Formulation of Research Problem. Capability provides an individual for an opportunity to be a full entity of law, to conclude transactions independently and to exercise their rights in other legal ways, as well as to bear responsibility for the acts committed. Nevertheless, not all natural persons have capability. In accordance with Article 141 of the Civil Law of Latvia (hereinafter referred to as the CL), minors do not have capability, and persons whose capacity has been limited by court due to mental illness (mental retardation) have limited capability. Age and imposed restrictions established by law are legal facts that do not require a complex evidentiary foundation. It is easy to establish facts with the help of a birth certificate or a court judgment. In addition, it should be noted that court judgments on limiting capability are publicly exposed, they are published in the official publication Latvijas Vēstnesis. A much more complicated situation arises in cases where it is needed to evaluate an act or transaction committed by a person in state of insanity. At the same time it should be borne in mind that the lack of capability or limited capability a priori is not a criterion of insanity. Thus, a disable person can be sane in relation to a committed criminal act or in relation to a committed transaction. The evidence of incapability occurs in the course of civil or criminal proceedings through the use of legal evidence, usually based on the report of a forensic medicine examination (outpatient or inpatient).

Capability and responsibility are independent institutions. The criteria for capability are specific legal facts, the state of insanity is established on the grounds of a forensic medicine examination in each particular case. The Article purpose is the analysis of legal regulation and legal practice on the aspects of relationship between the capability and responsibility institutions, which undergo forensic outpatient psychiatric examination in relation to natural persons with mental disorders, behavior disorders and intellectual disability.

Main Content Presentation. When studying the corresponding norms of law, scientific papers of law theorists, along with judicial practice, the authors of the article concluded that while conducting an outpatient forensic

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1 Civillikums. Ceturta daļa. Saistību tiesības (1937). Valdības Vēstnesis, 46, 26.02,1937.
2 Latvijas Vēstnesis. Oficiālie pazinojumi. Tiesu nolēmumi. URL: https://www.vestnesis.lv/oficiālie-pazinojumi/tiesu-nolēmumi (date accesses 07.07.2020).
Legal assessment of responsibility while outpatient forensic medicine examination of intellectually disabled people

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LEGAL ASSESSMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY WHILE OUTPATIENT FORENSIC MEDICINE EXAMINATION OF INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED PEOPLE

While legal capacity emerges at the moment of a person’s birth and he as a natural person and legal entity possesses it throughout all his life, capability is an institution with much more nuanced nature. Not all natural persons are endowed with capability, what is more a person may lack or be deprived of capability. However, it should be stressed that people with limited capability continue to live in society, to participate in legal proceedings when it is possible, as well as to commit crimes, that is their legal status differs from actual. Evaluation of acts competence committed by persons with limited capability plays an important role both in civil and criminal proceedings. In civil proceedings the issue as to transaction legal effect has to be resolved, in criminal proceedings the issues as to a person’s responsibility committed a crime and, accordingly, as to his penalty have to be addressed.

The article is devoted to the role of outpatient forensic medicine examination while assessing the acts committed by persons with limited capability and in a state of insanity.

Keywords: outpatient forensic medicine examination, capability, insanity, intellectual disability.

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ПРАВОВА ОЦІНКА ОСУДНОСТІ ПІД ЧАС АМБУЛАТОРНОЇ СУДОВО-МЕДИЧНОЇ ЕКСПЕРТНИЗІ ПОРОЗУМОВО ВІДСТАЛІХ ОСІБ

Осудність є ключовим інститутом як у цивільних, так і в кримінальних правовідносинах. Тільки осудна особа може нести кримінальну відповідальність і відповідати за правовідносини, які виникають в її осудному станичному впливу і щодо конкретного

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e-mail: archive-criminology.com.ua
of the society interests, the subject of civil law in turn is the protection of the rights and interests of private individuals. Therefore, in civil law an excessive restriction of a person in his rights is unacceptable in comparison with criminal law. Having conducted a historical assessment, it is clear that the institution of capability was transformed in Latvia at the beginning of the 21st century. Thus, by the Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia of December 27, 2010, the CL norm which provided for deprivation of capability was accepted as unconstitutional8. The Decision was based on the argument that deprivation of capability violates the constitutional right – the right to privacy, which is guaranteed by the fundamental law of the Republic of Latvia – the Constitution (Satversme)9. It should be summarized that capability is associated with constitutional human rights that must also be taken into account when conducting a forensic psychiatric examination, considering the fact that declaring a person insane will eventually entail consideration of transaction as invalid in civil law, and imposition of compulsory involuntary commitment in relation to a person in criminal law. It is obvious that the consequences of admitting insanity in criminal law relations are much more severe in regard to a person whose insanity is admitted.

Despite individual insanity differences mentioned above in civil and criminal legal relations, the integrating factor is that the state of insanity is defined only by means of a forensic psychiatric examination. It is only within the competence of a forensic expert to admit that a natural person was in a state of insanity at the time of a specific act commission.

