s behavior, hypervigilance in activities – step-by-step planning and sanctioning of children’s behavior by adults, under these conditions, the child must earn the adult’s positive attitude by fulfilling his requirements, exemplary behavior, good grades;

insufficient psychological and pedagogical training of educators;

imperfect education and training programs that do not compensate for developmental defects caused by the absence of a family;

the poverty of children’s concrete sensory experience due to the excessive narrowness of their environment: the small number and uniformity of objects with which they react;

permanent stay of children in collective conditions.

The system of state guardianship of orphans and children deprived of parental care, created in Soviet times, was oriented towards collective forms of child upbringing. The main principle of such an educational concept was the presence of an extensive network of residential institutions financed by the state. The number of children in one such boarding school ranged from 100 to 400. Children’s teams were formed according to the age principle.

As evidenced by numerous foreign and domestic studies, children who grow up outside the family adapt much worse in society, as a rule, find it difficult to navigate the role hierarchy of social relationships. All this leads to the fact that they are often aggressive and conflicted, appear to be «on the edge» of life. Such consequences of upbringing in inpatient institutions are quite natural, since the primary institution of socialization for a child is the family. It affects the socialization of children not just by the fact of its existence, but by a favorable moral and psychological climate, healthy relations between all its members. Thanks to life in a family, a child understands the basics of communication, gets an idea of family relationships, social roles. And as a result of a year of living in a boarding school, she acquires characteristic habits due to the specific conditions of maintenance and upbringing in a closed institution, which, unfortunately, are difficult to correct in the future. The so-called «hospitalization effect» arises, which is characterized by mental and physical retardation in development, which manifests itself in children’s increased conflict, reduced emotionality, passivity, lack of compassion, and aggressiveness.

All the listed factors combined with the results of the analysis of the international experience of caring for orphans and children deprived of parental care show that it

is family forms of care that are most effective in educational, social, and economic aspects. Therefore, they should become a priority in the concept of a strategy aimed at solving the problems of orphans.

Practice has proven that the priority forms of placement of orphans and children deprived of parental care are family forms, in particular, a family-type orphanage.

Organizational features, procedure for creating a family-type children's home, requirements for parent-educators, etc. defined by the Law of Ukraine "On ensuring organizational and legal conditions for social protection of orphans and children deprived of parental care" (2005, with amendments) (Закон України «Про забезпечення організаційно-правових умов соціального захисту дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування») and Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 564 dated April 26, 2002 "On approval of the Orphanage Regulation family type" (2002, with changes) (Положення про дитячий будинок сімейного типу, 2002).

A family-type orphanage is "a separate family created at the request of a spouse or a single person who is not married, to provide family education and co-habitation for at least five orphans and children deprived of parental care... The total number of children, including family members, in such a family cannot exceed ten people" ("Regulations on family-type orphanages") (Закон України «Про забезпечення організаційно-правових умов соціального захисту дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування», 2005).

In accordance with the "Regulations on a family-type orphanage" (approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 564 dated 26.04.2002, as amended) it is stipulated that:

the purpose of the family-type orphanage is to provide appropriate conditions for raising orphans and children deprived of parental care in a family environment;

persons who created a family-type orphanage receive the status of parent-educators, and children receive the status of foster children;

foster parents can be adult and able-bodied persons who are married or a single person who is not married (who meets certain conditions);

the placement of an orphan child and a child deprived of parental care in a family-type orphanage requires the consent of the child, if it has reached such an age and level of development that it can express it;

children stay in a family-type orphanage until they reach the age of 18, and in the case of continuing their education in a general secondary education institution, in the full-time form of education in a professional (vocational-technical), professional pre-higher and higher education institution – until the age of 23 or until the end of relevant educational institutions, etc (Як створити дитячий будинок сімейного типу: вимоги до батьків-вихователів. Фонд Рінат Ахметов).

