Legal Navigator for Foreigners and Stateless Persons

Adapted Text for Military Personnel

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The Human Rights Center “Pryncyp” is a non-governmental organization founded in 2023. We work to ensure that service members, veterans, and their families feel respected and protected, and receive support both during their service and in civilian life. Our strategic goals focus on strengthening human capital in military service, protecting the rights of the most vulnerable groups, and improving support for veterans and their family members after service.

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Section 1. Starting the Service

1. Enlistment

How This Is Regulated

Foreign nationals in Ukraine can serve in:

- The Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) are the country's regular military force
- The National Guard of Ukraine (NGU) is a military formation under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine
- The State Special Transport Service (SSTS) is a specialized formation that primarily provides support to the above-mentioned forces

If you want to understand your rights and responsibilities, or simply make sure everything is official, here are the key documents that regulate military service for foreigners in Ukraine:

1. **The Law of Ukraine On Military Duty and Military Service** (1992, as amended). This is the primary law defining the general principles of military service in Ukraine
2. **Regulations on Military Service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine by Foreigners and Stateless Persons**

   Approved by Presidential Decree of Ukraine No. 248/2016 of June 10, 2016

   This document provides detailed rules specifically for service in the Armed Forces

3. **Regulations on Military Service in the National Guard of Ukraine by Foreigners and Stateless Persons**

   Approved by Presidential Decree of Ukraine No. 84/2024 of February 21, 2024

   A similar document regarding the service in the National Guard

How to Begin Service in the Ukrainian Armed Forces

If you are not in Ukraine

A. You need to complete the online form on the website of the Recruitment Center for Foreigners and Stateless Persons of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine: https://joinuarmy.org/en/contact/submit-full-application
B. Alternatively, you can submit an application on the website of a specific subunit where you want to serve. For example:

   12th Special Forces Brigade Azov: https://www.azov.international/
   Third Separate Assault: https://ab3.army/en/for-foreigners/, https://ab3.army/es/for-foreigners/
   13th Khartiia Operational Brigade: https://khartiia.org/es

After that, a recruiter will contact you and conduct a remote interview. The signing of the contract and the remaining administrative procedures will take place in Ukraine, where you will be assisted by a recruiter.

If you are already in Ukraine

You may contact one of the following:

A. The Recruitment Center for Foreigners and Stateless Persons, or the military unit where you wish to serve.

B. Recruitment centers of the Ukrainian Army, or recruitment centers of specific types or combat arms: Ground Forces, Air Assault Forces, Naval Forces, Territorial Defense, Special Operations Forces, Unmanned Systems Forces (for the AFU) or the National Guard.
C. The Territorial Center of Recruitment and Social Support (TCRSS) – a local military office found in almost every city in Ukraine. It handles enlistment procedures and can assist you with the first steps.

Requirements for Foreigners Joining the Military

- Age: 18 to 60 years old
- Documents: Valid passport or other identification document; documents confirming legal stay in Ukraine (visa, border crossing stamp, temporary or permanent residence permit)
- Health: Fitness for military service (determined during a medical examination)
- Legal background: No criminal record or other legal issues
- Special background screening
- Physical fitness: Basic level of physical fitness
- Psychological screening: Interview and testing

2. Mandatory Administrative Procedures before Signing the Contract

These are usually organized by the subunit you have selected.

Obtaining a Tax Identification Number

The tax identification number (called "РНОКПП" in Ukrainian) is an individual tax number without which it is impossible to work officially in Ukraine, receive a salary, or open a bank account. It is equivalent to a TIN, NIF, NI, or a similar number in your home country.

To obtain a tax number, you must prepare a notarized copy of your passport along with its Ukrainian translation, which must also be notarized. At the tax office, you will be provided with a pre-filled application form for obtaining the taxpayer identification number card, which you will need to sign.

You must apply in person to a regional office of the State Tax Service of Ukraine in the regional capital (the list of offices is available here). If you have a temporary residence permit, you may apply to a district or city tax office.

Please note that you must obtain the tax identification number on your own. Processing and issuance typically take 7 to 10 calendar days.

Opening a Bank Account

After obtaining a tax number, you can go to any bank operating in Ukraine.

Prepare the following documents:

- Your passport and its notarized Ukrainian translation
- Taxpayer Identification Number (taxpayer number/RNOKPP)
- Document confirming legal stay in Ukraine (passport with a stamp confirming legal entry within the past 90 days, or a visa, or a temporary or permanent residence permit)
- Information about your place of stay in Ukraine (sometimes this may be a hotel room booking if you have just arrived) and proof of the source of funds (for example, documents confirming the receipt of salary). In practice, this information is often provided verbally and does not require additional documentation.

In practice: It is strongly recommended to obtain and start using a Ukrainian phone number, as it is nearly impossible to use online banking without one.

We also recommend coordinating your choice of bank with your recruiter to avoid potential issues in obtaining additional documents required for the payment of monetary remuneration.

Consider setting up a power of attorney for a family member so they can receive information about your account activity from the bank if necessary. This power of attorney may also include permission to withdraw funds or make transfers, which can be important in case of injury. This power of attorney is executed at the bank.

Formal Process of Joining a Military Unit

If you join the Armed Forces of Ukraine

All formal procedures are completed through the Territorial Center of Recruitment and Social Support (TCRSS) – a local military office found in almost every city in Ukraine. These procedures are usually carried out in Kyiv or regional capitals.

At the TCRSS, you:

- Undergo a medical examination (Military Medical Commission, MMC, called "ВЛК" (VLK) in Ukrainian). This is a standard medical examination by several doctors from different specialties. The purpose is to ensure that you do not have any medical conditions that would prevent military service under the legislation of Ukraine. You will receive an official document confirming your fitness for service in Ukraine based on the MMC (VLK) results.
- Undergo psychological screening. This can include written tests and sometimes an interview with a psychologist. Based on the results, your suitability for specific duties you will perform during service is determined, and a professional assessment record is completed, documenting the results of the psychological screening.

If you join the National Guard of Ukraine

Your processing, including psychological screening, is handled by the unit you selected. However, you may be referred to the nearest TCRSS for the medical examination.

Special Background Screening

This is a standard procedure intended to ensure that the candidate does not pose a threat to the national security of Ukraine.

