Summary of Case Report AJB-406/2017 of the OPCAT Visit to the Nagymágocs Castle Home of the Integrated Care Center in Csongrád County (September 12-14, 2017)

On September 12-14, 2017, the OPCAT National Preventive Mechanism (hereinafter: the "NPM") made an unannounced visit to the Nagymágocs Castle Home of the Integrated Care Center in Csongrád County.

The institute provides care to 302 elderly residents, out of which 174 persons live in the main castle and 128 persons receive care in the small castle building, including 16 addicts. 88 persons have been placed under guardianship (out of which 46 persons have fully limited capacity, while the legal capacity of 42 persons is restricted). In case of 21 residents, the process of placement under guardianship was in progress at the time of our visit.

The investigation concluded that, based on the size of the rooms and the number of inpatients, the statutory minimum living space of six square meters per person was not provided. In many cases, 5, 6, 7, 8, or even 9, 10, 11 or 12 beds were placed in one room.

The castle building was not accessible, therefore it is not suitable for the placement of the patients.

The institute did not employ a full-time doctor, the residents are cared for by the family doctor, who may not provide regular examinations due to his other commitments. A psychiatrist also checks the patients every two weeks, however, he only examines the patients when it is deemed important by the nurses. The report called attention to that the hiring of a psychologist would be advisable.

They provided three rooms for "married" couples but there was no conjugal room; therefore, the NPM established an impropriety related to the right to privacy and family life and the right to human dignity.