



UDC 342.951

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THE REGULATION OF TRANSPORTING THE BODIES OF THE DEAD OVER THE BORDER OF UKRAINE IN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW¹

To consider the provisions of the legislation of Ukraine governing the procedure of transportation over the border of Ukraine of the bodies of the dead; to explain the necessity of making corresponding amendments to the subject of medical law.

The primary materials for the research were the provisions of the Fundamental principles of legislation of Ukraine on healthcare, the Rules of medico-legal assessment (examination) of corpses in the buros of medico-legal expertise, Procedure of interaction between the bodies and units of the national police, healthcare institutions and prosecutor's offices on establishment of the fact of death of a person, laws of Ukraine On burial and funeral business, On ensuring the sanitary and epidemiological well-being of the population, On the protection from infectious diseases.

The methodological foundation of the research were the general scientific methods and special scientific methods and technics of scientific cognition. The basis of the research is the dialectical method, used to maintain the trustworthi-

ness of the scientific knowledge of the problems connected with the transportation to the territory of Ukraine of the bodies of the dead, the development of legislation in the field and application of law in this sphere. The systematic-structural method and systematic-functional method enabled analysis if the means of administrative-legal regulation in the specified field. The logical-semantic method was used in characteristic of provisions of administrative and sanitary legislation on transportation of the bodies of the dead over the state border of Ukraine.

Among variety of risks concerning the increasing mobility of population in the times of globalization is the risk of death on the territory of a foreign state. In this regard a need for legal regulation of transportation of the bodies of the dead for their burial on the territory of Ukraine or their transportation from Ukraine to other states.

Service, employment or family circumstances often force people to live far from their native places. It happens that death may encounter them there. In such a case, from the diseased will or at will of the relatives the coffin with the corpse (the urn with the ashes) is prepared for transportation over the state border for subsequent burial.

But at the same time, there are cases where the movement of bodies

¹ The research was carried out within the framework of the research topic of the National University "Odesa Law Academy" for 2016–2020. "Strategy of Integration Development of Ukraine: Legal and Cultural Dimension" (state registration number 0116U001842).



of the dead is associated with a certain degree of risk – concealment both in the corpse (or in the corpse) and in the graves of items prohibited to move across the customs border of Ukraine, as well as distribution to the territory of Ukraine (or from the territory of Ukraine) especially dangerous types of quarantine infectious diseases or diseases associated with environmental and man-made disasters. These are challenges to public health, which, according to the WHO definition, relate to all organized activities (both public and private) that are being undertaken to prevent diseases, improve health and extend longevity [1]. This problem became especially important after signing the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union² and undertakings by Ukraine to implement international rules.

Certain aspects of the problem have been researched by I. Pokhylenko, O. Rozgon, S. Slipchenko, F. Fedotov [2–5], however the problem requires more profound research, considering the contemporary political and legal realities.

The sanitary and administrative legislation of Ukraine establishes a specific procedure dead bodies' transportation over Ukraine state border³. Thus, transportation of dead bodies from the territory of foreign states to Ukraine is allowed, subject to the fulfillment of a number of legal and technical requirements. Among the legal requirements is the notification of the relevant authorities of the state in the territory of which the death occurred, and the consular authorities of Ukraine for the purpose of state registration of death and the decision on the organization of transportation of the body. Technical requirements

include the embalming of the body and the use of a special sealed container.

The law of Ukraine “On burial and burial” [7] is the main national legislative act that defines the general grounds for activities in the field of burial of the deceased, the provision of ritual services, regulation of relations that arise after death (loss of life) of a person, concerning the burial procedure. According to Art. 6 of the said Law, all citizens have the right to burial their bodies and proper attitude to the body after death, which means the right to be buried in a certain place, according to certain customs, along with certain previously dead persons or to be subjected to cremation and to entrust execution of their will to a certain person. Movement of citizens through the customs border of Ukraine bodies of those who have died in coffins (casks with ashes) or the remnants of the deceased is carried out on the basis of a written application of citizens who carry out such a transfer, in the presence of documents specified in Art. 22 of this Law.

