

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MINORS: HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL DOCUMENTS

*Captain Gadoymirodov Bekzod Obidjon ugli ,
lecturer at the Department of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal
Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan
ORCID: 0009-0006-6719-952X*

Abstract: This article analyzes the issue of administrative liability for minors from historical, legal, and practical perspectives. The developmental process from the early legal norms of the 19th century to modern international standards of the 21st century is chronologically illuminated. The article demonstrates the significance of juvenile accountability using examples of the current situation in Uzbekistan, judicial statistics, and dynamics of youth offenses. It is also emphasized that the main objective should not be the punishment of minors, but rather their re-education and adaptation to social life.

Keywords: minors, administrative liability, offenses, juvenile court, re-education, legal awareness, UN Convention, historical development, crime prevention, youth policy, administrative law, social integration, court statistics, educational measures, international law.

Minors are the future of every society, the main foundation of its spiritual and legal stability. Therefore, one of the important tasks facing society is shaping the worldview of the younger generation, developing their legal consciousness, and protecting them from criminal and administrative offenses. Today, when establishing administrative liability for minors, not only their actions are taken into account, but also age, mental state, and educational factors.

The Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan published statistics on cases considered by criminal courts in the first quarter of 2025. According to the data, 15,681 criminal cases were considered against 19,646 individuals. The number of convicted persons was 15,369, including:

- 4,764 people - sentenced to imprisonment;
- 10,319 people - subjected to other types of punishment;
- 286 people - given suspended sentences.

Among those convicted, 6,066 were young people, of whom 702 were minors¹. These figures indicate the need for scientific and practical analysis of the problem of juvenile delinquency and strengthening measures to prevent such cases.

Administrative responsibility for minors is not a punishment, but a means of upbringing, rehabilitation, and social adaptation. In every country, this process should be implemented based on legal, ethical, and pedagogical approaches.

Throughout history, various penalties have been applied in different periods and countries for offenses committed by minors, depending on the nature of their actions and their age. For instance, the Statute on Punishments Imposed by the World Courts of 1864 contained provisions regarding the liability of minors. Specifically, individuals who committed misconduct under the age of 10 could not be held administratively liable. According to paragraph 11, minors aged 10 to 17 years were subject to penalties amounting to half of what was stipulated in the Statute. A

¹ <https://kun.uz/kr/news/2025/04/22/2025-yil-birinchi-choragida-47-ming-kishi-ozodlikdan-mahrum-qilindi>.

magistrate could, without punishing a minor under 14 years of age, hand them over to guardians, parents, or relatives "for correction at home"².

Scholars in the field of administrative law associate the emergence of administrative responsibility as an independent form of legal liability for minor offenses with the adoption of the Statute on Punishments Imposed by Justices of the Peace in 1864³.

The historical development of responsibility for administrative offenses against minors has evolved differently in various countries. Legislation and legal systems in this area underwent particularly dramatic changes in the 20th century. We can examine this by dividing it into the following periods:

The first period encompasses the 19th century, during which the legal foundations for administrative liability against minors began to take shape.

The Statute on Punishments Imposed by the World Courts, adopted in 1864, is recognized as one of the first historical documents in this regard. Clause 11 of this statute stipulated that fines and penalties for individuals aged 10 to 17 were to be set at half the total amount. Additionally, minors under 14 years of age could be handed over to their parents or guardians without a court decision.

The "External Youth Court," established in Britain in 1839, and the first "Juvenile Court," established in Chicago, USA, in 1899, became the basis for special approaches to juvenile criminal cases;

The second period encompasses the 20th century, and at the beginning of this period, special types of liability for minors began to form in jurisprudence. Such courts and penal systems served the purpose of educating young people and reintegrating them into society. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the UN in 1989, marked a new stage in international law. According to it, minors should be protected as human beings in all circumstances, and punishment should be imposed on them taking into account their age, behavior, and social conditions;

The third period, covering the 1950s-1980s, is considered the period of development of administrative penalties.

Administrative penalties for minors and laws aimed at protecting their rights have been developed.

Theoretical changes were introduced to the juvenile justice system in Japan and European countries. For young offenders, the focus shifted towards administrative penalties, compulsory education, rehabilitation, and social reintegration.

Countries like Switzerland and Norway developed administrative penalty systems for minors. These systems aim to protect the rights of minors and focus on their re-education.

The fourth period covers the 1990s. From this time, international relations and legislation concerning minors' rights were further improved.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) aimed to develop fair approaches towards youth for any offense. When imposing administrative penalties, attention was given to ensuring social protection and reintegration of young people.

The fifth period covers the 2000s in the field of international law.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the main goal of imposing administrative penalties on minors became re-education and social integration. Criminal sentences often transformed into education and rehabilitation courses, social services, or mandatory referrals.

International criminal courts and legislation sought to improve and regulate penalties applicable to minors. In particular, the International Criminal Court adopted resolutions aimed at protecting the rights of minors.

² Устав о наказаниях, налагаемых мировыми судами 1864 г. [Электронный ресурс] / «Традиция» Русская энциклопедия. Электрон. Дан

³ Кононов К.А. Развитие законодательства об административной ответственности в России // Lex russica. 2016. № 1. С. 34.

Significant steps in the history of administrative responsibility for minors have been related to developing standards for protecting young people's rights and imposing criminal or administrative penalties on them. At the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st centuries, the main goal of administrative responsibility for minors was their re-education and proper reintegration into society.

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