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Penal Characteristics of Particularly Dangerous Recidivists (Conditions and Place of Serving the Sentence, Social Ties)

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Abstract

Introduction: the article analyzes penal characteristics of particularly dangerous recidivists who are held in special-regime correctional facilities on the basis of materials of the 2022 special census of convicts and persons in custody. Some features of the execution of imprisonment in these correctional institutions are shown. The article specifies distribution of convicts according to the time of transfer to the place of serving their sentence; duration of detention in a pre-trial detention center; conditions of serving the sentence; the place of serving the sentence; the number of correctional institutions; the use of the right to telephone conversations; the receipt and dispatch of money transfers; the number of parcels and transfers received; the number of book parcels received; and the number of short-term and long-term visitations allowed. *Purpose:* to provide a detailed analysis of penal characteristics of convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities. *Methods:* comparative law and empirical methods of description, interpretation, theoretical methods of formal and dialectical logic, a legal-dogmatic method and a method of interpretation of legal norms. *Results:* the specifics of the conditions and place of serving a sentence and social ties of this category of convicts are described. *Conclusion:* the information obtained will make it possible to boost effectiveness of achieving the goals of punishment in the execution of imprisonment in special-regime correctional facilities.

Key words: persons sentenced to imprisonment, special-regime correctional facilities, penal characteristics.

5.1.4. Criminal law sciences.

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Introduction

Recidivism has always posed an increased threat to the development of any state, includ-

ing the Russian Federation. This negative phenomenon is combated in all possible directions: preventive, legal, organizational, social, reli-

gious, etc. One of the directions of countering recidivism is the state's penal policy.

One of the significant directions in the fight against recidivism is the established special procedure for the execution of imprisonment in relation to particularly dangerous recidivists who serve their sentences in correctional facilities of a special regime. Their legal situation was analyzed by S.V. Mikheeva [1], correctional effect on convicts in terms of the use of various means of correction was considered by S.N. Bychkov [2], and educational work with convicts was studied by Yu.Yu. Kuchkarev and E.V. Zautorova [3].

For the purpose of correcting convicts, it is important to consider their penal characteristics revealed as a result of the Ninth special census of convicts and persons in custody conducted in December 2022 [4]. Within the framework of this article, such elements as conditions and a place of serving a sentence, as well as social ties of convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities, will be considered.

Research methodology.

The Ninth special census of convicts and persons in custody was conducted by filing information about the identity of convicts and detainees into a specially designed computer program based on indicators pre-determined in the census form. In the special-regime correctional facility, a questionnaire was filled out for every fifth convict determined by random sampling.

Conditions and a place of serving the sentence as of the date of the census.

As a general rule, under Part 1 of Article 73 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation, persons sentenced to imprisonment serve their sentences in correctional facilities on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation in which they lived or were convicted. However, Part 4 of this article establishes an exception for particularly dangerous recidivists, according to which this category of convicts is sent to serve their sentences in prisons located in places designated by the Federal Penitentiary System of Russia.

In accordance with the Order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation No. 17 of January 26, 2018 "On approval of the procedure for sending persons sentenced to imprisonment to serve their sentences in correctional

institutions and their transfer from one correctional institution to another", convicts are sent to serve their sentences no later than 10 days from the date of receipt of a notification of the entry into force of the court verdict by the administration of a pre-trial detention center or the correctional facility operating as a pre-trial detention center.

Given the remoteness of a special-regime correctional facility, the process of transfer from the pre-trial detention center may take a certain amount of time, with the possibility of temporary detention of convicts in transit points. In accordance with Part 7 of Article 76 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation, the maximum period of detention of convicts in transit points is no more than 20 days.

According to the results of the 2022 census, half of the convicts (51%) of this category were transferred to the place of serving their sentence within 10 days (Table 1).

Table 1
Distribution of convicts in special-regime correctional facilities according to the period of transfer to the place of serving the sentence (%)

Transfer period		
up to 10 days	over 10 days up to 1 month	over 1 month
50.9	33.9	15.2

The distribution of convicts by the time of their detention in pre-trial detention centers after the entry of the court verdict into legal force is presented in Table 2.