According to Art. 22 of the Law of Ukraine “On burial and funeral”, transportation (transferring) of deceased persons' bodies through the state border of Ukraine (including the movement through the territory of Ukraine in transit) is carried out on condition of presentation to the body of incomes and charges by the person who moves (accompanies) the body of the deceased death certificate or other document certifying the fact of death issued by the competent authority and a certificate that there are no investments in the body and coffin (urn), the movement of which through the state border of Ukraine is prohibited.

The certificate on the absence of a body and coffin (hives) of investments, the movement of which through the state border of Ukraine is prohibited, issues: in the case of removal of the coffin (urns) abroad – forensic medical expert in the presence of an official of the relevant customs authority; and in case of the import of a coffin (urns) into

² Cooperation, in particular, covers the following areas: a) strengthening the health care system of Ukraine and its potential; b) prevention and control of infectious diseases, increased risk preparedness for outbreaks of highly pathogenic diseases.

³ According to the Customs code of Ukraine, the customs border of Ukraine coincides with the state border.

the territory of Ukraine, the relevant competent authority of a foreign state with the legalization of such a certificate by a consular or diplomatic institution of Ukraine abroad [8]. At the same time, the certificate that there are no investments in the body and in the coffin (the urine), the movement of which through the state border of Ukraine is prohibited, is formed in an arbitrary form, since the provisions of the Law of Ukraine "On burial and funeral affairs" do not establish its form. The certificate is issued by the head of the examination department of the corpses of the Bureau of forensic medical examination of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine in the presence of an official of the customs of the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine, in the area of which there is a checkpoint located on the state border of Ukraine, through which the body of the deceased will be transferred.

The official of the customs of the State fiscal service of Ukraine (who is informed in advance about the movement of the body of the deceased person through the border, the relatives of the deceased or the funeral agency of the funeral agency, which provides services for moving the body of the deceased) must be present on the territory of the Bureau of forensic examination when issuing a certificate of the fact that in the body of the deceased and the tomb there are no objects prohibited to move across the customs border of Ukraine, when the body of the deceased has already undergone medical treatment and is subject to initial training for burial. Such certificate is certified by a signature and seal of the Forensic Medical Expert of the Forensic Medical Examination Bureau and a personalized numbered seal of the official of the Customs of the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine.

One should also pay attention to the fact that the trans-border transporta-

tion of corpses of people is very relevant to the sanitary protection of the territory of Ukraine, which system includes: organizational, medical and sanitary, sanitary, hygienic, preventive and anti-epidemic measures aimed at preventing entry and spread on the territory of Ukraine of especially dangerous infectious diseases, and in case of their occurrence – to prevent the spread of these diseases beyond Ukraine, as well as to prevent the import of dangerous goods to Ukraine on the territory of Ukraine and human health [9].

The State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of Ukraine carries out sanitary measures to protect the territory of Ukraine from the entry and spread of particularly dangerous (including quarantine) and dangerous infectious diseases, as well as measures of state sanitary and epidemiological surveillance and control at the crossing of the state border, issues permits, conclusions, hygiene certificates, other documents of permissive character, stipulated by the legislation. The State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of Ukraine is included in the system of executive bodies in the field of health [10]. In connection with this, it is believed that representatives of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of Ukraine together with representatives of the customs authorities must issue the necessary certificate on the basis of the conclusion of the medical expert.

After receiving a certificate in the presence of a forensic expert, an official of the customs authority, a funeral agent and relatives of the deceased⁴, a zinc coffin closure with the body of the deceased and placing the coffin in a wooden container (for transportation by air or rail). The control bands of the Bureau of forensic examination of the Office of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine are superimposed on such a container (in the places where it is closed), and on the accompanying documents the stamp "Under the Customs

⁴ We also stress the presence of a representative of the sanitary and epidemiological service, which is entrusted with the implementation of sanitary and epidemiological surveillance.



Control” is affixed. The specified order extends to the movement of the funeral urns with the ashes of the deceased through the customs border.

In some cases, during the hanging and sending of a coffin, the presence of a representative of the consular service of the state in which it is planned to carry out the burial of the body of the deceased is possible. Relatives of the deceased or the funeral agent must duly complete all the necessary documents, including placing on them a special stamp – an apostille provided for by the Hague International Convention for the Certification of Official Documents Abroad.

Further, when moving the body of the deceased through the customs border of Ukraine, persons accompanying the body of the deceased (relatives of the deceased, the funeral agent or employees of the service brigades of the funeral agency, which provide delivery of the container with the coffin to the vehicle, its transfer), the above documents are submitted to officials of the Customs of the State fiscal service of Ukraine.

