

Legislative Update

Update on Displacement-related Legislation | June 2025



Adopted Legislation

- **Centralisation of social assistance payments under the PFU**
- **Citizenship Law**

Adopted Legislation

Centralisation of social assistance payments under the PFU

In June, the Government began centralising social assistance payments under the Pension Fund of Ukraine. From 1 July 2025, the Pension Fund is responsible for the appointment and payment of a wide range of benefits previously administered by the Ministry of Social Policy. The reform is being implemented through three Resolutions:

- [Resolution #695 dd. 11 June 2025](#) transfers to the Pension Fund the appointment and payment of state social assistance for persons not entitled to a pension, persons with disabilities, care allowances, assistance for persons with disabilities from childhood and for children with disabilities, as well as funeral assistance for these categories.
- [Resolution #765 dd. 25 June 2025](#) transfer 30 additional types of social assistance, including the IDP subsistence allowance, a number of one-time payments, and social scholarships.
- [Resolution #766 dd. 23 June 2025](#) (two-year pilot project coordinated by the MoSP and assistance paid via the PFU) covers certain child-related payments, such as assistance for children under guardianship or custody, for children of single mothers, and for the birth of a child – the last covering financial support provided to parents or guardians around the time a child is born to help with initial care and needs.

General timeframes valid for all resolutions:

- From 1 July 2025, the Pension Fund will take over full responsibility for the appointment and payment of social assistance under these three Resolutions. The Ministry of Social Policy is responsible for transferring all related functions by this date. Oblast and local authorities, together with the Departments of Social Protection, are tasked with coordinating the transfer at the local level to the pension fund branches.
- By 25 June 2025, social protection bodies had to transmit digital case files and payment lists for July to the Pension Fund. Paper files are to be transferred by 1 June 2026, or within a month after resuming work, where a local office is not functioning.
- By 15 July 2025, social protection bodies were required to transfer applications where decisions have not been made as of 30 June 2025. The Pension Fund then has 10 business days to review transferred cases and take decisions.
- Recipients are obliged to undergo identification until 1 October 2025. It may be carried out in different ways: in person at a Pension Fund office, through the Pension Fund's Digital Cabinet, by a Ukrainian diplomatic mission abroad, via video identification, or on the basis of a medical certificate of temporary work incapacity.

The consequences of not undergoing identification vary: under Resolution #695, missed identification can be completed later, with payments retroactively made for the eligible period, while under Resolutions #765 and #766, payments are suspended. Resolution #765 requires the Pension Fund to actively contact recipients when it is time to reapply or update their beneficiary information.

Citizenship Law

On 18 June, the Parliament adopted [Law #4502-IX](#), introducing amendments to the Law on Citizenship of Ukraine. It introduces multiple citizenship and updates rules on the acquisition of citizenship and grounds for its revocation. The Law enters into force six months after its publication.

The first set of amendments introduces the recognition of **multiple citizenship** within the Ukrainian legal framework, including dual nationality acquired at birth; a Ukrainian child gaining the nationality of foreign adoptive parents; automatic acquisition through marriage; and certain cases where another nationality is gained automatically under foreign law as well as a simplified procedure for acquiring the Ukrainian citizenship by citizens of certain countries, (with the list yet to be developed).

The introduction of multiple citizenship into the Ukrainian legal framework has raised debate. The Constitution of Ukraine enshrines the principle of single citizenship, meaning that a person who holds the citizenship of Ukraine is recognised and treated solely as a citizen of Ukraine, regardless of any other citizenship they may possess. The Constitutional Court of Ukraine¹ has not yet issued an opinion on the matter; therefore, the question remains open and may be clarified by a future decision.

Another important set of amendments concerns the **acquisition of citizenship**. The law refines the rules for the acquisition of citizenship by birth, by descent (territorial origin), and by naturalisation.