What is checked:

- Legality of entry into Ukraine and stay in the country
- Criminal or administrative history (the existence of any decisions on liability in Ukraine or other jurisdictions is verified)
- Possible connections with foreign intelligence services, terrorist, or other organizations

At the initial stages (application and initial interview), the check may be conducted by the TCRSS or your chosen military unit. The main stage of the screening is conducted by the Recruitment Center for Foreigners, with the involvement of the Security Service of Ukraine, the National Police of Ukraine, Ukrainian intelligence agencies, and other authorities. Duration: up to 15 days, but no more than one month.

In practice, the background check may sometimes be fully organized and conducted by the TCRSS or the military unit alone.

Stages of the special background screening:

1. **Submission of the questionnaire.** You complete a questionnaire and provide written consent to the screening, including undergoing a polygraph (lie detector) test. The process will not begin without your consent. After the initial review of the questionnaire, you will either be invited for an interview or notified of a refusal.
2. **Initial interview:** This is conducted either in person or via a video call.
3. **Polygraph test,** psychophysiological examination. In practice, sometimes instead of a polygraph test, the candidate's materials are forwarded to the Security Service of Ukraine, which provides its own opinion.
4. **Main interview.** You complete a declaration of integrity – a document in which you confirm the accuracy of the information provided. During the main interview, you may be asked again about issues that were raised during the polygraph test.
5. **Decision on completion of the special background check** The Recruitment Center takes into account your experience, qualifications, preferences, as well as the needs of the military and the interests of national security. If the decision is positive (and you have successfully passed the medical examination, psychological screening, and physical fitness assessment), you will be offered a specific position (if no prior agreement has been made) and you will be assigned to a military unit for contract signing.

Registration of a Personal Case File and Assignment to a Military Unit

A personal case file will be created for you; it's a folder containing your documents. It will record your periods of military service in Ukraine, participation in combat operations, medical examination results, and information about your family members that may be used for emergency contact purposes, etc.

In the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the personal case file is prepared by the TCRSS. In the National Guard of Ukraine, it is prepared directly by your subunit.

The personal case file includes:

- Medical examination conclusion (MMC (VLK)) confirming fitness for military service
- Professional selection card, i.e. the results of psychological screening
- Decision based on the results of the special background check
- Copy of your passport or other identity document
- Information about family members or close relatives

If a foreigner joins the National Guard of Ukraine, the personal case file will also include:

- The results of psychological testing
- The results of physical fitness testing
- Information about previous employment in Ukraine (if any)

After all documents are prepared, you will be assigned to a military unit for service. There, your physical fitness will be checked again, and a contract will be signed with you.

3. Signing the Contract

A military service contract is a written agreement between a foreign national and the state that establishes legal relations during military service.

Who Signs the Contract

1) The service member (you)
2) The State of Ukraine, represented by:

- In the Armed Forces of Ukraine – the commander of the military unit or the head of a training center (on behalf of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine).
- In the National Guard of Ukraine – the commander of the military unit to which you have been assigned.

Official Document Confirming Service Member Status

- For the Armed Forces of Ukraine: a certificate regarding a serviceman of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, which is issued after signing the contract. This is the primary document confirming your status as a service member. It must be presented together with your passport. All entries in the document are made only in Ukrainian. As of 2026, military service books (informally referred to as “green card” or “green book”) are no longer issued. Instead, the certificate regarding a serviceman of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is used. In the future, these Certificates will be replaced with plastic ID cards or electronic credentials. Previously issued military service books remain valid.
- For the National Guard of Ukraine: a service NGU ID card is issued, which serves as your primary document confirming your status as a service member. All entries in the ID are made only in Ukrainian.

Rank at the Time of Signing the Contract

Regardless of the rank in the military of your home country, when signing the contract in Ukraine you are automatically assigned the rank of "Private". Currently, Ukrainian legislation does not provide for a procedure for confirming or recognizing your previous foreign rank.

However, if you had previously served in the Ukrainian military, your Ukrainian rank must be taken into account.

At the time of assigning your rank, the commander immediately appoints you to the appropriate position by issuing an order.

Language and Legal Validity of the Contract

The contract is drafted in Ukrainian, and only this version has legal force. Some subunits prepare bilingual contracts or provide translations into English or Spanish for your convenience. However, the translated document is for reference only and has no legal force.

The contract is prepared in two copies: one is kept in your personal case file; the other remains with you.

When the Contract Takes Effect

For first-time contracts: from the date you are officially entered into the personnel roster of the military unit you signed the contract with. This usually coincides with the date of physical signing. Inclusion in the roster is confirmed by a military unit commander’s order, and you may request an extract from this order if needed.

For contract renewals: from the date the new contract is signed.

Career Advancement During Service

Promotion in rank is possible during service.

You may be promoted to junior sergeant if:

1. You complete the required sergeant-level training

2. You are appointed by your commander to a position corresponding to the junior sergeant rank (e.g., squad leader)

3. The commander approves the junior sergeant rank assignment

In this case, you must sign a new sergeant-level contract.

The procedure for granting officer ranks to foreigners is currently not regulated by law. In practice, this means that obtaining an officer rank is currently not possible, even if you have the relevant experience and qualifications.

Contract Terms

- Private (enlisted rank): 3 years (first contract).
- Sergeant: (from 3 to 5 years), in practice, it is available with the commander's approval after one year of service.

The contract stipulates a two-month probationary period. During this period of time, it is determined whether you are able to perform your duties and comply with military discipline. In practice, however, the probationary period does not exist in all units.

Contract Extension

- A new contract must be signed no later than one month before the date the previous contract expires.
- If, for reasons beyond your control, you were unable to sign a new contract in time (for example, due to captivity or being missing in action), the previous contract is automatically extended until you return or until the service member is legally declared missing or deceased by the court of Ukraine.
- During martial law, contracts may be extended voluntarily from 1 to 10 years for service members under the age of 60 (who have not reached the maximum age limit for military service in Ukraine).
- The contract may be extended until reaching the maximum service age of 60 years old.
- If after the age of 60 you wish to continue serving, it may be possible for up to five additional years. The decision is made by the command, taking into account your health condition, level of training, and combat experience.

