

REVIEW ARTICLE

HARM TO LIFE AND HEALTH AS A RESULT OF ACTS OF ILLEGAL ADOPTION: CRIMINAL LEGAL AND MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS

DOI: 10.36740/WLek202305130

Victoriia V. Haltsova¹, Sergiy O. Kharytonov¹, Andrii M. Iashchenko²¹ YAROSLAV MUDRYI NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY UKRAINE, KHARKIV, UKRAINE² KHARKIV NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, KHARKIV, UKRAINE**ABSTRACT****The aim:** To study the harm that can be a result of acts of illegal adoption and find out the effects on child life and health.**Materials and methods:** The following methods were used: system-structural, regulatory, dialectical and statistical processing. The article provides data of the Court Administration of Ukraine of 2001-2007 on the conviction of 5 individuals involved in illegal adoption. Also data of the Unified Register of Court Decisions of Ukraine as of the 4th of September 2022 have been processed which served as the basis of illegal adoption criminal proceedings with only 3 guilty verdicts out of total number which came into force. In addition, the article provides examples that have been published in the Internet, media of Poland, the Netherlands, US and Ukraine.**Conclusions:** It has been proved that acts of illegal adoption constitute criminal offence which not only infringes upon orphaned children settling procedures established by law, but also can be used for the "pseudo adoption" purposes, which can result in the following acts of violence against minors: physical, mental, sexual, psychological abuse, etc. The article considers their effect on life and health.**KEY WORDS:** orphanhood, rights of the child, violation of the law

Wiad Lek. 2023;76(5 p.1):1090-1096

INTRODUCTION

According to the international documents on protection of children's rights: if a child lacks temporary or constant parental care, it has the right for special protection and help of the State. No family to a child is the evidence of violation of its family right provided by the Convention of the Rights of Child, article 20. That's why public attention in most countries is focused on comprehensive protection of rights of juveniles, especially on childhood and orphanhood problems that require special and extraordinary action from the State. Regrettably, orphanhood remains unresolved social problem not only in our country, but in many countries abroad. Increased number of orphans is the result of pandemics, natural disasters and catastrophes and other adverse situations that lately have been widely spread which impairs man's health to a degree that leads to increased mortality rate among adult population. Today, the orphanhood problem is acute more than ever and tends to increase as a result of the Russian aggression.

This is the reason why the orphanhood problem can be addressed by finding home for such children by way of adoption as the best form of protection of orphaned

child rights and interests. Institution of adoption is one of priority parenting forms. It guarantees harmonious all-round personal development, provides caring and loving family, meets basic needs of child, required for its physical and psychological development.

According to M. Skiepkó and J. Brągoszewska adoption makes child feel safe, ensures natural (family) development conditions. Furthermore, it allows child to avoid mental, physical and social delay, gives opportunities for all-round development, forms standards of conventional social behaviour [1].

Institution of adoption is undoubtedly one of legal protection forms of children. It exists across EU countries. Protection of children's rights and interests is the comprehensive institution which is the part of the single international system of protection of human rights and freedoms. The international documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, international Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950), Hague Convention on Adoption (1967), UN Convention

on the Rights of Child (1989), Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of International (Inter-country) Adoption (1993), European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights (1996), etc. not only establish the right of child, but also determine organisational and legal framework for adoption as one of priority forms of legal protection of children's rights.

As adoption is aimed at finding an appropriate family with strong relationships for an orphaned child and let the child exercise its right for family care and all-round physical and psychological personal development, actions against the established adoption procedures violate children's rights international standards.

For example, the European Convention on Adoption of Children, article 15 includes the regulation that prohibits any illicit profiting from adoption, in other words it prohibits adoption on commercial or any other basis. Similar regulations are included in the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of International Adoption (1993), article 32: "No one should receive undue financial or other benefits from international adoption activities, executives, administrators, and officials involved in adoption are not entitled to remuneration for the provided services", etc.

In this way, the global community shall address orphanhood problems in compliance with international documents on the protection of rights and interests of child given that legal protection of children's rights is not only an independent institution which is a part of the international system of the protection of human rights and freedoms, but is also supported and protected by international, constitutional, civil, family, criminal, and other legal provisions.

