



Abstract

This article analyzes Romania's progressive approach to prisoners' affective rights, focusing on intimate visits, family relationships, and social reintegration initiatives. Demonstrating an innovative model in Europe, the Romanian penal system recognizes and supports affective relationships as essential factors in the rehabilitation process. Studies and practical experiences highlight the positive impact on emotional stability, recidivism reduction, and social reintegration, offering an example for other European countries.

1. Introduction

Romania stands out for its advanced practices in protecting and promoting the affective rights of prisoners, being considered a model in Europe regarding how the penal system addresses affective relationships. The system of intimate visits and initiatives to maintain family relationships within prisons have contributed to reducing stigma, preventing recidivism, and facilitating social reintegration. In this context, we analyze the legal principles, implemented activities, challenges, and the impact of these measures on the rehabilitation process.

2. Legal and Conceptual Framework for Affectivity and Reintegration

Law no. 254/2013 regulates prisoners' rights concerning affective relationships, ensuring the right to intimate visits (with spouses or long-term partners), conditioned upon meeting specific conduct criteria, participation in reintegration programs, and relationship authenticity. In practice, these visits are organized in controlled conditions, in specially arranged spaces, and can include, in the case of marriages within the prison, visits of up to 48 hours.

3. Structured Group Interventions to Develop Family and Parental Skills

Besides the legal framework, the Romanian penal system implements various initiatives aimed at supporting family relationships and developing parental skills:

- Structured group interventions – workshops and working sessions for parents and children, such as “Me and My Child” and “Steps Towards the Family”, aimed at enhancing parental skills, communication, and emotional management.
- Individual and group counseling – for managing emotions, conflicts, and developing social skills.
- Parenting education programs – designed to strengthen the parental role and prepare inmates for reintegration.
- Cultural and recreational activities – theatrical performances, concerts, and sports events to reduce stress and foster a positive environment.

These initiatives help maintain and strengthen affective bonds, with significant positive effects on mental health and motivation for social reintegration.

4. Affectivity as a Motivational and Reward Factor

Within the Romanian penal system, emotional well-being also serves as a motivational tool. Compliance with rules and participation in programs can be rewarded with special visits or temporary permits, up to 30 days per year. Thus, affectivity becomes an integral part of the social reintegration process, reinforcing the importance of social relationships and encouraging positive behavior.

5. Challenges and Limitations

Although progress has been made, the Romanian system still faces difficulties related to infrastructure variability, social stigma against prisoners, and the delicate balance between security and intimacy. Continuous development, evaluation, and legal protection of these services are essential to sustain and improve such models.

6. Conclusions

Romania demonstrates that affective relationships within the penal context can be legally guaranteed and practically realized, contributing substantially to the rehabilitation process. Through a progressive legal framework, practical initiatives, and structured support, the Romanian penal system promotes the fundamental right to intimacy and social ties as essential components of recovery and social reintegration. This model offers a valuable example for other European countries and should be considered an integral part of modern criminal justice policies, emphasizing humanization and respect for fundamental rights.

7. Bibliography

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