Table 2
Duration of detention in pre-trial detention centers of convicts who were sentenced to imprisonment in special-regime correctional institutions after the entry of the court verdict into legal force (%)

Term of detention in the pre-trial detention center	The 2022 census
up to 10 days	26.2
over 10 days up to 1 month	30.8
over 1 to 2 months	8.8
over 2 months	7.8
over 4 months	26.4
Total	100

In special-regime penal correctional institutions, normal, light and strict conditions of serving the sentence are established for convicts.

The division of convicts by conditions of serving the sentence is the realization of the principle of differentiating the execution of punishments, stipulated by Article 8 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation, as well as an element of the progressive system of the execution and serving the sentence.

Though the bulk of convicts are held directly in special-regime correctional institutions, there is an insignificant part of convicts who are assigned to serve their sentences in a special-regime penal correctional facility, but are held in other institutions:

- prison (transfer of persistent violators of the established order of serving the sentence in accordance with Article 78 of the Penal

Code of the Russian Federation for up to three years);

- pre-trial detention center (convicts who are to be sent to correctional institutions to serve their sentences; convicts transferred from one place of serving their sentences to another; convicts left in a pre-trial detention center or transferred to a pre-trial detention center in accordance with the procedure established by article 77.1 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation; convicts who are left in a pre-trial detention center with their consent for a period not exceeding six months);

- medical correctional facility;
- medical treatment and preventive care facility.

Table 3

Distribution of convicts by conditions of serving their sentences in special-regime correctional facilities (%)

Type of conditions (locations)	The 1999 census	The 2009 census	The 2022 census	
	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicted men serving the sentence in other correctional facilities
normal conditions	36.8	47.8	63.4	80.5
light conditions	6.3	13.8	11.6	10.1
strict conditions	56.9	38.4	22.5	6.4
preferential conditions			–	0.1
in a general regime prison			0.3	0.3
in a maximum security prison			1.8	1.8
in a penal colony, lives with his family in their own home or in rented accommodation			–	0.1
in a pre-trial detention center			0.4	0.7
total	100	100	100	100

As can be seen from the table, 97.5% of the convicts assigned to serve their sentences in the special-regime correctional facility are held in this institution in different conditions: 63.4% of them serve the sentence in normal, 11.6% – in light and 22.5% – in strict conditions.

An insignificant number of convicts are held in prison (maximum security or general regime)

– 2.1% (convicts found to be malicious violators of the established order of serving their sentences while serving the sentences in the special-regime correctional facility and transferred by the court to prison under Article 78 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation, for up to three years), as well as in a pre-trial detention center – 0.4%.

If we compare convicts held in the special-regime correctional facility with other convicted men serving their sentences, we can see the following:

- the proportion of persons held in strict conditions of serving the sentence in special-regime correctional facilities is much higher (3.5 times) than in other correctional facilities;
- the share of persons held in light conditions of serving the sentence in special-regime correctional facility is slightly higher (by 1.5%) than in other correctional facilities.

If we compare the conditions of serving sentences in dynamics, we can identify a trend of

constant significant reduction in the proportion of persons held in strict conditions: in 1999, the proportion of such persons exceeded half of all convicts and amounted to 56.9%; in 2009 – 38.4%, and in 2022 decreased to 22.5%, that is more than in twice in twenty-three years. Accordingly, the share of convicts serving the sentence in other conditions increased, to a greater extent in normal conditions and to a lesser extent in light conditions.

Table 4 shows the distribution of convicts assigned to serve the sentence in special-regime correctional facilities by the institutions they were kept on the census day.

