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SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AS A MUNICIPAL TASK

СОЦІАЛЬНА ДОПОМОГА ЯК МУНІЦИПАЛЬНЕ ЗАВДАННЯ

Circumstances such as age, legal capacity or possession of public and civil rights are irrelevant for membership in a commune community, but they do determine the scope of rights granted to individual members of the local government community. Undoubtedly, one of the most important, but also fundamental tasks of local government units is social assistance, or in other words, social support for the residents of a given commune. This results from the belief that offices operating within the local government know the problems of its residents best, are able to assess them properly, and also minimize their negative effects.

It is generally accepted that the concept of "social", in relation to social assistance tasks, should be identified with meeting the living, material and cultural needs of eligible persons [1]. It should be remembered that social assistance only fulfils a subsidiary function, requiring the cooperation of the beneficiary of the assistance provided. Since every person has the obligation to fully use their own rights, resources and opportunities in order to overcome a difficult life situation, this means that if this person does not fulfil such an obligation, there is no basic premise for providing such a person with assistance from public funds. One of the basic goals of actions undertaken by the municipal authorities within the framework of social assistance should be the activation of beneficiaries. The aforementioned assistance is only temporary in nature and assumes the development of appropriate attitudes in

people using it in order to overcome life's difficulties. This assistance can in no case turn into a permanent and sole source of income for people applying for it [2].

An important postulate formulated in the doctrine and court decisions is that the municipal authorities should select the beneficiaries' requests based on their essential needs, the needs of other beneficiaries and the amount of financial resources allocated for this purpose. Since - as mentioned - social assistance is of a subsidiary nature, the local government should provide it only in a situation in which the individual cannot cope with the difficulties that arise on their own. The local government should not replace the individual in their own efforts to meet their life needs, because social assistance is a supporting institution based on the principle of subsidiarity. Social assistance also does not serve to satisfy all the expectations of those applying for such assistance. The distribution of all types of benefits within the scope of social assistance should be of a special nature. For example, their beneficiaries should be people who, due to a health condition causing complete incapacity for work resulting from a violation of the body's efficiency that occurred before entering the labor market, had no opportunity to "work out" an insurance period. Such benefits are intended to be protective and to compensate, for example, for the inability to obtain entitlement to benefits from the social insurance system, and their purpose should be to provide a person who meets the statutory conditions for the granting of this benefit with the financial resources necessary for living.

The task of local government units in the field of social assistance cannot be unconditional. Such assistance should be an exception, not a permanent state, which requires the beneficiary of assistance to cooperate with offices. Such cooperation should be understood as a readiness to cooperate with a social worker and to use justified and reasonable proposals of a social worker, helping the person overcome difficult life situations in which they find themselves, in order to "exit" the social assistance system and enable them to live independently and responsibly in society [3]. This results from the fact that the social purpose cannot be interpreted in complete isolation from the individual conditions for allocating financial resources for social assistance.

Enforcing the obligation of social assistance beneficiaries to cooperate with the assistance body is also important because this assistance cannot be reduced to simple distribution of benefits and thus the development of improper habits. In connection with this, it is justified to state that a passive or demanding attitude of entities covered by social assistance may result in the refusal to grant the benefit or the suspension of the payment of the benefit [43]. When applying for support, the person applying for assistance must accept the rules of procedure in this matter. This means that they are obliged, for example, to present all information that is relevant to the case being considered. People who do not cooperate with local government bodies in explaining their situation and who conceal their income, preventing a fair consideration of the application for assistance, should not count on social assistance funds [5].

In conclusion, determining the personal situation and financial status of the potential beneficiary is of fundamental importance for the possibility of a positive consideration of the application of a person applying for social assistance benefits. Local government units should take a rigorous approach to the issue of cooperation of the person applying for such a benefit with the social assistance body. For example, preventing the conduct of a social interview, or refusing to conduct it, or refusing to answer individual questions from a social worker, or failing to comply with justified requests to submit appropriate documents, may be considered a lack of cooperation of the person or family with the social worker, which in turn should constitute a premise for issuing a decision refusing to grant a social assistance benefit. The purpose of social assistance is only to provide support, and not to replace individual efforts to improve the living situation of a given person. The purpose of social assistance is not to replace individual people (their families) in meeting all life needs, but only to support them in their efforts to meet the necessary needs and enable them to live in conditions consistent with human dignity.

Bibliography:

- 1) the judgment of the Court of Appeal in Szczecin of 19 May 2015, reference number III AUa 724/14, LEX No. 1785925;

- 2) the judgment of the Regional Administrative Court in Warsaw of 11 April 2024, file reference VIII SA/Wa 81/24, LEX No. 3756707;
- 3) judgment of the Regional Administrative Court in Warsaw of 21 July 2020, reference number I SA/Wa 2677/19, LEX No. 3174273;
- 4) judgment of the Regional Administrative Court in Poznań of 19 June 2019, file reference II SA/Po 456/18, LEX No. 2720347;
- 5) judgment of the Regional Administrative Court in Kraków of 15 January 2024, file reference III SA/Kr 312/23, LEX No. 3669502.

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**ПСИХОЛОГІЧНА ДОПОМОГА ЯК ІНСТРУМЕНТ ЗМІЦНЕННЯ
СОЦІАЛЬНОЇ ЗГУРТОВАНОСТІ МИКОЛАЇВСЬКОЇ ГРОМАДИ
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANTE AS A TOOL FOR STRENGTHENING
THE SOCIAL COHESIAL OF THE MYKOLAIV COMMUNITY**

Миколаївська громада, як і багато інших українських громад, зіштовхується з численними соціальними викликами, що можуть впливати на загальний стан соціальної згуртованості. Одним із ключових аспектів, що допомагає зміцнити зв'язки між мешканцями та покращити атмосферу в громаді, є надання психологічної допомоги. Така підтримка стає важливим інструментом у підтримці стабільності та розвитку громади, особливо в періоди криз, соціальних змін або після важливих подій..

Соціальна згуртованість — це нематеріальне явище, яке проявляється через спільні цінності, ідеї та міцні соціальні зв'язки в спільноті. Вона формує довіру між людьми та до владних інституцій, сприяючи добробуту всіх через співпрацю, діалог і рівні можливості розвитку. Такий підхід допомагає уникнути маргіналізації та сприяє рівноправності серед членів суспільства.[1]