

# Problems of Professional Training of Youth Liaison Officers for the Russian Federation Law Enforcement Agencies

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**Abstract:** Pursuant to the effective laws, the Russian Federation has a functioning system for prevention of minors neglect and delinquency. This system comprises both a number of measures of organizational and legal nature aimed at creation of conditions for the normal physical, mental and moral development of children and teenagers and elimination of conditions promoting minors involvement in sociopathic and unlawful activities, and a combination of various government bodies and institutions of general and special competence implementing these actions. For instance, healthcare bodies, education agencies, authorities for social protection of the population, and many others have their own competence in this area. Police plays special role in the common system for prevention of minors neglect and delinquency. Specialized youth liaison police units are created, the competencies of which include working with teenagers involved in sociopathic activities, as well as identification and elimination of causes and conditions facilitating such activities, including legal pressure on persons infringing rights and lawful interests of minors, committing offenses against minors, or involving them in unlawful activities.

**Keywords:** youth liaison officer, work with minors, professional activity, educational institutions, educational standard.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Introduction of the Problem

Recognized by the international community and enshrined in the sources of international law [1; 2], the need to develop and implement special measures aimed at protecting children, their rights and legitimate interests is reflected in the national legislation of Russia, and this legislation focuses special attention on the legal regulation of the prevention of minors neglect and delinquency. Like no one else, children need to have their rights and interests protected because not only do they not have the opportunity to take measures to protect themselves but also they often do not realize the existence of these rights and interests. The youth liaison officers of the internal affairs bodies – aka child police officers – have a crucial task of helping children in difficult situations [3].

Fulfilling their mission, the youth liaison officers act as psychologists, teachers, and lawyers, which gives rise to a

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discussion about the nature of the work activities of the youth liaison officers: are they teachers, or psychologists, or lawyers [4]? This discussion arose in the professional working environment of the Department of Internal Affairs employees representing the divisions of the youth liaison officers in the territorial bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia as well as the researchers and teachers of educational institutions and scientific organizations of the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, who investigate the problems of the police activities aimed at prevention of minors neglect and delinquency and discuss issues related to improvement of the effectiveness of staff training for the youth liaison units [5].

The dispute on the balance of the legal and psychological-pedagogical aspects of the practical activity of performed by the youth liaison officers is duly projected onto the issues of the content of police officers' professional training for their further service in these units of internal affairs bodies, including the content of their training in educational organizations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia [6].

Currently, staff training for further service as youth liaison officers is carried out in educational institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the specialty No. 44.05.01 Pedagogy and Psychology of Deviant Behavior, specializing in social pedagogy [7] in accordance with the requirements of the Federal State Educational Standard for this specialty [7]. However, as noted by representatives of territorial bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia that require training in the relevant educational institutions of the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, graduates, who have mastered the corresponding training program, are not always fully prepared for independent actions since they are insufficiently able to perform legal actions in accordance with the competence of police officers and their paperwork skills, including procedural registration of the results of their activity, are incompletely formed.

### B. Importance of the Problem

Resolving a dispute about the nature of youth police officers' work is not only of theoretical but also of applied interest, since the successful fulfillment of tasks assigned to the youth liaison units of the internal affairs agencies directly depends on the professionalism of their staff, and therefore on the content of the police officers professional training, which necessitates the adoption of measures of an organizational and legal nature ensuring the necessary quality of police officers professional

training in educational institutions of higher education of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia [8].

## II. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

In the process of elaboration and justification of measures aimed at improving the quality of specialists training in educational institutions of the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, both general scientific methods (dialectical, logical, system-structural, analytical) and particular scientific methods of cognition (empirical, formal legal, comparative legal) have been used.

In particular, the results of the analysis of youth liaison officers' practical activities as regulated by a number of legislative and other regulatory acts, carried out mostly by means of general scientific methods, are compared with the content of police officers training as determined based on the federal educational standard requirements.