Contract Termination

The contract is terminated:

- On the expiration date
- On the date a new contract is signed (for example, upon promotion)
- On the date specified in the order of discharge from military service in case of early termination of the contract
- On the day following the death of the service member or official recognition as missing in action or deceased by the court of Ukraine
- On the day following the end of the probationary period if it was not successfully completed

During martial law, several grounds allow for discharge from military service (early termination of the contract):

By the decision of the command:

- Reaching the maximum service age (60 years old)
- Health condition: when a medical examination determines unfitness for military service in Ukraine
- A court verdict imposing a sentence of imprisonment or restriction of liberty on the service member
- Failure to pass the probationary period

By the decision of the foreign service member:

- Voluntary resignation, but not earlier than after 6 months of continuous service from the date the contract enters into force
- Health condition: if disability is established under the Ukrainian law
- Reaching the maximum service age (60 years old)
- Family circumstances (as defined by law)

How to Terminate the Contract Voluntarily

1. Notify your commander or the personal department of your desire to terminate the contract.
2. Write a report. This is an official written statement specifying the legal basis for terminating the contract. The report is to be written in Ukrainian; in practice, a translator is usually involved.
3. The command reviews whether the reasons for discharge you mentioned meet the legal requirements.
4. The commander issues an official order to discharge the foreign service member.
5. You hand over your duties and your position (formal transfer of responsibilities). Foreigners usually go through this procedure in a simplified manner.
6. You are removed from the personnel list. At this stage, the final order is issued, and your military ID is updated with the corresponding note. Starting from this moment, you are officially discharged. It is important, upon discharge, to obtain your military ID with all entries and an extract from the order on your discharge from military service.

Tip: After discharge, you can request that the command record the date and reason for your discharge in your copy of the contract – you might need this as proof of service in the future. In practice, you may be issued your clearance certificates (financial, property, etc.).

Physical Fitness Assessment and Basic Military Training

Physical Fitness Assessment

The physical fitness is assessed in the military unit before signing the contract. In some cases, it may be conducted at the TCRSS.

Age and gender are taken into account during the assessment. It includes, for example, pull-ups on a horizontal bar and push-ups (bending and extending the arms in a prone position), among other exercises.

Military Training After Contract Signing

If you have never served in the army, you will be sent to a training center for preparation and to obtain a military specialty. Some subunits refer all incoming foreign recruits to training. Sometimes training takes place directly in the military unit where you will serve.

Training usually consists of two stages:

1. Basic general military training lasting 51 days.

General training program covers: Tactical combat casualty care; engineering training; combat shooting (day, night, moving targets, in trenches); communications and military topography (land navigation).

Upon completion, you are assigned the specialty of rifleman – Military Occupational Specialty Code No. 100.

2. Specialized Training You receive a specialized military specialty for your future service. The duration depends on the specialty.

If you fail to complete the training program, refuse to undergo training, or show indiscipline, you may be dismissed early. In such a case, the commander may terminate your contract.

After completing training, you are assigned to a subunit for a position corresponding to your specialty.

Section 2. Interaction Within the Unit

1. Structure of the Defense Forces

Foreign nationals may serve only in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the State Special Transport Service, and the National Guard.

The Defense Forces of Ukraine are a collection of military formations of various types mobilized by Ukraine to repel the armed aggression of the Russian Federation.

- Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) The Armed Forces of Ukraine include the Ground Forces, Air Force, and Naval Forces, as well as certain specialized branches (for example, Air Assault Forces, Special Operations Forces, Unmanned Systems Forces, Territorial Defense Forces)
- The National Guard of Ukraine (NGU) is a military formation under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine
- Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense – a special intelligence agency
- Foreign Intelligence Service – a special intelligence agency
- State Border Guard Service – responsible for protecting the state border
- State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection
- State Special Transport Service
- Security Service of Ukraine (including the Special Operations Center Alpha that participates in combat operations)
- National Police of Ukraine (Joint Assault Brigade Liut participates in combat operations)

2. Responsibilities Within the Unit

A military unit is the primary organizational entity in the military, with its legal authority. At the tactical level, this is usually a brigade or battalion. In the army, the typical command hierarchy at the tactical level is as follows:

Squad leader (cannon, mortar, tank)
↓
Platoon commander
↓
Company/battery commander
↓
Battalion/division commander (in some battalions, this is also the military unit commander)
↓
Brigade commander (military unit commander)

Within a military unit, there are various structural subdivisions you can contact if needed:

- **Document processing:**

  Each military unit has an personal department responsible for maintaining personnel records. This subdivision prepares orders, leave documents, travel authorizations, and certificates (for example, the Service Certificate (Form/Forma 5) and the Combat Participation Certificate (Form/Forma 6) can be obtained there).

- **Health matters:**

  If your health worsens, you have to inform your subunit's medic thereof or contact the military unit's medical office. If treatment outside the military unit is needed, the physician or

head of the medical office/service issues a referral (paper or electronic) for inpatient care outside the military unit. In critical cases, this can also be done by a medical instructor or feldsher.

• **Finances:**

Each military unit has a financial service responsible for salary calculation and payment. For payment-related issues, we recommend contacting your immediate commander, the HR group, or the finance office directly (practice may vary depending on the subunit), as the finance service is responsible for preparing the order for the payment of monetary remuneration. These orders are based on the subunit commander's report, unit orders, and combat orders and instructions (including additional reimbursement orders).

• **Psychological support:**
Units have a Personnel Psychological Support Group (PPP), which you can reach out to if you feel your mental or emotional condition worsening or if you need support.

• **Social support – patronage service or support service:**
Units may also have **support services** (sometimes referred to as "patronatky" or Civil-Military Cooperation (TsVS)). Most often, service members communicate with these support services after injuries for help with documents and communication with the military unit. They also assist service members after their return from captivity or might help with discharge matters, etc.

It is recommended to check whether your military unit has a support service and share its contact information with your relatives.

3. How to Address the Commander (Report)

In most subunits of the Ukrainian Defense Forces, direct verbal communication with commanders is encouraged, usually with the help of interpreters for foreign service members. However, if you wish to make an official request, application, or proposal to your commander, you may submit a written document called a 'report'.

A report is an official written document used to address the command regarding various matters during military service. Through reports, soldiers can request a leave, any required documents, or report on completed tasks or incidents. Please note that electronic submission of reports is currently not available for foreign nationals.