The Ukrainian state is resolving the issue of placement of children without parental care, which is evidenced, in particular, by statistics on the dynamics of the development of family-type children's homes. According to the data published on the website of the Human Rights Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, as of September 26, 2023, there are 1,314 family-type children's homes in Ukraine, in which 9,084 children live. These are orphans and children deprived of parental care: «They were not lucky enough to be brought up by their own parents, but the

unbreakable foundations of support and confidence in the future are built for them by foster parents. They are the legal representatives of pupils and defenders of their rights and interests. Foster parents give orphans and children deprived of parental care the warmth of their homes, incredible care, and the realization that «you are not alone». Currently, 15,697 children are registered for adoption. They all dream of a family. And DBST is a great way to present it» (Як створити дитячий будинок сімейного типу: вимоги до батьків-вихователів. Фонд Рінат Ахметов).

The above data and the general situation regarding orphanhood in Ukraine actualize the need for the development of state social policy aimed at overcoming such a situation and creating favorable opportunities for each child, in particular regarding family upbringing.

These issues are the task of the state and public sector of social protection in the field of childhood protection. The need to reform the system of social welfare institutions, to create a special office, to create a system of family-type children's homes, to attract foreign investors are overarching tasks emphasized by the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyi (The European Commission will help Ukraine in creating a system of family-type children's homes – Volodymyr Zelenskyi).

The protection of Ukrainian children in wartime is a constant issue for discussion at international and national forums. In particular, on June 1, 2023, on International Children's Day, the National Forum "Family for Every Child" was held. The co-organizers and participants of the event are the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and UNICEF (Соціальне сирітство в Україні: експертна оцінка та аналіз існуючої в Україні системи утримання та виховання дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування, 1998).

Creation of family forms of education is a primary issue of public structures whose activities are aimed at social protection of childhood. Among others, the Foundation of the First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska. In particular, within the framework of the "Childhood Address" project for the construction of family-type children's homes, homes for large foster families from the frontline regions (Зеленська ініціює проєкт дитячих будинків сімейного типу та розраховує на допомогу будівельних компаній).

However, as practice shows, the activities of family-type children's homes face many problems:

- peculiarities of the development of biological children in the conditions of a foster family, their emotional and personal well-being and development;

- psychological compatibility or incompatibility of adopted children and foster parents, adopted and biological children;

- the emergence of a guilt complex in parents due to dissatisfaction with the results of their educational activities, sometimes with perceived failures;

- the right of the child to leave the family and the right of parents to divorce the child in some situations;

- the problem of adoption of adopted children in the family, when the duration of the process involves the restructuring of relations in the family, the change of social and psychological roles in the family;

marital relationship problems;

a family-type orphanage is a special structure. Its purpose is to provide practical assistance to a child left without the care of a native family. Such a mission cannot be fulfilled without human emotions, without the formation of habits, without a high degree of «burnout» of adoptive parents, who have to solve difficult educational tasks every day, while simultaneously worrying about the survival of their family. It is very difficult for the child and the parents to agree that, regardless of the circumstances, at the age of 18, the student must leave «his home» and no longer count on state assistance;

it is not taken into account that parents-educators of family orphanages are actually obliged to constantly renew the composition of their pupils at the expense of younger children. Often, the decisions made regarding the further residence in the family of foster children who have grown up are their voluntary private initiative, which does not receive any support, and this intensifies the problems that have arisen. Attention is drawn to the excessive workload for adoptive parents, which is related to the «standard rate» of foster children.

**Conclusions and prospects for further scientific research.** The development of family forms of education and the abandonment of residential institutions is a need of a civilized society, modern realities, and human morality. This is one of the conditions for Ukraine's accession to the European Union. Organization and operation of family-type children's homes is not new in Ukraine. We have experience in creating such alternative forms of family care. However, in modern realities, in the conditions of Russian military aggression and related socio-economic and socio-political challenges, the issues of social protection of children and the task of providing them with opportunities for full-fledged development and family comfort remain relevant.