As illegal acts of adoption cause significant harm not only to child's interests, but also to its health and even life, criminal law of a number of countries of the world criminalise infringement upon social relationship in respect to adoption

For example, criminal liability for illegal acts of adoption is established in a number of countries of Europe and world: article 124 /a of the Criminal Code of Albania [2]; article 211a of the Criminal Code of Poland [3]; article 364 of the Criminal Law Act of Israel [4]; articles 221, 222 of the Criminal Code of Spain [5]; § 236 of the Criminal Code of Germany [6]; article 227-12 of the Criminal Code of France [7]; article 174 of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan [8], article 173 of the Criminal Code of Georgia [9], article 172 of the Criminal Code of Tajikistan [10], etc.

THE AIM

Study potential harm resulting from illegal acts of adoption and their adverse effect on life and health of

adopted child, which substantiates feasibility of criminalisation of such offences.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

When preparing this article, the authors used the system-structural method to study adoption institution as a legal object. The regulatory study was also used to analyse international documents on the protection of human and children's rights and criminal law of other countries that includes criminal ban of illegal adoption acts. The dialectical method was used to analyse institution of adoption in terms of relationship and interaction as the basic category, which allows a child to exercise its right for family care, but in case adoption procedure established by law is violated, life and health of a minor could be endangered. In addition, the statistical processing method was used, but due to the highly latent nature of illegal adoption acts, the authors had limited information about their actual status. However, the analytical data of the Court Administration of Ukraine of 2001-2007 provide information about 5 individuals convicted for illegal acts of adoption in 2003. According to the Unified Registry of the Court Decisions as of the 4th of September 2022, 25 criminal proceedings for illegal acts of adoption have been initiated, only 3 of which ended up in a guilty verdict in Ukraine. Furthermore, the authors give examples of illegal acts of adoption published in the Internet, media of Poland, the Netherlands, US and Ukraine.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Based on article 13 of the Declaration of Social and Legal Principles of the Protection and Welfare of Children, Especially when Children are Transferred for Parental Care and Adoption on National and International Level (1986), the main purpose of adoption is ensuring stable family for a child deprived of care of its parents. The European Convention on Adoption of Children includes an important article 11 which states that following adoption the child acquires status of a full member of the family of adoptive parents and has the same rights and responsibilities as their own children. The above international documents prove that adoption is one of the most prioritised forms of care of orphaned children or children deprived of parental care.

We'd like to note that the law of a number of world countries provides both national and inter-country adoption. However, the provisions of international documents on the protection of children's rights and law of a number of countries that ban acts of adoption recognised illegal are the most important.

For example, the European Convention on Adoption of Children, article 15 prohibits any illicit profiting from transferring a child for adoption, in other words it prohibits adoption on commercial or any other basis. Similar regulations are included in the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of International Adoption (1993), article 32: "No one should receive undue financial or other benefits from international adoption activities, executives, administrators, and officials involved in adoption are not entitled to remuneration for the provided services".

The UN Convention on the rights of Child and Optional Protocol on Human Trafficking, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography include provisions that prohibit profiting from adoption, kidnapping, illegal removal of children from their own country, and provide legal actions to support prevention of the above offences.

The most countries of the world therefore recognise adoption acts illegal when a child is transferred for a fee in view of "legal" adoption in the future [11].

The above socially dangerous acts are pretty common in many countries and it's very difficult to estimate their exact number. Here's a few examples of illegal adoptions in the US which provide evidence of illegal methods of obtaining children for the purpose of adoption. For example: purchase of children from poor families, or kidnap them from their house, street or pre-school institution; force their biological parents whose mental state is not too stable to issue a consent to the adoption or obtain the consent by fraud. Then the illegally obtained children are "legalised" with the help of the national adoption system: by fake birth certificates and other fake documents required for the adoption to hide true origin of the child. This allows to identify the child as an alleged legal orphan [12]. This "adoption fraud" unfortunately exists in Ukraine where criminal groups are engaged in illegal adoption [13].

According to the Ministry of Justice, Poland has around 2000 illegal adoptions a year [14]. The offence is so widely spread that adoption centres are saying about the adoption "grey zone" in Poland. There are numerous Internet ads entitled "Belly's growing and looking for a family for the baby", "Belly to let", "Baby for ultimate family", "Baby for a childless couple" offering to give birth to a child and give it away right after the birth. There are also "customers" ads offering "adoption of unwanted babies". The ads offer a baby price of a few Zloty to hundred thousand Zloty. The money is paid during pregnancy and down payments are made as a financial support. The websites have over 400 visitors per day. Total number is already over 1.3 million visitors. These acts are highly harmful for the society and, according to experts, family and administrative law can't efficiently

combat them, as they can't prevent potential criminals from continuing their profitable practice, especially so, when biological parents are often involved [15].