Table 4

An institution where convicts were held on the census day (%)

Type of institution	The 2022 census	
	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicted men serving the sentence in other correctional facilities
juvenile correctional facility	0.0	1.8
correctional facility	91.3	79.6
prison	2.2	2.1
penal settlement	0.0	7.6
medical correctional facility	0.8	1.3
medical treatment and preventive care facility	4.2	3.8
pre-trial detention center (maintenance)	0.0	1.9
pre-trial detention center, area functioning as a pre-trial detention center (the sentence has entered into force, but the convicted person has not yet been sent to a correctional institution)	0.5	0.9
pre-trial detention center, area functioning as a pre-trial detention center (the convicted person has been transferred from the correctional facility or left there for investigative actions)	0.7	0.7
pre-trial detention center (the convicted person has less than 6 months to serve)	0.0	0.1
pre-trial detention center (convicted person is being transported to the correctional facility)	0.3	0.2
Total	100	100

Convicts sentenced to serve the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility may be held in other institutions due to various circumstances (illness, transportation, etc.). As can be seen from Table 4, there are no significant differences in the type of institution where the convicts were kept on the census date. According to current legislation, convicts sentenced

to serve the sentence in special-regime correctional institutions cannot be held in juvenile correctional facilities, penal settlements and pre-trial detention centers.

The data on the place of detention of inmates inside the correctional facility (table 5) are of great importance, as they allow certain conclusions to be drawn about characteristics of inmates.

*Place of detention on the census day (%)**Table 5*

Place of detention	The 2022 census	
	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicted men serving the sentence in other correctional facilities
in dormitories of the juvenile correctional facility, correctional facility, penal settlement	59.6	90.0
in the cell-type room of the special-regime correctional facility (in lockable rooms of general and strict regime correctional facilities)	34.9	3.1
in the general population cell in prison	1.7	1.9
in the solitary confinement in prison	0.6	0.2
in the penal (disciplinary) isolation ward of the juvenile correctional facility, correctional facility, penal settlement, prison	0.5	0.8
as a measure of punishment	0.7	1.6
in the solitary confinement of the special-regime correctional facility (in the cell-type room of general and strict regime correctional facilities)	0.5	0.2
in the single cell-type room	0.0	0.1
in the dormitory outside the protected area of the juvenile correctional facility, correctional facility	0.0	0.0
in their own or rented accommodation in the penal settlement, general-regime correctional facility	0.0	0.1
in the residential building in the juvenile correctional facility	1.5	2.0
in the cell of the pre-trial detention center, area functioning as a pre-trial detention center	100	100

As already noted, the most dangerous criminals are kept in special-regime correctional facilities. Being held in strict conditions, convicts do not live in lockable rooms, but in cell-type rooms. In addition, instead of a penalty in the form of transfer to a cell-type room, in the special-regime correctional facility convicts are transferred to a solitary confinement. If we compare convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities with other prisoners, it can be seen that in special-regime correctional facilities the proportion of people serving sentences in strict conditions (in cell-type rooms) is much higher – by 31.7%. This category of convicts is negatively characterized and is prone to violating conditions of serving their sentences. At the same time, the proportion of persons to whom

penalties such as placement in a penal isolation ward and transfer to a solitary confinement is applied is insignificant, but lower.

It is proven that the further away a correctional institution is from the place of residence and, accordingly, from relatives of the convicted person, the more difficult it is for him to maintain socially useful connections that positively influence his correction. In this regard, it is no coincidence that the legislator provided for in Article 73 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation a general rule according to which those sentenced to imprisonment serve their sentences in correctional facilities within the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation in which they lived or were convicted. Table 6 gives an idea of the place of serving the sentence.

Distribution of convicts according to the place of serving the sentence (%)

Place of serving the sentence	The 1999 census	The 2022 census	
	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicted men serving the sentence in other correctional facilities
in the area (city) where he lived before his arrest	4.9	7.7	25.2
in another area (city), but in the same subject of the Russian Federation, where he had permanent residence	33.0	28.8	49.5
in another subject of the Russian Federation at the place of conviction	3.2	3.8	4.2
in another subject of the Russian Federation not at the place of residence and not at the place of conviction	54.0	58.2	19.0
had no permanent residence	4.9	1.5	2.1
Total	100	100	100

Unfortunately, there is no data on the ratio of the convicted person's place of serving his sentence to his place of residence before his conviction according to the 2009 census. However, if we compare the places of serving sentences according to the censuses of 1999 and 2022, the following positive trends are visible:

- there is a slight increase in the proportion of people serving sentences in the area (city) where they lived before their arrest – from 4.9% in 1999 to 7.7% in 2022;
- there is a sharp decrease in the share of convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities who did not have a permanent place of residence before their conviction from 4.9% in 1999 to 1.5% in 2022.