Since all reports must be written in Ukrainian, clerks usually prepare papers for foreigners. Units may also have translators who assist with daily communication and document preparation. They assist both with daily communication and with document processing.

Report Review Timeframes

In the Armed Forces of Ukraine, all submitted reports are reviewed by the commanders:

- Immediately, but no later than 48 hours after submission, for matters related to military discipline, the duties of personnel while executing combat orders, the protection of the life and health of personnel, and leave for family circumstances or other valid reasons
- No more than within 14 days from the date of submission – for other issues

In the National Guard of Ukraine, all submitted reports are reviewed by the immediate commanders

- Reports not requiring additional review are processed immediately, but no later than 15 days within the receipt ,the remainder are processed within one month of receipt. If the issues cannot

be resolved within a month, the commander or deputy sets a deadline and informs you thereof. The total period cannot exceed 45 days.

4. Change of Place of Service (Military Unit, Subunit)

Foreign service members may be transferred within their subunit or military unit on the same grounds as Ukrainian citizens.

Internal Transfer Within the Same Military Unit

To be transferred to another subunit within the same military unit, you must:

1. Ensure that there is a vacant position in that subunit.
2. Get an oral approval from the command regarding the possibility of transfer to another position.
3. Submit a report requesting appointment to that position.
4. Get a consent from your current subunit commander, reflected in the report.

If the commander of the military unit dismisses the transfer, you may appeal this decision to higher command:

- To the relevant operational command, for example, the corps commander if you serve in the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine or in the National Guard of Ukraine
- To the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine if you serve in the Armed Forces of Ukraine
- To the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine if you serve in the National Guard of Ukraine

  Please note that such an appeal is not confidential.

Transfer to Another Military Unit

Main grounds:

1. Better use of your specialty or experience – by the decision of the commander. In this case, your consent is not required. At your own initiative, upon personal request.
2. For health reasons – only based on the conclusion of a military medical commission (see the section on medical care).
3. For family reasons – at your personal request. Family reasons may include: Caring for a child with a disability, or a child suffering from severe perinatal nervous system damage, serious congenital defects, rare orphan diseases, cancer or oncohematological diseases, cerebral palsy, severe mental disorders, or type 1 diabetes; the need to care for a family member with a group 1 or group 2 disability. In practice, this procedure may take a significant amount of time.

To do this, you must submit a report requesting transfer, which must be reviewed by the commander of the military unit. A letter of recommendation (endorsement) must be attached to the report. You must obtain it in advance from the military unit that agrees to accept you.

A letter of recommendation (endorsement) is a document from the commander of the military unit to which you wish to be transferred. It confirms:

- The existence of a vacancy corresponding to your specialty
- The agreement to accept you for service

In some cases, another method is used: Voluntary termination of service (contract termination) after at least 6 months of continuous service, followed by re-enlistment in a new military unit.

5. Liability for Violations

Service members may be subject to disciplinary, administrative, or criminal liability for violations of the law of Ukraine.

A service member may be subject to several types of liability simultaneously. Each of these types of liability may also require the service member to compensate for financial and physical damage caused.

Disciplinary Liability

Disciplinary liability of service members is defined by the Law of Ukraine On the Disciplinary Statute of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. According to this law, a military unit commander may impose a disciplinary penalty if a service member:

- Fails to perform or improperly performs their official duties. Because this definition of a disciplinary offense is very broad, it is also important to refer to the Law of Ukraine On the Internal Service Statute of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. This law defines the main duties of enlisted personnel, sergeants, and officers, as well as the powers of service members depending on the positions they hold.
- Violates military discipline
- Violates public order

The most common disciplinary penalties include:

- Warning
- Reprimand
- Severe reprimand
- Demotion
- Reduction in military rank by one level (for sergeants (non-commissioned officers) and officers)

Some disciplinary penalties may affect financial compensation. The more such penalties you receive, the more money is deducted from your salary.

It is the commander of the military unit who is authorized to impose disciplinary penalties. However, if the person who committed the violation is unknown, or the circumstances and damage caused are unclear, the commander may order an official review or internal investigation at their own discretion.

Financial Liability

Service members are also responsible for the property issued to them or assigned to them. An exception applies if the property was destroyed as a result of enemy fire and the service member objectively had no opportunity to save it. In the event of property loss, an investigation into the circumstances of the loss may also be initiated.

Administrative Liability

During an official review, the military unit commander may determine that the violation is not only a disciplinary offense but also an administrative offense. In that case, the commander must prepare an administrative offense report and forward it to court.

Service members may be held administratively liable both for military administrative offenses and for general civilian offenses under the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses.

Military administrative offenses are defined in Chapter 13-B of the Code, including, for example:

- Refusal to comply with a lawful order of a commander (Art. 172-10)
- Unauthorized absence from the unit (absence without leave) (Art. 172-11)
- Negligent destruction or damage to military property (Art. 172-12)
- Negligent performance of military duties (Art. 172-15)
- Violation of weapons handling procedures (Art. 172-19)
- Consumption of alcohol or use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, or their precursors (Art. 172-20)

If a service member is found guilty of an administrative offense, they will be held liable. For military administrative offenses, the following penalties may apply:

- Fine
- Detention in a military prison (a facility where a service member may be held to serve a disciplinary punishment)

In addition, the service member will not receive the additional monthly payment for participation in combat operations of UAH 30,000 or 100,000 and a bonus for the month in which the offense was committed. Additional payments and bonuses are not paid if the service member's actions do not constitute an administrative offence, but are quite serious, for example a service member refused to carry out combat orders, went AWOL, consumed alcohol (narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances), or intentionally inflicted bodily harm or otherwise harmed their own health.

Criminal Liability

Service members may be held criminally liable for military criminal offenses (e.g., desertion), as well as for general criminal offenses (e.g., theft) under the Ukrainian law.

The authority responsible for investigating the offense depends on the specific crime. For example, military criminal offenses are investigated by the State Bureau of Investigation.