Historically, in the legal doctrine of Western countries, when assessing responsibility, the criterion for the ability of the accused and examinee to understand the illegal nature of their actions while committing a socially harmful act dominated. It was reflected in the legislation as the concept of actus reus / mens rea and the M'Naghten rule. However, in Russian legislation, the basis for establishing the fact of responsibility was a person10 free will. In the first Russian forensic medicine textbook for lawyers, compiled by the doctor (a native of the city of Jakobstadt, Courland Governorate (currently, Jēkabpils, Latvia) Blosfeld Georg Joachim, a satisfactory and quite modern definition of responsibility is given, which compensates for its vague legal criteria, as well as the methodology for conducting a forensic psychological and psychiatric examination11 is suggested.

At present, it is still quite challenging to accurately determine the degree of mental retardation in accordance with the criteria of the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, since IQ indicators are provided without specifying the recommended methods. A person with intellectual disability may be declared by court to be fully sane, partially sane or insane. In the last two cases, compulsory involuntary commitment may be imposed in Latvia. Generally, people with moderate intellectual disability are declared insane or limited sane. People with moderate mental retardation, according to their mental age, are 6–9 years old which is much less than the formal biological age for juridical liability (in Latvia – 14). With the formal ability to understand the illegal nature of their actions while committing a socially harmful act, the integrating factor is that the state of insanity is defined only by means of a forensic psychiatric examination. It is only within the competence of a forensic expert to admit that a natural person was in a state of insanity at the time of a specific act commission.
property from infringement (relatives of such people are well aware of situations when persons left unsupervised, remained without livelihood “voluntarily” distributing money and valuable possession (phones, tablets) to casual acquaintances or neighbors a few hours after receiving disability allowance), as well as the inability to count and understand the meaning of the text read.

In criminal proceedings regarding entities with intellectual disability, doubts arise and forensic experts are addressed questions as to sanity during a socially harmful act commission, as to the criminal procedural and corrective labor capacity of a person at the present time in case of diminished responsibility (insanity or partial responsibility), as to the existence of a risk of committing a repeated socially harmful act in the future (which is connected with social danger of a person and the need to appoint, prolong, change or cancel compulsory involuntary commitment).

Usually, in the course of a forensic psychiatric examination, when answering the question about whether a suspect has a mental disorder at present, the ability to give reliable testimony and participate in court hearing is also assessed (the last two points also relate to victims and witnesses), de facto most often only the possibility of a person to be physically present without interfering with court and without the risk of affective decompensation is evaluated.

Today, the description of the method of conducting forensic psychiatric examination is a restricted information in Latvia.

Not a single standardized tool (scale) is used to assess the risk of recurrent socially harmful act, criminal procedural or corrective labor capacity. According to the article authors, the report of a forensic medicine examination on the full responsibility of a person with moderate intellectual disability should invariably raise questions and doubts at court, a desire to test the methodology for conducting an examination and drawing up a report.

The presence of mental retardation per se is not a factor that reduces criminal liability, however, examination by court of a defendant personality traits and qualities for the penalty individualization is the main principle for criminal penalty appointment. The need to consider mental retardation by court is stressed by many authors, as well as courts practice − for example, the Atkins v. Virginia case the Supreme Court of the US abolished criminal penalty appointment for a convict with mild mental disabilities, based on his low intelligence − IQ 59 (correspond to the age of 9 − 12 years old)

The analysis of judicial practice in Latvia points to some problems while forensic psychiatric examinations which may consequently lead to infringement of the rights of persons suffering from mental disorders or intellectual disability. In the electronic system of anonymized court judgments on the site of the Latvian courts, a search for the final criminal procedural decisions was conducted, the time period is from 2013 to June 2020. In criminal proceedings, it was stated defendants have moderate intellectual disability or borderline between mild and moderate in 39 cases. Fortuitous Events demonstrate that less significant offensives of a mentally retarded person are replaced by more significant ones in particular cases, and also it was established that in comparative legal and medical conditions the reports of a forensic medicine examination were drastically different, pointing to the need to define criteria for assessing an examinee. Additionally, it is stipulated that when imposing a penalty, the opinion of a forensic expert (psychiatrist) is not taken into account, and in certain cases the question on the possibility of imposing a specific penalty was not addressed to a forensic

12 Tiesu ekspertu likums (2016). Latvijas Vēstnesis, 42, 01.03.2016.
13 Krimināllikums (1999). Latvijas Vēstnesis, 199/200, 08.07.1998.
14 Atkins v. Virginia (2002). 536 U.S. 304, Brief Filed: 11/01, Court: Supreme Court of the United States Year of Decision.
15 Portāls Manas tiesas (2020). URL: https://manas.tiesas.lv/eTiesas/ (date accesses 07.07.2020).
Legal assessment of responsibility while outpatient forensic medicine examination of intellectually disabled people