On acquisition by birth, the law expands scenarios for children to acquire Ukrainian citizenship. These now cover certain cases for children born to foreigners who permanently live in Ukraine, to recognised refugees, people with asylum status granted², or stateless people³, if they do not obtain another citizenship at birth (with variations depending on whether the child was born in or outside Ukraine and whether the parents permanently or temporarily live in Ukraine).

On acquisition by descent, the law expanded and clarified two main avenues to acquire citizenship through territorial origin. Previously, there was only one scenario when a person, whether a foreigner or a stateless person, might apply if they or certain close relatives were born or permanently lived before 24 August 1991 on territory that is now Ukraine or on historic Ukrainian state formations. Now this ground was expanded by adding a second scenario, when a person born in Ukraine after 24 August 1991 may acquire citizenship if, at the time of birth, at least one parent was a foreigner who permanently resided in Ukraine. This route covers mixed-status families, including those where the other parent was a recognised refugee or a stateless person.

Naturalisation procedures have also been updated. The general requirement of five years of lawful residence remains a core condition for acquiring citizenship, but simplified pathways have been amended for some categories. In particular, the spousal exception – which provides a simplified route to citizenship for individuals married to a citizen of Ukraine – now requires a marriage duration of over three years (previously two years). Foreign citizens contracted to the Armed Forces of Ukraine also retain access to a simplified procedure for acquiring citizenship.

Applicants are required to hold an immigration permit and demonstrate lawful sources of income. These two requirements, however, do not apply to the recognised refugees, who are exempt due to the specific nature of their legal status.

The amendments also outline the requirements for applicants seeking to acquire citizenship by descent and naturalisation to possess knowledge of the Constitution, the history of Ukraine, and command of the state language; exams now cover all three elements at once.

The law clarifies the legal term “permanent residency”, which applies to foreigners and stateless persons holding a permanent residence permit, as well as to recognised refugees, but does not extend to documented asylum seekers or individuals under complementary protection. Although these groups also have a lawful basis for staying in Ukraine, they are not offered a pathway to citizenship. As a result, children in such families, even if born or residing in Ukraine,

¹ The Constitutional Court of Ukraine is empowered to provide official interpretation of the Constitution and to decide whether a law or other legal act complies with it. If the Court finds a contradiction, the law is declared unconstitutional and ceases to have legal effect.

² The status of asylum, granted by the President and envisaged in the Constitution and relevant laws, lacks implementation procedures and is therefore not functioning, even though current law formally treats refugees and persons granted asylum equally; however, the term ‘asylum granted’ is specific to Ukrainian legislation and does not correspond to international asylum or refugee status, remaining distinct from complementary protection or documented asylum seekers, who have a lower level of protection.

³ The Law distinguishes between stateless persons in general and those formally recognised as stateless in Ukraine, meaning individuals who have completed the Ukrainian procedure for establishing statelessness.

remain outside the scope of the amendments, creating a risk of statelessness if they cannot obtain citizenship from the other parent.

The law also establishes new grounds for **the revocation** of Ukrainian citizenship. One such ground is the voluntary acquisition of citizenship of a state recognised by Parliament as an aggressor or occupier, where a person has actively applied for it. Acquisition of the aggressor state's citizenship in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, or following deportation from such territory, is not considered voluntary, and therefore will not lead to the revocation of the Ukrainian citizenship, unless the person used their aggressor state's citizenship to promote propaganda or aggression.

Ground for revocation also includes service under contract in that aggressor state's armed forces, participation in the armed aggression against Ukraine or in the occupation administration. However, the law does not clearly define what constitutes participation in armed aggression and sets no clear boundaries as to who is considered part of the occupation administration, leaving room for further clarification.

Another ground concerns convictions for crimes against Ukraine's national security, peace, or public safety. Revocation requires a court decision, and to make this provision operational, corresponding amendments to the Criminal Code will be required to ensure proper legal coherence.

As a separate safeguard, the law explicitly prohibits revocation of citizenship if it would result in statelessness.

Finally, citizenship may also be revoked if it was obtained through false information, forged documents, or concealment of relevant facts, with the safeguard above not applicable.

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