The Netherlands even imposed a moratorium on adoption from abroad when a government commission discovered that some children had been kidnapped or purchased like a commodity from their biological parents [16].

Unfortunately, illegal acts of adoption in Ukraine often stay out of respective criminal statistics due to their hidden nature. According to V. Haltsova, illegal acts of adoption are combined with other offences, such as abuse of office, proposal, promise, giving/receiving of undue benefits in the process of adoption, official forgery, human trafficking, etc., which promote illegal adoption. That is why the above criminal offences are the subjects of proceedings. Such cases are more common in legal practice [17]. For example: according to the statistics of the State Court Administration of Ukraine of 2001-2007, 2 persons have been convicted under article 169, part 2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine in 2003, 1 person in 2005, 2 persons in 2006 [18]. As of 4 September 2022, the Unified Registry of Court Decisions includes data about 25 proceedings initiated for illegal acts of adoption, out of which only 3 guilty verdicts were pronounced [19].

Despite this, the law of Ukraine was under massive attack during adoptions, especially so during adoptions by foreigners. This had effect of a "criminal business". Foreigners and different adoption agents from the USA, Canada, Italy, France, and other countries applied to Ukrainian orphanages for the adoption of Ukrainian children. It looked like "mass pilgrimage" That is when massive violations and abuse have been discovered in inter-country adoption. Under simplified procedure Ukrainian children have been transferred to foreign adoptive parents without due examination and establishing their prospects of settling, which resulted in the inter-country adoption moratorium for a few years [20].

In the mid-90s four persons ended up on the dock in Lviv, including Deputy Head of Lviv region, chief physicians of two hospitals, and a social welfare officer. They transferred 1360 infants to foreigners for adoption. Investigators could only find 50 infants, fate of the others remained unknown [21]. Illegal adoption is definitely a concealed minor trafficking practice. For example: maternity house often told mother that her baby died at birth while the baby was alive and hospital manager and doctors transferred it for adoption [22].

Unfortunately there was a number of criminal groups with international connections that included orphanage officials who had numerous criminal contacts with doctors. For the purpose of adoption of Ukrainian

orphans by foreigners, the doctors came up with fake diseases for babies, which enabled foreigners to adopt them out of turn

As rightly observed by T. Cholan, the public danger of illegal adoption as criminal offence is that it disregards the principle of child as the highest social value from birth, as a result of which it becomes an "item" of an illegal agreement (in broad sense and in the eyes of civil law) on transferring child to individuals who may not meet requirements provided in the law [23].

As a rule, violation of the existing adoption law of Ukraine often takes shape of mediation, coercion, or blackmailing of parents with the purpose of adoption, falsification of documents required for adoption, separation of siblings and other illegal acts during adoption.

Indeed, the consequence of illegal adoption is that the child's security is at risk in many vital, psychological and legal aspects [15]. Public relations therefore require further legal protection using criminal law, which ensures protection of human rights in today's world [24].

We believe that public danger of acts of illegal adoption is that they not only violate adoption procedure established by the law of Ukraine and undermine moral foundations of the society, including right to adoption, but they can also affect the normal development and parenting of minors [17]. This doesn't exclude harm to life and health of adopted child. Here's a few examples.

In most cases after the adoption of Ukrainian orphans by foreigners, the State loses contact with them and has no information about the fate of these children, their living and parenting conditions. These children might have been adopted for other than parenting and personal development purposes. It is possible that their adoptive parents may use them for personal gain, in other words it was an act of "pseudo adoption" aimed at transplantation of donor organs rather than parenting. In some cases foreign parents adopted or applied for adoption to involve children in child pornography, use them in harmful production, force them to beg, etc.

The world knows the case when John Walter Kruger from the US adopted three boys in Ukraine. In a year police established facts of sexual abuse of the adopted boys. After that the children were returned to Ukraine. There also were cases when lonely elderly foreigners adopted minors to make children look after them, and instead of family the children got into slavery [25].