A comparative legal analysis of legislation has been carried out. Two types of regulations were analyzed: on the one hand, those securing elements of the legal status of youth liaison police officers and regulating the content of their work activities, and, on the other hand, those defining the content of educational programs for training of specialists of the appropriate profile. This analysis ultimately made it possible to work out and substantiate proposals aimed at improving the professional training of police officers acting within the framework of the existing unified system of minors neglect and delinquency prevention in Russia.

## III. RESULT ANALYSIS

In the process of specialists training for the youth liaison units by the educational institutions of the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, it is proposed to stop using the federal state educational standard in the specialty No. 44.05.01 Pedagogy and Psychology of Deviant Behavior and start applying the federal state educational standard in the specialty No. 40.05.02 Law-Enforcement Activity [9].

The necessity of making changes to the federal state educational standard in the specialty No. 40.05.02 Law Enforcement Activity with specialization in administrative activities of the internal affairs bodies has been substantiated. Such changes should provide for the expansion of this specialization with another narrow specialization – activities of a youth liaison officer, for further implementation in educational institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia.

## IV. DISCUSSION

The peculiarities of the official activities of the youth liaison officers are determined by the tasks assigned to the youth liaison units of the police stations by article 21 of the federal law “On the Fundamentals of the Minors Neglect and Delinquency Prevention System” [10] and detailed by the Instruction on the organization of activities of a youth liaison units of the internal affairs agencies of the Russian Federation [11].

The analysis of these legal acts allows us to outline generally the following main tasks, the fulfillment of which is entrusted to the youth liaison officers within their competence:

- conduct preventive work with various categories of minors and adults;
- identify individuals, who jeopardize the normal development of minors, both physical and personal;
- identify minors in need of governmental assistance, as well as those placed on a wanted list;
- consider complaints about offences and crimes committed by and against minors;
- prepare and participate in the preparation of various materials for minors and other persons related to the protection of minors' rights, prevention of minors neglect and delinquency in collaboration with other bodies and institutions of the state system of minors neglect and delinquency prevention.

These tasks are easily aligned with those specified in the Federal State Educational Standard in the specialty No. 44.05.01 Pedagogy and the Psychology of Deviant Behavior that are mandatory for this specialization, types of a graduate's professional activities: educational (social-pedagogical), diagnostic and corrective, law enforcement, expert and consulting, organizational management, and pedagogical activities, which would make it possible to conclude that the training programs implemented in educational institutions of the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for these specialties and the specialization of police officers correspond to requirements of their further service in youth liaison units [12]. However, a number of conditions are not taken into account, the inclusion of which casts doubt on the validity of this conclusion.

First of all, it is necessary to take into account that the implementation of police powers in the considered sphere of life activity is carried out by youth liaison officers for the same purposes that are pursued by other bodies and institutions of the system for minors neglect and delinquency prevention – ensuring the normal physical and moral development of minors necessary for their further socialization in society.

However, the police activities aimed at protection of the life, health, rights and freedoms of people, counteraction crime, and other purposes are rather peculiar since the normal development of minors as members of society is ensured by police officers primarily through preventing and suppressing of unlawful attacks on minors' personality, and this activity itself is carried out through legal influence not only on minors themselves but also on those persons, who are obliged to ensure the normal development of the child but do not fulfill these statutory duties [13; 14].

At the same time, we note that one of the mandatory attributes of the rule of law, which inter alia distinguishes it from other social norms of behavior, is the existence of sanctions against persons, who have violated this rule.

These circumstances suggest that the activity of a youth liaison officer is more of legal nature.

On the other hand, when considering individual activity aspects of how the youth liaison officers implement police powers in the corresponding area, it is important to take into account the peculiarities of the legal status of a youth liaison officer being a police officer; such legal status is based on the

provisions of legislative and other regulatory acts determining the set of rights, duties, and competences of the officers of the internal affairs bodies.