Despite the rather detailed legal regulation of the procedure for moving through the customs border of Ukraine the bodies of the dead in the coffins (urns with ashes), in practice there are many difficulties. So, moving through the customs border of Ukraine bodies of dead in coffins (buttocks with ashes) are only permitted at checkpoints located on the state border of Ukraine, equipped with such technical means of customs control as X-ray television devices and scanning X-ray machines. The indicated technical

means of customs control are located only on the territories of checkpoints located on the state border of Ukraine for international traffic. At the same time, such equipment is absent at checkpoints located on the state border of Ukraine for interstate communication⁵. As a result, the death of a deceased person in a coffin (an urn with ashes) is visually inspected by an official of the customs of the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine at the border crossing point located on the state border of Ukraine for interstate communication.

It should also be noted that the container with a coffin, prepared for shipment, is quite heavy (about 200 kilograms). Therefore, when delivered to a plane or train, his train is usually accompanied by close relatives of a deceased or a professional brigade of loaders (funeral service, agency). Persons accompanying the container with the coffin and the body of the deceased should have a corresponding package of documents drawn up in the country from which the body of the deceased is taken out.

The opening of the coffin (urns) is possible only in exceptional cases – in the presence of reliable information on investments, the movement of which through the state border of Ukraine is prohibited. Disclosure is made in a special building of the health care institution of Ukraine, in the presence of an official of the body of incomes and charges and the person accompanying the coffin (urn), or the representative of the undertaking that carries out the carriage, as well as other persons in cases stipulated by law, with observance requirements of the sanitary and epidemiological legislation of Ukraine [7].

Speaking about the registration of the death of citizens of Ukraine who have died abroad, it should be noted that it is being conducted by a consul on the last place of residence of the deceased, at the place of death, detection of the body of the deceased or at the burial site. In case of registration of death not in the consular district where the deceased dies, the con-

⁵ Points of passage, in accordance with the Regulation on points of entry through the state border and control points, are classified internationally (passage through the state border of citizens, vehicles and cargoes of any states, as well as stateless persons); interstate (passing through the state border of citizens, vehicles and cargoes of Ukraine and the adjacent state); local (passage through the state border of citizens of Ukraine and the adjacent state living in border areas (areas) and vehicles belonging to them, unless otherwise provided by international treaties of Ukraine).





sul who has registered the death reports the registration of death to the diplomatic mission or consular establishment of Ukraine where the deceased was registered, indicating the surname, name and patronymic of the deceased, as well as number and date of death certificate record. Registration of death in Ukraine is made on the written application of the relatives of the deceased, the competent authorities of the host country, the administration of the institution where death occurred, and other persons on the basis of: a medical document on death issued by a medical institution (which must be translated and legalized in the prescribed manner); certificate of death issued by the competent authorities of the receiving state (the document must also be translated and legalized in the prescribed manner).

According to the provisions of the legislation of Ukraine, in the event of a notification of a person's death, healthcare workers immediately notify the units of the National Police by emergency call (on each case of establishing them the fact of death of a person, regardless of the place of its occurrence, including maternity and newborns children, with the exception of death from diseases in health care facilities) [12]. In the presence of signs of violent death or suspicion of such a situation, before the arrival of officials of the body or unit of the National Police at the scene of the incident, employees of health facilities are prohibited from violating the situation at the location of the corpse, moving it, allowing such actions to be carried out on the spot of events by persons including relatives of the deceased, to issue a medical certificate or a paramedic certificate of death in the form approved by the order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine dated August 8, 2006 № 545.

In case of death of a person at the place of his residence without signs of violent death or suspicion of such a place, the doctor leaves for the place of the event, and in cases stipulated by the order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine

dated August 8, 2006 № 545, – a medical assistant of the institution of health protection I, who declares the death, carries out a corpses survey, the results of which inform the organs and units of the National Police and the administration of the health care institution, which provides the population with medical care in the respective territory, about the possibility of establishing Jičín death without patoloanoatomical dissection and the possibility of issuing medical death certificate (local certificate of death).

