

Phases of imprisonment

Imprisonment is divided into three phases: the reception, main and release phase. The purpose of the reception phase is to help the detainee to integrate into the prison life and to compile a resocialization program. In the main phase, the means planned in the action plan will be implemented. The goal of the release phase is to prepare the detainee for life after being released from prison.

Reception phase

Arriving in prison

As a rule, the detainee will start serving his/her sentence in the closed prison from where it is possible to transfer him/her to the open prison. The detainee will be placed in the prison's reception department and a personal file will be opened with the documents related to his/her detention, identification means, individual action plan and other documents. On the next day following his/her arrival, at the latest, the detainee will meet with the prison director or other authorized person who will debrief him/her on his/her rights and duties.

Compiling the individual action plan

The purpose of the action plan is to individually plan the work with each detainee: to determine the chances to reduce his/her risk of recidivism (the need to offer education, the work ability, the skills etc) and to form a time table to implement these means. The individual action plan is compiled by the prison psychologist, social worker, education administrator, the person responsible for organizing detainee labor, the doctor and a department manager. As a rule, the individual action plan is reviewed once a year (once every six months with young detainees) and changed, if necessary. The individual action plan is the basis for deciding the prison or prison department to which the detainee will be assigned. The reception phase will end with the confirmation of the action plan.

Main phase

The chief purpose of the main phase, i.e. the everyday life in the prison, is to implement the detainee's individual action plan. An important part is the detainee's external communication - short and long-term meetings, written correspondence, phone calls, but also short-term leaves - that help avoid severing ties with the society. The prison director may grant a short-term leave of up to 21 days a year, if this is in accordance with the goals of the imprisonment.

The most important question of the main phase and also the focal point of the resocialization means implementation is the employment of the detainee. As a result, the detainee is offered the chance to study and to work.

Transfer to the open prison

The detainee may be transferred from the closed prison to the open prison on the basis of the decision by the open prison director or the director of a prison with an open prison department and the vice prison chancellor of the Ministry of Justice. The open prison receives persons who have committed less severe crimes and the detainees whose containment in the closed prison would be unsuitable, who have shown trustworthiness and legal obedience during their time in the closed prison and with whom there is sufficient reason to assume that the person will not commit new acts of crime.

Release phase

In order for the detainee to merge into the society with as little difficulty as possible, several preparations are carried out prior to the release. The most common are to offer social aid to the

detainee and the transfer of the detainee to the open prison. The social worker will help the detainee to create contacts with the family and the social welfare agency. Actually, the whole work with the detainee during the imprisonment must serve the purpose of preparing the detainee for the release. Upon release, the detainee will receive the release support that has accumulated from the wages for his/her work.

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