Inter-related analysis of the norms of the federal law "On the Fundamentals of the Minors Neglect and Delinquency Prevention System" and the norms of legislative and other regulatory legal acts, including departmental acts regulating the scope of official duties and the rights of a youth liaison officer, allows to conclude that a child police officer is a subject to both administrative and criminal procedural police activities and exercises such powers as powers to carry out administrative proceedings, including proceedings on cases of administrative offenses, and criminal procedural powers exercised, in particular, during inspections and decision making as described in articles 144 and 145 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Russian Federation on the facts of incidents involving minors.

For example, the authority of a youth liaison officer for the implementation of administrative proceedings is defined in accordance with art. 28.3 of the Administrative Offenses Code of the Russian Federation and detailed in the List of officials of the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs authorized to draw up protocols on administrative offenses under the Administrative Offenses Code of the Russian Federation [15], according to which a youth liaison officer is entitled to draw up protocols on certain administrative offenses and, therefore, has the authority to initiate administrative offense cases and perform procedural actions set forth in chapters 27 and 28 of the Administrative Offenses Code of the Russian Federation.

These circumstances emphasize, first of all, the legal nature of the activities performed by the youth liaison officers.

Theses on the legal nature of the activity of the youth liaison officers are confirmed by the very content of their daily activities; this is legal activity related to the exercise of police powers in protecting the rights and legitimate interests of children within the scope of a unified system of minors neglect and delinquency prevention, and the results are expressed in specific legal decisions made by members of the youth liaison units [16].

In addition, these theses are confirmed when studying the system for assessing the effectiveness of a territorial body of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in general and youth liaison units in particular, and assessing the legality of decisions made by members of the youth liaison units.

For example, the departmental statistical assessment of the performance of the ministries of internal affairs in the republics, the main departments, and the departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation in other subjects of the Russian Federation includes indicators such as the number of minors, who committed a crime [17] and the ratio of canceled resolutions on the refusal to initiate a criminal case with the subsequent initiation of a criminal case (excluding those subsequently terminated on rehabilitating grounds) in the total number of decisions not to institute criminal proceedings [18].

For the youth liaison officers, indicators of the departmental statistical evaluation mean that their work is assessed by various factors including the number of detected, suppressed and documented delinquencies committed by

minors or infringing minors' rights.

As for the legality of the decisions made by the youth liaison officers, it is obvious that unreasonable and unlawful decisions made by police officers not only affect the effectiveness of the police in protection of the minors' rights and interests but also directly affect the career of the police officers making such decisions [19]. It is also clear that the validity and legitimacy of the decisions made by the police are directly dependent on the level of their legal background.

## V. CONCLUSION

Hence, the above circumstances lead to the conclusion that the choice of the specialty No. 44.05.01 Pedagogy and Psychology of Deviant Behavior with specialization in social pedagogy for training of personnel to serve in youth liaison units of the internal affairs agencies does not fully correspond to the peculiarities of the activities of the youth liaison officers.

Currently it is difficult to implement this conclusion in practice due to the lack of alternatives, since there is no another federal state educational standard in the specialty (training area) that most closely matches the specifics of the service activities of youth liaison officers. In educational institutions of higher education of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, a marked disadvantage of the Federal State Educational Institutional Standard in the specialty No. 44.05.01 - Pedagogy and Psychology of Deviant Behavior with specialization in social pedagogy is only partially compensated by the development and inclusion of specialized professional competencies reflecting the legal aspects of the professional training of future youth liaison officers in the Basic Educational Programs in this specialty.

A way out of this situation may be found through introduction of changes to the Federal State Educational Standard in the specialty No. 40.05.02 Law Enforcement with specialization in administrative activities of the internal affairs bodies, and such changes should provide for the expansion of this specialization with a narrow specialization - activities of a youth liaison officer, for further implementation in educational institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia.

It should be noted that the implementation of the Federal State Educational Standard in the specialty 44.05.01 Pedagogy and Psychology of Deviant Behavior with specialization in social pedagogy in educational institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia remains in demand due to the need to train personnel for Temporary Detention Centers for underage offenders existing in the system of the internal affairs bodies.

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