If the offense is not related to military service, jurisdiction may belong to another authority. For example, theft or disorderly conduct will be investigated by the National Police of Ukraine. In cases involving corruption offenses, if the foreign national serves in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the investigation will be conducted by the National Police of Ukraine; if they serve in the National Guard of Ukraine, the investigation will be conducted by the State Bureau of Investigation. Crimes against the national security of Ukraine will be investigated by the Security Service of Ukraine.

Criminal offenses related to military service are defined in Chapter XIX of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, and include, among others:

- Disobedience (open refusal to follow an order): imprisonment from 5 to 10 years
- Failure to execute an order (non-performance of an order without prior refusal to perform the said order): imprisonment from 5 to 8 years
- Unauthorized absence from the unit or absence without leave (absence from the military unit without commander's permission): imprisonment from 5 to 10 years
- Desertion (intentional abandonment of a military unit to avoid service): imprisonment from 5 to 12 years

Section 3. Payments, Leaves, and Veteran Statuses

1. Payments

Foreign nationals serving in the Ukrainian army receive the same monetary remuneration as Ukrainian citizens serving under contract. The amount of remuneration does not depend on citizenship; it depends only on position, rank, and service conditions.

All payments are made in Ukrainian hryvnias (UAH). To this end, before signing the contract (or at the beginning of your service if that was not possible), you must open a Ukrainian bank account – this is where all payments will be deposited. Representatives of your military unit can assist you with opening the account.

Ukrainian service members often refer to their pay using the abbreviation HZ (from the Ukrainian term hroshove zabezpechennia, meaning monetary remuneration), so you may often see the abbreviation HZ (ГЗ).

All payments are made from the state budget of Ukraine. There are no payments from NATO, the UN, or similar organizations within the Ukrainian military. Payments are made by the State of Ukraine, not by your immediate commander. Your commander does not influence the timeliness of payments in cases where circumstances are beyond their control.

Types of Payments

The military remuneration system in Ukraine is structured so that the base salary is relatively modest, but a number of allowances (bonuses) are added depending on where and how a service member performs their duties. Therefore, the actual income can vary significantly from person to person.

In general, all payments can be divided into three groups:

- Basic payments (base salary): Base pay for the position, pay for military rank (soldier, sergeant, etc.), and a longevity allowance
- Additional payments: Increase in base pay, allowances, supplemental payments, and bonuses of a permanent nature, as well as a monthly bonus paid to service members based on their personal contribution to the overall service performance (usually between UAH 15,000 and UAH 30,000)
- One-time payments: Bonuses and assistance granted under certain circumstances.

Additional remuneration of UAH 100,000

This payment is usually referred to as "combat pay" or "sotka" (meaning "a hundred" in Ukrainian). It is the most well-known and the largest bonus. It is paid to those who directly participate in combat operations and physically remain in the combat area, that is, on the contact line. If a service member spent only part of the month on the front line, the amount is calculated proportionally. In practice, this amounts to approximately UAH 3,333 per day on the front line. A full month equals UAH 100,000.

One-time payment of UAH 70,000 (accumulative combat payment)

This remuneration differs slightly from others in how it is calculated. It is paid for every 30 accumulated days of directly performing combat missions on the contact line – on the front line, in temporarily occupied territory, or on enemy territory.

The key word here is accumulated: Days are added up across different months. For example, if a service member spends 10 days on the front line in the first month, 12 days in the second month, and 8 days in the third month, he will accumulate 30 days after the third month and receive UAH 70,000 as a single payment. After that, the counting starts again and the days accumulate again.

It is important that the UAH 70,000 payment will be credited in the month following the accumulation

of those 30 days. For example, if you performed missions for 28 days in February and then 2 more days in March, you will receive this bonus in April.

This payment is in addition to all monthly bonuses and does not replace them.

Additional remuneration of UAH 50,000

This payment is provided to those who perform combat or special tasks as part of a headquarters, command staff, or military management body.

It is also calculated in proportion to the time spent performing such tasks.

Additional remuneration of UAH 30,000

This payment is made monthly for performing specific combat or special tasks, for example, mine clearance. It is calculated in proportion to the time spent performing such tasks during the month.

How Much Can You Earn in a Month?

Approximately during a single month of service you may receive the following maximum total payment:

~ UAH 20,000 – base salary

~ UAH 100,000 – additional bonus for a full calendar month of combat duties

~ UAH 70,000 – if 30 days of combat duties have been accumulated during that month

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~ UAH 190,000

Such an amount is usually possible after 3 to 4 months of service, including after basic training, since these bonuses are tied to combat duties.

If you did not perform any combat or special tasks during the month, your salary will be approximately UAH 20,000.

When Are Payments Made?

Monetary compensation is accrued and paid monthly.

Typically, the base salary is paid in the first half of the month (around the 5th-15th day of the month), and combat payments, bonuses, and other additional payments are deposited in the second half of the month (around the 20th-25th day of the month).

If payments are delayed, you should check with your immediate commander or the financial service of your unit. They can clarify the status of the payment and the reason for the delay.

Social Benefits

In addition to base salary and possible additional bonuses, Ukrainian service members are entitled to several types of social support payments related to major life events.

Health Improvement Assistance ("ozdorovchi")

All service members are entitled to this benefit without any additional conditions. It is paid once per year in the amount of one month's monetary remuneration (approximately UAH 20,000). In most units, this is organized centrally: Service members submit reports (applications addressed to the commander) together and gradually receive the funds throughout the year.

Financial Assistance for Social and Household Needs ("materialka")

This allowance is paid once per year in the amount of one month's monetary compensation (approximately UAH 20,000). However, it is not granted to everyone – it is provided only if certain grounds exist:

1. Injury sustained while performing duties
2. Disability resulting from an injury sustained while defending the Motherland
3. Death of a spouse, child, or parent, or the birth or adoption of a child by the service member
4. Deterioration of the service member's health, including tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis B or C; more than 30 consecutive days of treatment, rehabilitation, or sick leave due to injury requiring multi-stage surgery, prosthetics, organ transplantation, etc.; or treatment for cancer requiring surgery, radiation therapy and/or chemotherapy regardless of when the diagnosis was established
5. Serious health conditions of a spouse, child, or parent, including cancer requiring surgical treatment, radiation therapy and/or chemotherapy regardless of when the diagnosis was established

To receive financial assistance or health improvement assistance, you must submit a report (formal request). If necessary, you must also attach documents confirming the grounds for the payment (for example, a child's birth certificate to receive financial assistance).