In result of illegal adoption children may experience physical, sexual, mental violence that harms their physical health, sexual immunity, mental development, etc. As a result, children may suffer from bodily injuries, or irreparable consequences for their health – disability, or even suicide or death. Minors may also suffer from mental disorders resulting from separation with their

siblings. Such actions are recognised as illegal. Law of Ukraine prohibits such adoption actions that separate siblings as provided in article 210 of the Family Law of Ukraine. Separation of siblings is only possible under grave circumstances and on the consent of guardianship authority. 17 October 2018 the Supreme Court (case 333/3340/16-ts) issued an order on this providing explanation of grave circumstances under which siblings can be separated. Separation is only allowed if it meets best interests of children, namely: brother and sister never lived together, or their cohabitation is undesirable due to dangerous disease of one of the children [19].

Based on this, a criminal proceeding under article 169 part II of the Criminal Code of Ukraine was initiated against director of orphanage K. in Cherkasy region as brother and sister B. were adopted by different families and taken to Italy and Canada.

It should be noted that following the Russian aggression forced removal of Ukrainian children from temporarily occupied territories became massive. Children are removed for their further illegal adoption by citizens of Russia. For this purpose the aggressor is drafting a law on simplified registration of orphaned children. As of 2 May 2022 up to 181 children have been removed to Russia, only 1 200 of which are orphans, who in most cases have parents, caregivers and relatives [27]. Such actions are a gross violation of the Geneva Convention (IV) of 1949 art. 4, 49 and 147 on protection of civilians during war, which provides for occupant's obligation to keep civil status of children intact and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989.

It's hard to disagree with Elvira C Loibl that this is harmful for emotional and mental development of children as they have already had deep cultural and social self identification, especially teenagers, and identify themselves with the country of residence. So forced removal seriously traumatises them as cultural and social identity is essential for them [28]. Following separation which is an illegal act of adoption minors are seriously traumatised. As they have parents, relatives and caregivers they feel loss and can't forget their families. This may result in serious consequences for their life and health.

In this regard, psychologist O. Turina says that mental damage unlike physical damage which is always external, may be of intramental nature – mind is able to traumatise itself by thoughts, memories, emotions and affections it produces. Such mental damage is invisible and can be identified with the help of indirect characteristics where emotional pain dominates [29]. Furthermore, according to experts acts of illegal separation may affect mental condition and development of child

so much that it may feel “abandoned”, “alienated”, “violated”, “humiliated”, etc. Child feels “abandoned”, when it lacks physical contact with mother, which results in the future in all kind of addictions, symbiotic relations, infantilism and fears [29]. The trauma of “alienation” is related to not having mama around who soothes and supports crying baby. People with this trauma live feeling lack of attention from people around them, they constantly strive to win their attention, they prone to manipulations, don’t enjoy life [29]. The trauma of “violence” is present when child is systematically ill-treated, injured. It leads to psychopathy or builds psychopathic, asocial character. The trauma of “humiliation” is the blow to child’s ego, it humiliates, despises, diminishes self-esteem, which causes mental disorders in “ego concept” and inferiority complex. Mental traumas of humiliation, violence, rejection, betrayal also occur in adulthood. As a rule, adults reconstruct their childhood traumas, but with now with their partners and family. That’s why S. Freud mentioned “fate neurosis” resulting from childhood traumas [29]. So when children lose their parents, siblings, it causes mental trauma for them resulting from separation at illegal adoption. In the future, it may lead to depression, aggression, fits of rage, drug abuse, insomnia, and other serious consequences for child life and health [29].

CONCLUSIONS

Adoption is an important institution of protection of children rights. It’s meant to ensure their all-round and harmonious development and enables them to exercise their right for parenting in family.

International acts on the protection of children rights at adoption and laws of many countries include provi-

sions that prohibit remuneration for adoption. Such remuneration is recognised illegal in criminal codes of many countries and has mediation nature. In addition, acts of illegal adoption may lead to separation of siblings, families and caregivers, during the Russian aggression in particular. This violates international law and leads to serious mental traumas.

Acts of illegal adoption are socially dangerous – not only they violate the adoption procedure established by existing law of Ukraine, but also infringe on protection of childhood – a very important public realm, rights and legitimate interests, cause significant harm to development and parenting of minors, their life and health.

Acts of illegal adoption of minors can lead to physical, mental, sexual, psychological and other kinds of violence. This occurs due to not uncommon cases of so called “pseudo-adoption” with the purpose of involvement of a child in porno business, donorship, begging or hard physical work. It can be accompanied by beating, bodily injures, tortures, mental violence, ill-treatment.