In the case of death of a person outside the health facilities, when the medical certificate of death (parental nursing certificate) was issued without a pathologoanatomical section, the doctor (paramedic) of the health establishment who issued the certificate (certificate) within three days from the date of the death of the disease (with the exception of death from illness in health facilities) sends to the body of the National Police in whose territory the health care institution is located, a copy of the medical certificate of death (paramedical evidence and the death), stamped this health institution.

In the event that it is not possible to involve a forensic expert in time, examination by the investigator (prosecutor) of the corpse is carried out with the mandatory participation of a forensic medical expert or a physician.

Employees of the Bureau of Forensic Medical Examination: They conduct a coronary department within 24 hours from the moment of its receipt to the bureau of forensic medical examination; provide for three days to the investigator or prosecutor, who sent the corpse for examination, a copy of the medical certificate of death; carry out, on the appointment of the investigator or prosecutor, forensic examination of the corpse with all necessary laboratory tests and within a period of not more than one month make an expert opinion; send the expert's report to the investigator or prosecutor, who sent the corpse





for examination, within three days after its completion; inform the investigator or the prosecutor in writing informing the corpse of the office, exceeding the terms of the forensic examination and giving the expert opinion; with the written permission of the prosecutor, which is provided immediately after the forensic examination of the corpse and the selection of the necessary samples for the purpose of carrying out laboratory investigations, issued a corpse.

In accordance with the provisions of Art. Art. 72–73 Fundamentals of Ukrainian legislation on health care, mandatory pathoanatomical sections are carried out in the presence of suspicion of violent death, as well as in the event that the death of the patient occurred at a health facility [13].

The procedure for conducting a pathoanatomical section is determined by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. In case of disagreement with the citizen with the conclusions of the state medical examination and in other cases stipulated by law, an alternative medical (medical-social, military-medical) examination or pathoanatomical section is carried out by the specialists of the corresponding profile and qualification at the request of the citizen. In this case, the expert institution and experts are chosen by the citizens on their own.

Authorized employees of the bodies and units of the National Police of Ukraine in the matter of establishing the fact of death of a person without signs of violent death or suspicion of such a place of residence:

- make registration in the magazine of a single record of applications and reports of criminal offenses committed and other events, the form of which is given in Annex 2 to the Regulations on the procedure for maintaining a unified record in the police authorities statements and reports of criminal offenses and other events, approved by the order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine from 06.11.2015 № 1377;

- leave immediately upon notice of the fact of the death of a person at the place of residence without signs of violent death or suspicion of such a place of occurrence, together with a medical practitioner and, if necessary, with other specialists;

- according to the results of the inspection of the corpse, after finding out the circumstances of death and in the absence of signs of violent death or suspicion of such – make a conclusion on the non-violent death of a person at the place of residence.

In the case of a notification of a fact of violent death of a person or suspicion of such or establishing such facts during the inspection of the corpse (part of the corpse) of a person who died suddenly or in an uncertain circumstances, as well as the body of an unidentified person, the investigatory and operational the group, the experts of the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the forensic expert (if it is impossible to involve a forensic medical expert in a timely manner – a doctor) and, if necessary, other specialists.

Must be sent for the forensic examination of corpses (parts of corpses) of people: with signs of violent death or suspicion of such death; the death of which occurred suddenly or in uncertain circumstances; the death of which occurred beyond the place of their residence; whose person is not installed.

The procedure for carrying out forensic medical examination of the corpse is regulated by the Fundamentals of Ukrainian Health Law, the Law of Ukraine “On Funeral and Funeral”, the Law of Ukraine “On Forensic Examination”, procedural law, other legislative acts, the Instruction on conducting forensic examinations, Rules for carrying out forensic medical examinations (investigations) of corpses at the bureau of forensic medical examination.

Regarding the registration of deaths of citizens of Ukraine who died on the road on a sea, river, aircraft, train or other vehicle, it is carried out at the nearest diplomatic mission or



consular post of Ukraine upon presentation by the applicant of the necessary documents. In the "Place of Death" column of the record of death, the location of the diplomatic mission or consular post where death registration is recorded shall be indicated. On the basis of the death certificate, the consul issues a certificate of death for presentation to the bodies of social protection of the population for receiving assistance for burial.