At the same time, the proportion of convicts serving the sentence in another subject of the Russian Federation (not at their place of residence and not at the place of conviction) increased from 54.0% to 58.2%. This category of convicts is in the most vulnerable conditions in terms of maintaining socially useful ties. Some researchers argue that in some cases serving a sentence outside the place of residence may have a positive effect on the convicted person. For example, S.M. Savushkin believes that “if there is no work in the correctional facility where the convict is serving his sentence, and with his

consent, it might be advisable to transfer him to another region” [5. p. 88].

What is more, those held in special-regime correctional facilities much more often serve their sentences outside the subject of the Russian Federation in which they lived before their conviction. In special-regime correctional facilities, the proportion of such persons reaches 62.0%, while in other correctional institutions – 23.2%. The explanation for this circumstance is quite simple – the number of special-regime correctional facilities is significantly smaller (as of January 1, 2023 – 35 units) than the number of general (164) and strict (251) regime correctional facilities, as well as panel settlements (94).

The data on the place of imprisonment clearly characterize the dialectical contradiction noted in science. Public danger of a particularly dangerous recidivist necessitates exerting an increased educational influence on him, including with the help of his family, while the economic factors, on the contrary, determine the territorial distance of convicts from their place of permanent residence.

These data should be taken into account when deciding on establishing new special-regime and combined-type correctional facilities provided for in the Concept for the Develop-

ment of the Penal System of the Russian Federation for the Period up to 2030.

The issue of transporting convicts from one correctional facility to another is closely related to the place of serving the sentence. In some cases, possible transfer to other correctional facilities under Article 78 of the Penal

Code of the Russian Federation encourages a convicted person to behave. In other cases it can have a negative impact, for example, when a convict is transported to another facility of the same type. Table 7 shows a number of institutions in which the convict served his sentence.

Table 7

Distribution of convicts according to the number of correctional institutions in which they served the sentence (%)

Number of correctional institutions in which the convicted person served his/her sentence under the court verdict	The 1999 census	The 2022 census	
	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicted men serving the sentence in other correctional facilities
1	72.8	54.5	56.8
2	17.5	29.6	23.3
3	5.9	9.5	6.7
4 and more	3.8	6.4	13.2
total	100	100	100

If we compare the places of serving sentences according to the censuses of 1999 and 2022, it can be seen that the proportion of people serving sentences in one institution decreased significantly from 72.8% in 1999 to 54.5% in 2022.

Social ties of convicts

The punishment goal of correcting convicts is achieved through various means of correction, the main of which are outlined in Part 2 of Article 9 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation: established procedure for the execution and serving of punishment (regime), educational work, socially useful work, general education, vocational training and social impact. It seems that one of the means of correcting convicts is to maintain social ties between convicts and their family, relatives and other positive environment. Researchers proposed to include the maintenance of convicts' social ties in the list of basic means of correction provided for in Part 2 of Article 9 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation [6. p. 90]. This is exactly what the legislator did in the Republic of Kazakhstan (Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Article 7 of the Penal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan).

The maintenance of social ties of convicts is expressed in the following aspects of serving a sentence of imprisonment:

- going out the correctional facility;
- phone conversations;

- receiving money transfers;
- receiving parcels, transfers, and book parcels;
- short-and long-term visitations.

Unlike convicts serving sentences in juvenile correctional facilities, penal settlements, and general and strict regime correctional facilities, convicts serving sentences in special-regime correctional facilities are not allowed to go out the institution (Part 3 of Article 97 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation).

Under Article 92 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation, persons sentenced to imprisonment are granted the right to telephone conversations. The legislator does not formally limit the number of these conversations, but establishes that in the absence of technical capabilities the administration of the correctional institution can limit a number of telephone conversations to twelve per year.