In case of separation of siblings or other family members at illegal adoption, children are seriously traumatised and the trauma may stay with them for the rest of their life.

Illegal adoption often leads to the danger of life and health of minors, especially so if it resulted in drug or alcohol abuse, disability, mental disorder, suicide, death, etc.

So governments must take all steps to continue combat acts of illegal adoption by imposing further criminal sanctions on them and strengthen punishment for them while involving international institutions that protect minors from infringement on their rights for physical, intellectual, psychological cultural and personal development.

REFERENCES

1. Skiepmo M, Brągoszewska J. Zaburzenia psychiczne u dzieci adoptowanych Psychiatric disorders in adopted children. *Psychiatr. Psychol. Klin.* 2009;9 (3):207-213.
2. Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania (1995, amended 2017). Legislationline. https://www.legislationline.org/download/id/8235/file/Albania_CC_1995_am2017_en.pdf [date access 20.07.2022].
3. Kodeks karny. <https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU19970880553/U/D19970553Lj.pdf> [date access 20.07.2022].
4. Zakon ob ugovnom prave Izrailya [Israel’s Criminal Law]. 2010. <http://crimpravo.ru/codecs/izr/2.pdf> [date access 18.07.2022]. (in Russian).
5. Ugolovnyiy kodeks Ispanii [Spanish Criminal Code]. Moskva: Zertsalo. 1998, p.218. (In Russian).
6. Ugolovnyiy kodeks FRG [Criminal Code of the Federal Republic of Germany]. Moskva: Zertsalo. 2000, p.208. (In Russian).
7. Ugolovnyiy kodeks Frantsii [Criminal Code of France]. SPb: Yurid. tsentr Press. 2002, p.650. (in Russian).
8. Ugolovnyiy kodeks Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki [Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan]. Baku: Yurid. lit. 2000, p.224. (in Russian).
9. Ugolovnyiy kodeks Gruzii [Criminal Code of Georgia]. SPb.: Yurid. tsentr Press. 2002, p.352. (in Russian).
10. Ugolovnyiy kodeks Respubliki Tadzhikistan [Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan.]. SPb: Yurid. tsentr Press. 2001, p.410. (in Russian).
11. Cantwell N. The sale of children and illegal adoption. *Terre des Hommes Netherlands*. 2017. <https://defenceforchildren.nl/media/1945/the-sale-of-children-and-illegal-adoption.pdf> [date access 22.07.2022].

