

Summary of Case Report AJB-2951/2020

OPCAT Visit to the Residential Care Home of the Integrated Care Center of Tolna County

On June 4, 2020, the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, who is responsible for performing the tasks of the OPCAT National Preventive Mechanism (hereinafter the "NPM") and his staff members paid a visit to the Residential Care Home of the Integrated Care Center of Tolna County in Regöly (hereinafter the "Institute").

The visit aimed to investigate the enforcement of measures with regard to the prevention of COVID-19 cases. Due to the state of emergency declared by Government Decree No. 40/2020. (III.11.), the visit was previously announced to the Institute.

The members of the visiting group, wearing protective equipment, monitored the circumstances and daily activities of the residents with regard to the restrictions introduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The group also examined whether the Institute disposes of sufficient protective equipment and sanitizers, and whether they use these properly.

The visit also examined the personal and physical environment of the residents, and the medical check-ups during the state of emergency.

The number of the residents living in the Residential Care Home was 8, out of which 5 were women and 3 men. Two of the residents were partners. One resident had full legal capacity, the other residents lived with partially restricted legal capacity and had a guardian.

The Integrated Institute took the necessary measures for the prevention of the COVID-19 infection and had a detailed action plan with regard to the tasks of the staff members.

The medical check-ups done by the general practitioner were ensured. When a potentially more serious condition was suspected regarding one of the residents, the examinations necessary for an accurate diagnosis were postponed due to the pandemic. With regard to the fact that an early diagnosis is usually essential for a full recovery, the NPM established an irregularity with regard to the right to physical and mental health.

All the residents could continue their work within the Kézmű Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft in Kiskunmajsa, which activity was joyful for them.

Most of the residents did not have regular visits by their family members before the restrictions, so they did not suffer from the prohibition of visits. The residents had a wifi connection and made use of all possible ways of alternative communication via Internet (Facebook, Messenger) and had regular telephone calls as well. They missed their visits home and the regular outside activities, city programs which they used to have before the pandemic.