Table 8 gives an idea of the use of the right to telephone conversations by convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities. The analysis of data on telephone conversations of convicts shows a clear progress in this direction, related to the equipping of almost all correctional facilities with communication facilities, which allows convicts to fully exercise the right to telephone conversations. In the period from 1999 to 2022, the share of convicts who used the right to telephone conversations at least

once a year increased from 3.2 to 78.8%. At the same time, more than half of the convicts serving their sentences in special-regime correctional facilities make more than 4 calls per year.

If in 1999 the share of convicts who did not use the right to telephone conversations for lack of technical capabilities amounted to 50.2%, then in 2022 – only to 0.6%.

Table 8

Distribution of convicts according to the use of the right to telephone conversations (%)

Number of telephone conversations of convicts per year		The 1999 census	The 2022 census	
		Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicted men serving the sentence in other correctional facilities
1 time		2.0	7.3	6.5
2 times		0.7	7.0	5.9
3 times		0.2	5.2	5.9
4 times		0.2	6.9	7.4
more than 4 times	0.1	52.4	62.4	
no telephone conversations for lack of technical capacities	50.2	0.6	0.4	
no telephone conversations for lack of money	1.5	0.8	0.6	
no telephone conversations because there was no one to call	5.1	4.9	1.6	
no desire	40.0	14.9	9.3	
total	100	100	100	

If we compare special-regime correctional facilities with other institutions, it can be seen that convicts in special-regime correctional facilities enjoy the right to telephone conversations somewhat less often. So, if the share of convicts in special-regime correctional facilities using the right to telephone conversations at least once a year is 78.8%, then in other institutions it is 88.1%. The key reasons for the lower demand for telephone conversations in special-regime correctional facilities are the lack of desire to call (14.9%) and the lack of people to call (4.9%).

Under Part 5 of Article 91 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation, persons sentenced

to imprisonment have the right to receive money transfers. In addition, at the expense of funds held in personal accounts (money earned while serving a sentence. pensions. benefits. etc.), convicts are entitled to transfer funds to close relatives, and with the permission of the prison administration to other persons.

Money transfers are sometimes the only opportunity for convicts to purchase food and basic necessities in the store (online store) of the correctional facility, since some convicts are not provided with paid work and, accordingly, do not receive wages (Table 9). Table 10 gives an idea about funds transferred by convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities.

Table 9

Distribution of convicts according to their receipt of money transfers (%)

Receipt of money transfers per year	The 1999 census	The 2022 census	
	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicted men serving the sentence in other correctional facilities
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
yes	7.1	42.5	41.9

1	2	3	4
no	92.9	57.5	58.1
total	100	100	100

Table 10

Distribution of convicts according to money transfers (%)

Money transfers per year	The 1999 census	The 2022 census	
	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicted men serving the sentence in other correctional facilities
yes	1.6	15.9	15.0
no	98.4	84.1	85.0
total	100	100	100

As can be seen from the data presented, the proportion of convicts serving sentences in special-regime correctional facilities and receiving money transfers increased significantly – by 6 times. What is more, the share of convicts serving sentences in special-regime correctional facilities and transferring money (usually to relatives) increased by 9.9 times. The emerging trends should be considered positive, as they indicate, on the one hand, preservation of convicts' social ties with their families, and, on the other hand, betterment of convicts' employment of and a financial situation of their relatives.

There is no significant difference in the receipt and transfer of funds between convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities and other convicts serving their sentences.

In accordance with Part 1 of Article 90 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation, persons sentenced to imprisonment are allowed to receive parcels, packages, and book parcels. Their number is limited according to the type of criminal record and the conditions of serv-

ing the sentence. In special-regime correctional facilities, convicts held in normal conditions are allowed to receive three parcels or packages and three book parcels during the year; convicts held in light conditions – four parcels or packages and four book parcels during the year; convicts held in strict conditions – one parcel or package and one book parcel during the year. As an encouragement measure (Article 114 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation), convicts may be allowed to receive up to four additional parcels or packages during the year. In addition, sick convicts, first and second-degree disabled convicts may receive additional parcels and packages in the quantity and assortment determined in accordance with the medical report.