There remains a disputable question of the place of relations with the inter-border transportation of dead bodies in the system of law of Ukraine. We emphasize that the established procedure for the inter-border transportation of dead bodies is a measure of ensuring the sanitary and epidemic welfare of the population aimed at eliminating or reducing the harmful effects on human factors of the environment of life, preventing the emergence and spread of infectious diseases and their elimination [14]. It is believed that relations in the field of sanitary well-being are included in the subject of medical law of Ukraine, which is a complex branch [15–16]. Subsidiary of medical law of Ukraine is a sanitary law that regulates social relations in the sphere of sanitary and epidemiological well-being of the population and aims at ensuring such a state of health of the population and the environment of human life, in which the rates of morbidity are at an established level for the territory, favorable conditions of living for the population, and parameters of environmental factors are within the limits defined by the sanitary norms. State regulation in this area is carried out with the help of instruments of both medical and administrative law.

Moving dead bodies across the state border of Ukraine is an administrative procedure, the stages of which are registration of the fact of death; receiving a certificate that there are no attachments in the body and the coffin (the urine), the movement of which through the state border of Ukraine is prohibited; preparing the body for moving across the state bor-

der of Ukraine and, directly, transporting the body. The procedure for moving dead bodies across the state border of Ukraine is regulated in detail by the provisions of the administrative and medical legislation of Ukraine: the Customs Code of Ukraine, the Laws of Ukraine "On burial and funeral" and "On ensuring the sanitary and epidemiological well-being of the population", as well as subordinate legal acts. The main problem with the application of the provisions of the law, which regulates the procedure for the movement of dead bodies across the state border of Ukraine, is related to the need to systematize an array of such legal acts. At present, given that the idea of progress in legal regulation is often identified with the idea of quantitative accumulation of legal acts, the provisions on the movement of dead bodies across the state border of Ukraine are scattered in various laws and by-laws of Ukraine. It is obvious that the number can not be a criterion for a qualitative change in legal regulation, therefore, it is urgent to develop a unified procedure for moving through the state border of bodies of the deceased at the level of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Key words: transportation of bodies of dead, death certificate, funeral business, state border, sanitary well-being, sanitary-epidemiological control.

The article is devoted to the characterize the provisions of the legislation of Ukraine, that regulate the procedure of transportation over the border of Ukraine of the bodies of the dead and regulate the questions, connected with protection of health and ensuring the sanitary-epidemiological well-being of the population, arranging pathoanatomical and forensic medical examination in order to provide the necessary documents when moving bodies of those who have died through the customs border of Ukraine. It has been established that although the statistics of movements of the bodies of



the dead across the customs border of Ukraine are insignificant (and in relation to transit traffic of such bodies of the dead in general rare), this movement is still carried out, but due to increasing mobility of the population and the risks arising from it and tend to to growth, there is a need for a legal settlement of issues related to such a move, as well as to systematize the relevant legislation.

Статтю присвячено характеристиці положень законодавства України, якими регламентовано порядок перевезення тіл померлих через кордон України та врегульовано питання охорони здоров'я і гарантування санітарно-епідеміологічної безпеки населення, організації патологоанатомічної та судово-медичної експертизи з метою надання необхідних документів для переміщення тіл загиблих через митний кордон України. Встановлено, що хоча статистика переміщень через митний кордон України тіл померлих є незначною (а щодо транзитних перевезень таких тіл взагалі рідкісною), усе ж таке переміщення здійснюється, а у зв'язку зі зростаючою мобільністю населення та ризиками, що виникають внаслідок цього та мають тенденцію до зростання, постає необхідність у правовому врегулюванні питань, пов'язаних із таким переміщенням, а також систематизації відповідного законодавства.

Стаття посвячена характеристиці положень законодавства України, котрими регламентован порядок перевезення тіл умерших через границу Украины и урегулированы вопросы здравоохранения и обеспечения санитарно-эпидемиологической безопасности населения, организации патологоанатомической и судебно-медицинской экспертизы с целью предоставления необходимых документов для перемещения тел погибших через

таможенную границу Украины. Установлено, что хотя статистика перемещения через таможенную границу Украины тел умерших незначительна (а транзитные перевозки таких тел вообще являются редкостью), все же такое перемещение осуществляется, а в связи с растущей мобильностью населения и рисками, возникающими вследствие этого и имеющими тенденцию к росту, возникает необходимость в правовом урегулировании вопросов, связанных с таким перемещением, а также в систематизации соответствующего законодательства.

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