Personal directive in case of missing in action/captivity

You may prepare a personal directive in case you go missing in action or are taken captive. In this document, you specify how your monetary remuneration should be distributed under such circumstances.

You must indicate the persons who should receive the payments and the exact amounts. For assistance with executing the directive, contact your command.

After the military unit commander certifies this directive, it will be kept in your personal file.

If you wish to change the recipients or the size of their shares, simply prepare a new directive for certification by the unit commander.

2. Leaves

Types of Main Leave

During martial law, service members may receive the following types of leave:

- Annual basic leave
- Leave for family circumstances
- Sick leave
- As a war veteran (a combatant or a person with a disability resulting from the war)
- Leaves for female service members due to pregnancy, childbirth, or childcare

Annual Basic Leave (Up to 30 Days)

This leave may be used by every service member.

- It is not granted all at once – it is divided into parts throughout the year. At least one part must last at least 15 consecutive days
- No more than 30% of the unit's personnel may be on leave at the same time so that the unit remains combat-ready
- Up to two days of travel time may be added before and after the leave
- During this leave, the service member receives full monetary compensation, except for the additional payments, meaning approximately UAH 20,000

Leave for Family Circumstances

This leave may be granted in the following situations:

- Marriage – up to 10 calendar days
- Serious illness or death of close relatives (including in-laws) – up to 7 calendar days, not including travel time

  Death or serious illness of other relatives – up to 3 calendar days, not including travel time

- Fire or other natural disaster affecting the service member's family – up to 15 calendar days, not including travel time
- Other exceptional cases where the presence of the service member in the family is necessary, by decision of the military unit commander (head) – up to 3 calendar days, not including travel time

This leave may be granted once during a calendar year.

Up to two days of travel time may be added before and after the leave

Full monetary compensation (approximately UAH 20,000) is preserved, except for the additional payments.

Although the law allows, for example, 15 days in the case of a natural disaster, during martial law the overall maximum for leave due to family circumstances is 10 calendar days.

Sick Leave

This leave is granted only by doctors, specifically by a Military Medical Commission (MMC). This is not the same as a standard medical record from a healthcare facility. The decision is made not by a single doctor but by a medical board, which evaluates the service member's health condition and determines the exact number of leave days. The commander must carry out the commission's decision without altering the number of days indicated.

- Leave for treatment due to illness is granted for 30 calendar days
- Based on medical indications following injuries (wounds, post-concussion syndrome) or surgical treatment, leave may be granted for 30 or 60 calendar days
- This leave may be extended again for 30 calendar days, and in some cases for 45 or 60 days

Full monetary compensation is preserved. The UAH 100,000 additional payment is also paid if the injury was severe and sustained directly in combat, proportionally to the number of days spent on such leave. These criteria are determined by special certificates and official documents.

Leave for veterans (combatants and persons with disabilities resulting from the war)

This type of leave may be granted to service members only after they have been awarded the status of a combatant or a person with a disability resulting from the war, and it requires mandatory approval by the military unit commander during martial law. The total duration of this leave is 14 days with full monetary remuneration retained.

3. Obtaining Veteran Statuses

In Ukraine, service members who have participated in combat operations, meaning those who have carried out combat tasks directly on the contact line, even for at least one day, are eligible to obtain a special status and ID. These service members acquire veteran status.

Currently, there are two such statuses:

- Combatant ("UBD" or "УБД" in Ukrainian)
- Person with a war-related disability (for those who sustained combat injuries or developed illnesses while defending Ukraine)

Procedure for Obtaining Combatant Status

In practice, the processing is handled by your military unit – your commander or personal department collects the documents and submits the application on your behalf. You will need to sign several documents. However, you can do this on your own if necessary.

How to Apply on Your Own

For most foreigners (AFU, NGU)

1. Obtain Form No. 6 certificate from your military unit – it confirms your participation in combat operations. If Form No. 6 is not available, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs may independently request the necessary documents, but this may take up to 15 days.
2. Submit the application together with the certificate to the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine in one of the following ways:
    - By mail
    - Through an Administrative Service Center – available in most cities
    - By email: dpi@mva.gov.ua
3. Wait for the decision of the interagency commission. The response will be sent to the contact information you provided in the application. If approved, a Combatant ID (UBD) will be issued. In case of denial, you may reapply after addressing the reasons for denial.

For foreigners in the intelligence body of the Ministry of Defense – the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

1. Submit a report to your immediate commander requesting issuance of Form No. 6 certificate.
2. Prepare a set of documents:
    - Application for granting combatant status
    - Form No. 6 certificate
    - Consent to the personal data processing
    - Copy of passport and taxpayer identification number (TIN (РНОКПП))
    - Two color photographs 3×4 cm (face should occupy 65-70% of the photo)

3. Submit the package to the personal department of your subunit – it will forward the documents to the commission. A decision should be made within one month, but under martial law in practice this may take longer.

After obtaining UBD status, if the service member has a residence permit or Ukrainian citizenship, they can upload their electronic veteran ID in the Diia state app.

Status of a Person with War-Related Disability

A person with a war-related disability is a service member who has acquired a disability as a result of injury, post-concussion syndrome, mutilation, or illness sustained while defending Ukraine, performing military duties, or related to service on the front line.

A key feature of this war-related disability status is the presence of:

- Disability of a defined group (in Ukraine there are Groups I, II, or III – depending on the degree of health loss, determined by a special medical commission).
- A causal link between the disability and the defense of the Motherland (i.e. Ukraine) or performance of military duties, i.e., sustained in combat.

Procedure for Obtaining the Status of a Person with War-Related Disability

If an injury sustained during participation in combat operations has resulted in disability, service members are entitled to obtain war-related disability status.

The application must be submitted by the service member himself/herself to the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine (the central government body responsible for veteran policy and decision-making on the status):

- By mail: 34 Khreschatyk St, Kyiv, 01001
- Through an Administrative Service Center This is a government institution where citizens can apply for various administrative services
- By official email: dpi@mva.gov.ua

Medical documents must be provided (an EKOPFO (Expert Teams For Assessing Person's Daily Functioning) conclusion or Medical and Social Expert Commission (MSEC) certificate, i.e., a medical commission of Ukraine that issued a document confirming the disability group), as well as documents confirming participation in combat operations. See more details on this in the Medical Care section.