Table 11 presents the number of parcels and packages received by convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities. Table 12 gives an idea of the number of book parcels received by convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities.

Table 11

Distribution of convicts according to the number of parcels and packages they received (%)

Number of parcels and packages received per year	The 1999 census	The 2022 census	
	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicted men serving the sentence in other correctional facilities
1	2	3	4
1	-	29.1	16.9
2	-	20.8	17.9
3	-	10.6	18.2

1	2	3	4
4	-	5.3	13.5
5	-	2.4	4.7
6	-	1.3	2.9
7	-	0.4	1.5
8	-	0.6	1.0
9	-	0.1	0.5
10	-	0.2	0.4
11	-	0.0	0.2
12	-	0.2	0.9
0	54.0	29.0	21.4
total		100	100

Table 12

Distribution of convicts according to the number of book parcels they received (%)

Number of book parcels received per year	The 1999 census	The 2022 census	
	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicted men serving the sentence in other correctional facilities
1	-	17.1	13.3
2	-	6.1	6.4
3	-	1.3	3.1
4	-	0.6	2.2
5	-	0.1	0.3
6	-	0.1	0.2
7	-	0.0	0.0
8	-	0.0	0.0
9	-	0.0	0.0
10	-	0.0	0.0
11	-	0.0	0.0
12	-	0.0	0.0
0	66.4	74.7	74.5
total		100	100

So, in 2022, the proportion of convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities who did not receive a single parcel or package during the year decreased by almost half compared to 1999 (from 54.0% to 29.0%). It indicates an improvement in socially useful relationships of convicts. At the same time, the share of convicts who did not receive a single book parcel during the year increased slightly (from 66.4% to 74.7%). Convicts are less interested in receiving book parcels due to a change in postal rules that prohibited the transportation of food

products (sweets, cookies, etc.) in book parcels.

If we compare special-regime correctional facilities with other correctional institutions, we can come to a conclusion that convicts in special-regime correctional facilities receive parcels, packages and book parcels in smaller quantities, which is explained, first of all, by the loss of socially useful connections. In addition, the minimum number of permitted parcels, packages and book parcels is legally provided for in special-regime correctional facilities.

Under Part 1 of Article 89 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation, persons sentenced to imprisonment are provided with short-term visits lasting four hours and long-term visits lasting three days on the territory of the correctional facility. Long-term visits outside the correctional facility are not provided to convicts serving the sentence in special-regime correctional facilities. Visits of relatives or close people are crucial for maintaining socially useful ties.

During the year, prisoners in special-regime correctional institutions are allowed to have two short-term and two long-term visits in nor-

mal conditions of serving the sentence; three short-term and three long-term visits in light conditions; two short-term and one long-term visit in strict conditions. As an encouragement measure (Article 114 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation), a convicted person may be granted up to four additional short-term or long-term visits during the year.

Table 13 reveals the number of short-term visits with relatives or other persons in the presence of a representative of the prison administration provided to convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities.

Table 13

Distribution of convicts according to the number of short-term visits provided to them (%)

Number of short visits per year	The 1999 census	The 2022 census	
	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicted men serving the sentence in other correctional facilities
1	-	8.6	15.0
2	-	2.7	8.1
3	-	0.8	3.5
4	-	0.1	1.8
5	-	0.0	0.5
6	-	0.0	0.3
7	-	0.0	0.1
8	-	0.0	0.1
9	-	0.0	0.1
10	-	0.0	0.1
11	-	0.0	0.0
12	-	0.0	0.3
0	85.5	87.8	70.1
total		100	100

It is worrying that the overwhelming majority (87.8%) of convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities did not exercise their right to short-term visits during 2022. Compared to other correctional institutions, this indicator is higher (worse) by 17.7%. Of the inmates in special-regime correctional facilities who exercised the right to short-term visits, the majority had only one short-term visit during the year.