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ПРАВОВАЯ ОЦЕНКА ВМЕНИЕМОСТИ ПРИ АМБУЛАТОРНОЙ СУДЕБНО-МЕДИЦИНСКОЙ ЭКСПЕРТИЗЕ УМЕСТНО ОТСТАЛЫХ ЛИЦ

Вменяемость является ключевым институтом как в гражданских, так и в уголовных правоотношениях. Только вменяемое лицо может нести уголовную ответственность и отвечать за последствия гражданской сделки. Вменяемость в отличие от десспособности устанавливается в каждом конкретном случае и по отношению к конкретному преступному деянию или сделке при проведении судебно-психиатрической экспертизы. В отличие от случаев, когда судебная экспертиза проводится для получения заключения эксперта как доказательства важных обстоятельств по делу, судебно-психиатрическую экспертизу проводят для установления возможности производства по делу вообще. Анализ судебной практики Латвии указывает на некоторые проблемы при проведении судебно-психиатрических экспертиз, которые впоследствии могут привести к ущемлению прав лиц, страдающих умственной отсталостью или слабоумением. Целью статьи является анализ правового регулирования и судебной практики по вопросам взаимодействия институтов дусспособности и вменяемости, которые проверяются амбулаторной судебно-психиатрической экспертизой в отношении физических лиц, имеющих психические заболевания или умственную отсталость.

Conclusions. Based on the research, the authors of the article came to several important conclusions. Capability and responsibility of a natural person are related institutions, but not similar. Responsibility or insanity is determined in relation to an individual specific act and is also defined with the help of forensic psychiatric examination, i.e. by psychiatrists-forensic experts. Limitation of capability due to mental illness or intellectual disability a priori is not an independent cause for declaring person insane, but it is a factor that must be taken into account and which additionally testifies in favor of insanity.

As stated in the scientific literature, the question of whether the act was committed in a state of responsibility or insanity is resolved by court on the basis of a legal criterion, based on the report of a forensic medicine examination, which contains medical criteria – the severity and nature of a mental disorder. Therefore, in contrast to cases when a forensic examination is conducted to obtain a forensic report as evidence on important circumstances in a case, a forensic psychiatric examination is carried out to establish whether it is possible to proceed with the case at all. Insanity excludes criminal prosecution in criminal legal relations. In civil legal relations disability, in turn, makes transaction invalid, non-existent, thus destroying the subject of a dispute.

The significance of a forensic psychiatric examination does not require evidence. However, the criminal procedural and corrective labor capacity (in short – the ability to enjoy their rights for defense and to pay corresponding penalty) of people with mental and behavioral disorders is one of the least studied areas in Latvian forensic psychiatry. Consequently, a kind of area of legal vacuum has been formed from the issues of criminal and civil law, where support and protection of persons with intellectual disabilities rights are not duly ensured. For example, when a person with intellectual disability (idiocy) and a stable inability to make decisions and take care of their health is enforced compulsory involuntary commitment in the form of outpatient treatment by a psychiatrist, a person apriori is at risk of failure to comply with medical recommendations, exacerbation, hospitalization or a recurrent socially harmful act commission.

In addition, while hospitalization to a psychiatric hospital, the ability to make decisions and to give high-quality informed consent to treatment is not assessed not only in persons with severe mental disorder, but also in the mentally deficient, which can be considered the most common fact of human rights violations in psychiatry.

It must be borne in mind that mental disorder or intellectual disability is an objective factor that does not depend on a patient will, as well as that persons suffering from mental disorder and intellectual disability should undoubtedly be held responsible and consequently be punished according to the degree of their awareness of the committed illegal acts and the penalty purpose, but at the same time such persons must receive medical treatment. All these factors can only be established by a specialist (psychiatrist) when conducting a forensic medicine examination. Evaluation of acts of persons suffering from mental disorders or intellectual disability cannot be limited only to legal assessment.

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The analysis of judicial practice in Latvia points to some problems in the conduct of forensic psychiatric examinations which may subsequently lead to persons suffering from mental disorders or intellectual disability rights infringement.

To protect the rights and interests of people with mental retardation and their minor children, it is needed to introduce new legal institutions that uniformly assess the ability of a person to exercise their rights, fulfill duties and bear responsibility:

- reduced criminal procedural capacity (with the possibility of appointing a representative for a person while criminal proceedings);
- reduced corrective-labor capacity (with the possibility of imposing a penalty that best suits the personality and health condition of a person);
- reduced ability to make decisions (with the possibility of appointing corresponding support in making decisions).

The grounds for reduced rights and obligations application in regard to people suffering from mental disorders or intellectual disability, should be the report of a forensic psychiatric examination conducted using scientifically confirmed and unified criteria.

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Надійшла до редколегії 13.08.2020

Suggested Citation: Kudeikina, I., Losevicha, M. (2020). Legal assessment of responsibility while outpatient forensic medicine examination of intellectually disabled people. Archives of Criminology and Forensic Sciences, 2, 46-51.