In addition, Form No. 6 certificate is required for this purpose. Otherwise, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs will officially request the necessary documents from authorized bodies (response will be sent within up to 15 days).

The decision on granting status is made by an interagency commission, after which, in case of approval, the applicant receives the corresponding ID. In case of denial, there is also the possibility to reapply.

For individuals with a war-related disability and a permanent disability group, a permanent ID is issued; for other individuals with a war-related disability, the ID is issued for the duration of the established disability group. If the disability is extended by a decision of the EKOPFO, a new form with the corresponding entry is added to the ID.

If a veteran's ID is lost or damaged, the veteran can submit an application to the office where the ID was originally issued, requesting a replacement.

Veteran Benefits

In Ukraine, service members who have obtained combatant status are entitled to a range of government social benefits (i.e., free or partially subsidized services), under the law.

These benefits are provided by the state and cover various areas of life: healthcare, transportation, housing, etc.

Important: Most benefits are available if you have an official registered place of residence in Ukraine. Otherwise, it may be difficult or impossible to access them. Registering a place of residence in Ukraine is only possible if you have a temporary/permanent residence permit or Ukrainian citizenship, through an Administrative Service Center.

The benefits available to combatants include:

- Free dental prosthetics (you need to contact a hospital)
- Free public transportation in cities (metro, buses, trams)
- Railway travel: combatants are entitled to one round-trip ticket per year at a 50% discount. The service member must obtain the ticket at railway ticket offices in exchange for a voucher issued by their military unit

4. If My Rights Are Violated

Prepare a written appeal that includes:

- Full name of the applicant (or the name of the agency submitting on behalf of a service member or their family members)
- Contact information
- Description of the issue
- Specific request
- Documents confirming the applicant's authority, if submitted on behalf of a service member by another person
- Evidence of the violation (if available)

If you are serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, send your complaint to the Main Directorate for the Protection of Service Members' Rights under the Ministry of Defense at the following email: mpd@mod.gov.ua.

If you are serving in the National Guard of Ukraine, contact the Main Directorate of the National Guard of Ukraine at the following email: public-info@ngu.gov.ua

Anonymous appeals are not considered.

You may also submit an appeal to the **Military Ombudsman** by email: skarha@milomb.gov.ua

Regarding issues related to your veteran status – combatant (UBD) or war-related disability – you may contact the **Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine:**

Email: dpi@mva.gov.ua

Hotline: 0 800 505 217

In addition, there are several organizations that can provide advice and assistance:

- **Free Legal Aid** is a state-run network of access points for legal assistance throughout Ukraine. Here, foreigners who are lawfully present in Ukraine can receive free primary legal aid, that is, legal consultation.

Hotline number: 0 800 213 103

https://t.me/LegalAidUkraineBot

- **Pryncyp chatbot.** It provides access to consultations with volunteer lawyers on issues related to injuries. To receive a consultation, select Injury section, submit your question, leave your contact details, and wait for a response from a lawyer. It is useful for resolving issues related to obtaining certificates and injury-related payments.

https://t.me/pryncyp_bot

- **Legal Hundred** provides free assistance to service members, veterans, and their family members on matters related to military service and veterans' social benefits.

Hotline number: 0800 308 100

Section 4. Medical Care

1. General Information

- As a result of changes to Ukrainian legislation (effective as of May 10, 2026), foreign service members will have the same rights as Ukrainian service members regarding medical care in civilian healthcare facilities. Treatment is free of charge; however, if necessary, a service member may purchase medications at their own expense.
- During treatment, communication between the service member and their military unit is very important for proper documentation and receiving payments. This may be handled by a support unit (if available in the brigade), or by medical service chiefs, combat medics, or HR officers with the assistance of interpreters. It is necessary to maintain contact with your immediate commander by sending them all documents received during treatment.
- You should keep all documents with you during evacuation and treatment, as they may be needed later to obtain benefits and statuses.

2. Injury

Evacuation

Evacuation after an injury

The injured person is transported to the nearest field medical unit for first aid. The immediate commander is informed of this. If the condition requires further treatment, doctor refers the injured person to a healthcare facility outside the military unit's location. This may be a field hospital, a military hospital, or a civilian hospital.

What happens to weapons and equipment

During evacuation, the injured person's weapon, body armor, and other personal protective equipment are taken away. All of this is transferred for safekeeping to responsible personnel in the subunit. If you were unable to retrieve your weapon from the battlefield, it is considered lost.

You bear no legal or financial responsibility for the loss of weapons or equipment due to injury.

Primary medical record

Healthcare professionals complete a primary medical record for the injured person (official name: Form No. 001/o). This is an official document confirming that medical care was provided prior to hospitalization.

The record is usually maintained electronically, but in combat conditions, when there is no access to equipment, it may be completed on paper.

The record is completed by healthcare professionals in Ukrainian.

Important! Be sure to check how your first and last name are recorded in the document. In practice, errors are often made when transliterating foreign names into Ukrainian, which may complicate document processing.

What You Need To Do At the Hospital

Arrival at the hospital

Depending on how you arrived at the hospital, you may have one of two documents with you:

- Primary medical record (Form No. 001/o): if you were evacuated.

- A referral for treatment: if you were referred for treatment from your military unit.

Notify your commander

After hospitalization, inform your immediate commander as soon as possible about your location and the date of hospitalization. Formally, the hospital is supposed to do this, but due to the large number of injured personnel, in practice this often does not happen. The best way is to send a message via a messenger app with photos of your medical documents.

Obtain a certificate of injury circumstances (injury, post-concussion syndrome, mutilation) (official name: Form 5)

This is one of the most important documents you will need. Without it, or if it contains errors, it will be impossible to receive the payments you are entitled to.

To obtain the certificate, you need to contact your commander and ensure that they have submitted an injury report and a report-memorandum to the unit headquarters. The military unit must prepare the certificate of injury circumstances within five days of the injury and send it to the hospital within the same period.