12. Loibl E. The Transnational Illegal Adoption Market: A Criminological Study of the German and Dutch Intercountry Adoption Systems. The Hague: Eleven International Publishing. 2019. <https://intercountryadopteevoices.com/2019/09/21/adoptee-activism-in-america/> [date access 27.07.2022].
13. Orlovskiy R, Us O, Shevchuk V. Committing a Criminal Offence by an Organized Criminal Group. *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*. 2022;14(2): 32–45.
14. Rząd zastrzega prawo za handel dziećmi. Eksperci: Nielegalne adopcje zjeżdżają do podziemi. <https://wiadomosci.dziennik.pl/wydarzenia/artykuly/612252,nielegalne-adopcje-handel-dziecmi-resort-sprawiedliwosci.html> [date access 22.07.2022].
15. Sejm rozpatrzy zmiany w kodeksie karnym: nielegalna adopcja dzieci. <https://www.prawo.pl/prawo/projekt-zmian-w-kk-nielegalna-adopcja-dzieci,464703.html> [date access 27.07.2022].
16. U Niderlandach zamorzyły protseduru usynovlennia hromadianamy ditei z-za kordonu [In the Netherlands, the procedure for adoption of children from abroad by citizens has been frozen]. <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-world/3186953-u-niderlandah-zamorozili-proceduru-usynovlennia-ditej-z-za-kordonu.html> [date access 22.07.2022]. (in Ukrainian).
17. Gal' czova VV. Kry`minal`na vidpovidal`nist` za rozgoloshennya tayemny`ci usy`novlennya (udocherinnya) ta nezakonni diyi shhodo usy`novlennya (udocherinnya) [Criminal liability for disclosing the confidentiality of adoption (adoption) and illegal actions related to adoption (adoption)]. Kharkiv: Pravo. 2015, p. 248. (in Ukrainian).
18. Dovidka Derzhavnoi Sudovoi Administratsii Ukrainy [Certificate of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine] 20.06.2007 r. № 14-3950/07. (in Ukrainian).
19. Yedynyi reiestr sudovykh rishen Ukrainy [Unified register of court decisions of Ukraine]. <https://reyestr.court.gov.ua/> [date access 16.07.2022]. (in Ukrainian).
20. Bozhyk VO. Kryminalno-pravova okhrona mizhderzhavnoho usynovlennia [Criminal protection of interstate adoption]. Aktualni problemy derzhavy i prava. Odesa. 2009;47:80. (in Ukrainian).
21. Lukyanenko A. Skandalnoe delo o trgovle novorozhdennyimi v Odesskoy oblasti [Scandalous case of trafficking in newborns in Odessa region]. *Zakon.kz*. <http://www.zakon.kz/175515-skandalnoe-delo-o-torgovle.html>. [date access 16.07.2022]. (in Russian).
22. Ukhvala Kolehii suddiv Sudovoi palaty Verkhovnoho Sudu Ukrainy u kryminalnykh vid 22 sichnia 2008 roku [Decision of the Board of Judges of the Judicial Chamber of the Supreme Court of Ukraine in criminal cases, consisting of: presiding judge S. M. Mishchenko, judges S. M. Vus, V. F. Shkolyarov dated January 22, 2008]. Yedynyi derzhavnyi reiestr sudovykh rishen. <http://www.reyestr.court.gov.ua/Review/2036669>. [date access 16.07.2022]. (in Ukrainian).
23. Cholan T. Sotsialna zumovlenist vstanovlennia kryminalnoi vidpovidalnosti za nezakonni dii shhodo usynovlennia [Social conditioning of establishing criminal liability for illegal adoption actions]. *Naukovyi chasopys Natsionalnoi akademii prokuratury Ukrainy*. 2016;4(12): 178–185. (in Ukrainian).
24. Haltsova VV, Kharytonov SO, Khramtsov OM et al. Criminal law as a means of protecting human rights and freedoms in the modern world. *Journal of the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine*. 2021;28(3): 248–256. doi: 10.37635/jnalsu.28(3).2021.248-256.
25. Ukrainskykh ditlahiv viddaly na usynovlennia pedofilu [Ukrainian children were given up for adoption by a pedophile]. OBOZREVATEL. <https://incident.obozrevatel.com/ukr/crime/65341-ukrainskih-ditlahiv-viddali-na-usynovlennya-pedofilu.htm> [date access 17.07.2022]. (in Ukrainian).
26. Seliuk M. Dytiachyi test na zrilist [Children's maturity test]. *Den*. 2006;6(2):98. (in Ukrainian).
27. Makaliuk B. Nezakonno kradut i tak samo khochut vsynovliuvaty. Yak ta kudy Rosiia deportuie ukrainskykh ditei [They steal illegally and also want to adopt. How and where is Russia deporting Ukrainian children]. <https://vikna.tv/video/lyudy/nezakonno-kradut-i-tak-samo-hochut-vsynovliuvaty-yak-ta-kudy-rosiya-deportuye-ukrayinskykh-ditei/> [date access 16.07.2022]. (in Ukrainian).
28. Loibl EC. The aftermath of transnational illegal adoptions: Redressing human rights violations in the intercountry adoption system with instruments of transitional justice. *Childhood*. 2021; 28(4): 477–491. doi:10.1177/09075682211064430.
29. Turykina OL. Psykholohiia travmuiuchykh sytuatsii [Psychology of traumatic situations]: navch. posib. dlia stud. vyshch. navch. zakl. Kyiv: DP "Vyd. dim "Personal". 2017, p.160. (in Ukrainian).

ORCID and contributionship:

Viktorii V. Haltsova: 0000-0002-0700-427X ^{A, B, D, F}

Sergiy O. Kharytonov: 0000-0002-8947-8734 ^{A, E, F}

Andrii M. Iashchenko: 0000-0003-3956-3487 ^{A, E, D}

Conflict of interest:

The Authors declare no conflict of interest.

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR

Viktoriia V. Haltsova

Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University

77 Pushkinska St., 61024 Kharkiv, Ukraine

tel: +380505249858

e-mail: Vita-007@ukr.net

Received: 23.09.2022

Accepted: 19.01.2023

A – Work concept and design, **B** – Data collection and analysis, **C** – Responsibility for statistical analysis, **D** – Writing the article, **E** – Critical review, **F** – Final approval of the article

 Article published on-line and available in open access are published under Creative Common Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)