If we compare the data with the 1999 census, the proportion of inmates held in special-re-

gime correctional facilities who did not exercise the right to a short-term visit remained virtually unchanged.

Long visits are granted with the right to live together with a spouse, parents, children, adoptive parents, adopted children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren, and with the permission of the head of the correctional facility with other persons. Table 14 gives an idea of the number of long-term visits granted to inmates.

Table 14

Number of long-term visits granted to inmates in special-regime correctional facilities (%)

Number of long-term visits per year	The 1999 census	The 2022 census	
	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicts serving the sentence in the special-regime correctional facility	Convicted men serving the sentence in other correctional facilities
1	-	10.3	12.4
2	-	3.4	9.1
3	-	1.4	4.8
4	-	0.5	2.2
5	-	0.2	0.5
6	-	0.2	0.3
7	-	0.0	0.1
8	-	0.0	0.1
9	-	0.0	0.1
10	-	0.0	0.0
11	-	0.0	0.0
12	-	0.0	0.1
0	92.7	84.0	70.3
total		100	100

In 2022, the share of convicts held in special-regime correctional institutions who did not use their right to long-term visits was also very high (84.0%). Compared with the 1999 census, the proportion of convicts who did not exercise the right to long-term visits decreased by 8.7%. When compared with other correctional facilities, the proportion of convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities who did not exercise their right to long-term visits was by 13.7% higher.

How can we explain the fact that convicts so rarely use short- and long-term visits?

First, the fact that many convicts serve their sentences far from home and family is reflected in the census. Relatives and friends often cannot afford (even within the framework of the norms established by the Penal Code of the Russian Federation) to visit convicts for financial reasons, their state of health, etc.

Second, some convicts held in special-regime correctional facilities have lost socially useful ties with relatives and friends due to recidivism and long sentences. According to the 2022 census, 69.9% of those serving the sentence in special-regime correctional facilities were not married, and the marriage of 8.9% of the convicts broke up [4, pp. 12–13].

Third, this result was influenced by the development of information technologies, primarily the telephone network. With the wider introduction of the practice of providing video visits to

convicts, an increase in the role of traditional visits is not expected.

Fourth, the frequency of visits was affected by the coronavirus pandemic. For several years, correctional facilities had been closed to relatives for reasons of non-proliferation of the epidemic. Although the restrictions on visits were lifted in 2022, convicts and their family members got used to communicate in the easiest way, namely through money transfers, parcels and telephone conversations.

Conclusion

In comparison with 1999, the proportion of convicts serving sentences in normal and light conditions increased in 2022 and the share of convicts in strict conditions of special-regime correctional facilities cut to a third. It is worth mentioning that it does not demonstrate the betterment of convicts' behavior, but rather the realization of a tendency to humanize the treatment of convicts.

Compared with 1999, there is a contradictory dynamics in the indicator, such as the time spent in the correctional facility at the place of residence of the convicted person's family. Economic factors (a small number of special-regime correctional facilities) determine the territorial distance of convicts from their place of permanent residence to a greater extent than for other categories of convicts. Compared with 1999, there is also a positive trend in the use of legal

opportunities to maintain social ties with relatives by convicts in special-regime correctional facilities. However, the static nature of maintaining socially useful relationships recorded by the 2022 census, especially the use of the right to short- and long-term visits, indicates the need for additional measures to be taken in the penitentiary to maintain family relations of convicts. Certain steps are being taken in this regard. On March 12, 2025, at an expanded meeting of the Board, Director of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia A. Gostev noted that “according to the results of the work carried out with convicts who had lost socially useful ties, more than 2.4 thou-

sand people resumed family relations in 2024” [7]. An insufficient level of maintaining socially useful relationships among convicts serving sentences in special-regime correctional facilities confirms the relevance of the probation service designed to provide persons released from prison with assistance in adapting to life at large, employment and finding accommodation. On the other hand, it indicates the need for adjusting probation mechanisms with regard to the emerging practical experience in applying the norms of the Federal Law “On Probation in the Russian Federation” and proposals of legal science [8, pp. 196–201].

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