The above problematic issues still need to be solved today, in particular, at the scientific, theoretical and practical levels, which are the subject of separate and further research.

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## **ДИТЯЧИЙ БУДИНОК СІМЕЙНОГО ТИПУ ЯК АЛЬТЕРНАТИВНА ФОРМА СОЦІАЛЬНОГО ЗАХИСТУ ДИТИНСТВА**

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**Анотація.** У статті на основі аналізу теорії і практики охарактеризовано дитячий будинок сімейного типу як альтернативна форма соціального захисту дитинства.

Соціальний захист прав дитинства є необхідною умовою для подальшого становлення і розвитку дитини в суспільстві, створення умов для її гармонійного розвитку, особливо в умовах збільшення кількості дітей-сиріт, дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування та дітей, що опинилися в складних життєвих обставинах.

Проблема сирітства в Україні, формування та реалізації державної політики у сфері запобігання соціальному сирітству шляхом влаштування дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування – одне з ключових питань соціальної політики держави.

Українська держава вирішує питання влаштування дітей без батьківського піклування. Водночас виникає багато запитань щодо практичної реалізації основних положень державних документів, які визначають сімейну політику в Україні в цілому та сімейних форм виховання зокрема.

Відповідно до сімейного кодексу України та Закону України «Про забезпечення організаційно-правових умов соціального захисту дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування» (2005, зі змінами) встановлено такі форми влаштування дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування: усиновлення; встановлення опіки чи піклування; прийомна сім'я; дитячий будинок сімейного типу; установи для дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування (Закон України «Про забезпечення організаційно-правових умов соціального захисту дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування», 2005).

Практикою доведено, що пріоритетними формами влаштування дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування, є сімейні форми, зокрема – дитячий будинок сімейного типу.

Організаційні особливості, порядок створення дитячого будинку сімейного типу, вимоги до батьків-вихователів та ін. визначено Законом України «Про забезпечення організаційно-правових умов соціального захисту дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування» (2005, зі змінами) (Закон України «Про забезпечення організаційно-правових умов соціального захисту дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування», 2005) та Постановою Кабінету Міністрів України № 564 від 26 квітня 2002 року «Про затвердження Положення про дитячий будинок сімейного типу» (2002, зі змінами) (Положення про дитячий будинок сімейного типу, 2002).

Дитячий будинок сімейного типу – це «окрема сім'я, що створюється за бажанням подружжя або самотньої особи, яка не перебуває в шлюбі, для забезпечення сімейним вихованням та спільного проживання не менш як п'яти дітей-сиріт і дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування... Загальна кількість дітей, включно з рідними, у такій сім'ї не може перевищувати десяти осіб» («Положення про дитячий будинок сімейного типу») (Закон України «Про забезпечення організаційно-правових умов соціального захисту дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування», 2005).

Розвиток сімейних форм виховання й відмова від інтернатних закладів – потреба цивілізованого суспільства, сучасних реалій, людської моралі. Це одна з умов вступу України до Європейського Союзу. В Україні справа організації та функціонування дитячих будинків сімейного типу – не нова. Україна має досвід створення таких альтернативних форм сімейної опіки. Однак, в сучасних реаліях, в умовах російської військової агресії, пов'язаних з цим соціально-економічних та суспільно-політичних викликів актуальними залишаються питання соціального захисту дітей та надання їм можливостей повноцінного розвитку та родинного затишку.

Наведені вище проблемні питання і сьогодні потребують вирішення, зокрема, на науковому, теоретичному і практичному рівнях, що є предметом окремих і подальших досліджень.

**Ключові слова:** дитячий будинок сімейного типу, соціальна політика, альтернативна форма соціального захисту дитинства, сімейні форми виховання, сирітство, дитинство, діти-сироти, діти, позбавлені батьківського піклування.

*Стаття надійшла до редакції 04.10.2023 р.*