

The third ground is the existence of sufficient evidence, which is the primary basis despite the fact that Article 276 of the Criminal Procedural Code lists three grounds. Therefore, the concept of "sufficiency of evidence" is the sole basis for making a decision to notify of suspicion. The available evidence indicating the probable commission of a criminal offence by a specific person, which the investigator or prosecutor deems to be sufficient for notification, must be detailed in the notice of suspicion.

Results. The procedure for notifying of suspicion is a crucial stage in criminal proceedings, as it is at this moment that a person officially acquires the status of a suspect, which influences the subsequent course of the pre-trial investigation.

Conclusions. The analysis of the grounds for notifying of suspicion indicates their heterogeneity. The legislation provides for three cases of notifying of suspicion; however, in practice, the primary basis remains that defined in paragraph 3 of part 1 of Article 276 of the Criminal Procedural Code of Ukraine – the existence of sufficient evidence for suspicion of committing a criminal offence. The other two grounds – detention of a person and the selection of a preventive measure – raise certain controversies regarding their legal significance.

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THE MAIN CONTEMPORARY CONCEPTS OF LAW

VERONIKA BATURINA, student

ALLA I. RADU, Associate Professor, PhD in Philology, Language Adviser
Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

Law as a social phenomenon constantly evolves, adapting to changes in socio-economic, political, and cultural conditions. The Great Explanatory Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language defines law as a set of norms established or sanctioned by the state to regulate behavior in the society. It includes legislation, which depends on the social structure of the country, as well as a just social order that is fought for by the people. Law can also mean the protection of the interests of an individual or a group based on laws, religious norms, and traditions. It serves as a guarantee for the protection of human rights in various spheres of life [1]. Etymologically, *law* (Ukrainian: *pravo*) is linked to *justice*, *truth*, and *correctness*.

In Ancient Rome, *jus* meant *law*, derived from *jure* (*just*), and was distinct from *lex* (*statute*) [2].

The issue of legal understanding comes down to the question: "What is law?" According to S. Alais, legal understanding is the result of scientific reflection on the essence of law, which, in its turn, is the unity of various properties. Therefore, legal understanding encompasses different approaches: for some, law is a value, while for others, it is merely an instrument to achieve certain goals [3].

Kh. Bekhruz distinguishes between **legal understanding** (a professional juridical perception reflecting comprehension and formalization of law in a lawyer's consciousness) and **understanding of law** (an individual's personal stance on what law is) [4].

The concept of law is a theory dealing with its essence, nature, and purpose as a social phenomenon. Modern concepts reflect diverse approaches to understanding law. They are crucial for legal science as they provide a methodological basis for analyzing legal systems, regulating social relations, and shaping legal principles.

As noted by N. I. Mozol, there are several approaches to modern scientific concepts of legal understanding [5]:

- 1) **axiological** – law is a system of ideas and moral values in social consciousness, distinct from law as a formal expression;
- 2) **positivist** – law consists of norms in legislation, with an emphasis on determinacy and accuracy;
- 3) **sociological** – law is understood not just as norms but as their real functioning in the society that regulates relations between people.

In the 1960s, the anthropological approach to legal understanding became popular, explaining law through human nature and culture. It focused on two aspects:

- 1) **bioanthropological** – law appeared due to the natural imperfection of humans and the need to regulate individual freedom;
- 2) **ethnographic** – law is shaped by culture, the latter led to the rejection of the Eurocentric approach and the development of legal anthropology.

The synergetic approach views law as a dynamic process that self-organizes and evolves under the influence of random events. It does not replace other concepts as legal understanding is constantly evolving [6].

The classification of legal understanding depends on its perception in different civilizations, including European, Muslim, Indo-Buddhist, Chinese-Confucian, and Japanese models. Sometimes, Eurasian type is considered.

Thus, the study of contemporary concepts of law is important for forming legal consciousness, improving law enforcement, and developing doctrinal approaches to law. Given the dynamic changes in the legal field, the relevance of this topic is determined by the need for a deep understanding of the theoretical foundations of law for the effective functioning of the legal system in the modern world.

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RELEASE FROM CRIMINAL LIABILITY DUE TO EXPIRATION OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

NASTYA BILIAKOVA, student

OLEKSANDR KONDRY, Lecturer, Scientific Adviser

NATALIYA O. HRYNYA, Associate Professor, PhD in Philology, Language Adviser

Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

Introduction. The issue of the statute of limitations for bringing a person to criminal liability is regulated by Article 49 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the CC of Ukraine). According to this article, a person may be released from criminal liability if the statute of limitations for prosecution, as stipulated by law, has expired.

Objectives. The main task of this research is to study the mechanism of release from criminal liability due to expiration of the statute of limitations without the accused admitting guilt.

Methods. The limitation periods are determined based on the severity of the committed crime and may range from 2 to 15 years, depending on the classification of the offence. Therefore, several types of limitation periods are distinguished:

1. Up to 2 years (for minor offences);
2. Up to 5 years (for medium-gravity offences);
3. Up to 10 years (for serious offences);
4. Up to 15 years (for especially serious offences).

Under the aforementioned Article 49 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, the statute of limitations begins to be calculated from the day the criminal offence was directly committed or, in the case of its continuation or completion on another day, from the date when the offence was actually completed.

At the same time, the statute of limitations may be interrupted, renewed, or suspended in connection with certain investigative actions or judicial proceedings