

The Procedure for Determining the Status of a Single Parent and Related Legal Lacunas

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Recently, the number of single-parent families has increased significantly, with the majority of such families being single mothers, although fathers can also be single parents.

In the post-Soviet period, there was an entry in a government decree defining the category of single mothers. Some time later, the decree was repealed, and the norm for defining this status remained unregulated. The social welfare system was inactive, and single mothers had no access to state services.

In this situation, lawmakers were faced with the task of adopting a legal norm that would define the category of single mothers and protect their legal status.

Although the Constitution of Georgia stipulates that “the state shall take care of social protection. Protecting the welfare of the family” and that “the rights of mothers and children are protected by law,” but the fact is that the issue of single mothers remains problematic in the country.

A step forward should be considered the legislative change adopted in 2015, where the status of “single mother” was replaced

by the status of “single parent”. This legislative change provides for granting the status to both single mothers and single fathers and establishes special criteria, but these changes raise some questions, on which we will provide some opinions, where the legal status of both single mothers and single fathers and the related legal lacunas will be discussed.