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THE CHARACTERISTICS OF CRIMINAL LIABILITY OF MINORS IN UZBEKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

The given article discusses the general characteristics of criminal liability in the criminal system of Uzbekistan. In Uzbekistan, the criminal liability of minors is characterized by a minimum age of criminal responsibility, a separate juvenile justice system, reduced culpability, diversion programs, confidentiality, emphasis on rehabilitation, graduated sanctions, and limited sentencing options. These features aim to protect and rehabilitate minors involved in criminal activities rather than focusing solely on punishment. It is important to refer to the specific laws and regulations of Uzbekistan for precise information on this topic.

KEYWORDS

The concept of crime and responsibility, law, justice system, criminal liability, confidentiality and privacy, rehabilitation, reintegration.

INTRODUCTION

In Uzbekistan, the criminal liability of minors is governed by specific laws and regulations that aim to protect and rehabilitate young individuals involved in criminal activities [6]. The followings are some general features of the criminal liability of minors in Uzbekistan:

1. Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility: Uzbekistan has set a minimum age at which a person can be held criminally responsible. According to the Criminal Code,

the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14 years old. This means that individuals below this age cannot be prosecuted for criminal offenses [3].

2. Separate Juvenile Justice System: Uzbekistan has a separate juvenile justice system in place to handle cases involving minors. The system is designed to provide specialized care and attention to young offenders, ensuring their rights and interests are protected throughout the legal process.

3. **Reduced Culpability:** The legal system recognizes that minors may not have the same level of maturity and understanding as adults. As a result, their culpability for criminal actions may be reduced. This means that the severity of punishment or consequences may be lessened for minors compared to adults who commit similar offenses.

4. **Diversion Programs:** Uzbekistan emphasizes diversion programs for minors involved in criminal activities. These programs aim to divert young offenders away from the formal justice system and towards rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The goal is to address the underlying causes of their behavior and prevent future criminal activities [4].

5. **Confidentiality:** The law protects the confidentiality of minors involved in criminal cases. Their identities and personal information are kept confidential to prevent stigmatization and protect their privacy.

6. **Emphasis on Rehabilitation:** The primary focus of the juvenile justice system in Uzbekistan is rehabilitation rather than punishment. The aim is to provide educational, vocational, and psychological support to help minors reintegrate into society as law-abiding citizens.

7. **Graduated Sanctions:** The system employs graduated sanctions for minors, meaning that the severity of punishment increases gradually based on the seriousness of the offense and the individual's previous criminal history. This approach allows for flexibility in addressing the needs of each case.

8. **Limited Sentencing Options:** Uzbekistan has limited sentencing options for minors involved in criminal activities. The focus is on non-custodial measures, such as probation, community service, or educational programs. Incarceration is considered a last resort and is generally reserved for the most serious offenses.

It is important to note that these general features may be subject to specific laws, regulations, and policies that may vary over time. For precise and up-to-date information on the criminal liability of minors in Uzbekistan, it is recommended to refer to the relevant legal sources.

Moreover, the criminal liability of minors in Uzbekistan is important for several reasons:

1. **Protection of minors:** The laws and regulations governing the criminal liability of minors aim to protect young individuals from the potential harm and negative consequences of criminal activities. By setting a minimum age of criminal responsibility, Uzbekistan ensures that individuals below this age are not subjected to the formal justice system, which may be detrimental to their well-being and development.

2. **Rehabilitation and reintegration:** The focus of the juvenile justice system in Uzbekistan is on the rehabilitation and reintegration of young offenders. By providing specialized care, educational opportunities, vocational training, and psychological support, the system aims to help minors reintegrate as law-abiding citizens and prevent them from becoming repeat offenders [5].

3. **Recognition of reduced culpability:** The legal system in Uzbekistan recognizes that minors may have reduced culpability for their actions due to their level of maturity and understanding. By taking into account their age and level of development, the system ensures that appropriate measures are taken to address their offenses while considering their limited capacity for judgment and decision-making.

4. **Confidentiality and privacy:** The law protects the confidentiality of minors involved in criminal cases to prevent stigmatization and protect their privacy. This helps in maintaining their dignity and reducing the

potential negative impact of being involved in criminal activities on their future prospects and social standing.

5. Graduated sanctions: The use of graduated sanctions ensures that the severity of punishment increases gradually based on the offense and previous criminal history of minors. This approach takes into account the principle of proportionality and ensures that the punishment is appropriate and fair.

Overall, the criminal liability of minors in Uzbekistan is important for promoting the well-being, rehabilitation, and reintegration of young offenders while recognizing their reduced culpability and protecting their rights and privacy.

CONCLUSION

In Uzbekistan, the criminal liability of minors is governed by specific laws and regulations that aim to protect and rehabilitate young individuals involved in criminal activities. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is set at 14 years old, and individuals below this age cannot be prosecuted for criminal offenses. Uzbekistan has a separate juvenile justice system in place to handle cases involving minors, which provides specialized care and attention to young offenders. The legal system recognizes that minors may have reduced culpability for their actions due to their level of maturity and understanding. Diversion programs are emphasized for minors, aiming to divert them away from the formal justice system and towards rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The law protects the confidentiality of minors involved in criminal cases to prevent stigmatization and protect their privacy. The primary focus of the juvenile justice system is rehabilitation, providing educational, vocational, and psychological support to help minors reintegrate as law-abiding citizens. Graduated sanctions are employed, with the severity of

punishment increasing gradually based on the offense and previous criminal history. Sentencing options for minors are limited, with non-custodial measures prioritized, and incarceration reserved for the most serious offenses. It is important to consult relevant legal sources for precise and up-to-date information on the criminal liability of minors in Uzbekistan.

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