The certificate records:

- Your personal data
- That the injury was sustained in the line of duty
- The place and time of your injury
- That you were using personal protective equipment
- That the injury is not related to alcohol or drug use

Discharge from the hospital

At the end of treatment, make sure that the hospital has officially informed your military unit of your upcoming discharge. Additionally, inform your commander yourself and send them your discharge documents.

After discharge:

- Return to your place of service on your own or accompanied by a military unit representative.
- Upon arrival, report to the medical unit and submit **copies** of your medical records. Keep the originals with you.

It is recommended to take pictures of all documents and store them on your phone and in cloud storage (Google Drive, iCloud, etc.). Documents may be lost, and their copies may be needed later to receive payments or resolve legal issues.

When returning to your military unit, you must have documents confirming your treatment. If you do not have tickets or if other circumstances delay your return, immediately inform your commander.

Treatment in a Private Clinic

You have the right to receive treatment in private clinics. However, two conditions must be met:

- Obtain official permission from your military unit's command
- The private clinic must either provide treatment free of charge, or you must be prepared to pay for it yourself

How to arrange treatment in a private clinic:

1. Contact the selected private clinic and obtain an official invitation letter or a guarantee letter. This document confirms that the clinic is ready to admit you for treatment and provide meals.
2. Write a report addressed to your immediate commander requesting referral to the selected clinic.
3. Be sure to indicate in the report whether the treatment will be free of charge or paid by you. Attach the below documents to the report:
    - Copies of documents related to your injury and prior treatment
    - The invitation letter from the private clinic
4. Obtain an official referral for treatment from the head of the medical service, signed by the military unit commander.

Transfers Between Facilities

During treatment, you may be transferred from one hospital to another. This may occur at the initiative of medical management, for example, if another hospital has the necessary equipment, specialists, or if the current hospital is overloaded.

If you are transferred by the decision of the hospital:

1. Obtain all documents from the hospital, including the transfer epicrisis (a medical summary containing full information about your condition and treatment).
2. Arrive at the new hospital and collect your admission documents.
3. Inform your commander of your new location, date of hospitalization, and department.

If you want to change your hospital on your own initiative:

You have the right to initiate a transfer, but it is not an obligation of the doctors or the military unit, so your request may be denied. Therefore, prepare in advance:

1. Find the hospital you wish to be transferred to, contact it, and obtain an official invitation letter.
2. Submit an application to the head of your current hospital requesting a transfer. State a specific reason, for example, to receive more specialized treatment. Attach the invitation letter from the new hospital.
3. Obtain all documents (including the transfer epicrisis), collect your admission documents, and inform your commander of the transfer.

Treatment Abroad

Treatment abroad is carried out through the MEDEVAC (Medical Evacuation) program and is completely **free**. Transportation for you and your accompanying person is organized and funded by Ukraine and the receiving country.

How to initiate treatment abroad

1. Check whether your injury qualifies for treatment abroad by consulting a specialist doctor. To do this, consult with a relevant specialist physician.

2. Undergo a Military Medical Commission (MMC or VLK in Ukrainian).

This is an official medical board that determines whether a service member requires long-term treatment abroad. Its decision serves two important functions:

- Confirming the medical necessity of treatment abroad
- Serving as the legal basis for maintaining your financial support (payments continue during treatment)

Ensure that a copy of the MMC`s (VLK's) decision is sent to your military unit.

How to obtain a referral to the Military Medical Commission:

- If you are receiving inpatient treatment, the hospital administration issues the referral
- Otherwise, the referral is issued by your commander or the head of the Territorial Center of Recruitment and Social Support

3. Document processing The entire process of preparing documents for treatment abroad is initiated and coordinated by the hospital where you are receiving treatment. You must sign consent for treatment and the transfer of medical information.

During the treatment abroad

After four months of treatment abroad, you must undergo a remote repeat Military Medical Commission (MMC/VLK) to confirm the need for continued treatment and maintain payments. This is regulated by the relevant legislation.

Your military unit must notify you of this no later than one month before the end of the four-month period.

What you need to do:

- ➔ Contact your doctor at the foreign hospital and collect the following documents: Medical records; specialist doctor opinions; test results; recommendations for continued treatment.
- ➔ All these documents must be translated into Ukrainian and officially certified. This can be done through the Ukrainian consulate in the country where you are receiving treatment, or through translators accredited at Ukrainian diplomatic missions.
- ➔ Send the documents to your military unit by email or through a diplomatic mission.
- ➔ The military unit submits them to the Military Medical Commission, which decides on continuation of treatment. You will then receive the relevant certificate, and payments will continue for the period determined by the commission.

Discharge and return to Ukraine

Obtain a discharge summary and recommendations for further treatment or rehabilitation. Notify the following people about your recovery and readiness to return:

- Your treating physician
- Contacts at the Ministry of Health of Ukraine
- Ukrainian diplomatic missions

They will assist in arranging your return.

After returning to Ukraine

- Inform your immediate commander of your return and clarify further steps asap.
- Undergo a medical examination to determine your fitness for further service or the need for continued treatment.

3. Military Medical Commission

General Information

The Military Medical Commission (MMC/VLK) is a medical examination of service members, which is required to document their health status and determine the causes of any injuries received. This should be done as soon as possible after the injury but no later than one month after sustaining the injury. This is regulated by the relevant legislation.

The commission determines the need for long-term treatment, treatment abroad, medical leave, rehabilitation, prosthetics, and other care. It also determines the service member's continued fitness for military service.

How to Get the MMC (VLK)

You must have a referral for the MMC (VLK). Usually, the referral is issued either by the **hospital** where you are receiving treatment or by the **commander of your military unit**. You cannot schedule the Military Medical Commission yourself – this is decided by the doctor or the command.

If you are in the hospital, regularly ask your doctor when the medical examination will take place – especially if you have been receiving treatment for around four months because this could affect your pay.

If the referral must be obtained through the commander, submit an official written report to the commander requesting the referral to the MMC (VLK).

Documents to Gather With the Referral

- Certificate of injury circumstances (Form 5)
- Medical documents: Medical book, medical records or extracts therefrom, discharge/transfer summaries, certificates/consultation opinions from doctors at healthcare facilities, etc.
- Military ID (military service book, certificate of service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, service ID)
- Combatant ID, if any

We recommend making paper and electronic copies of all these documents before the medical examination.

If you are not issued a MMC (VLK) referral

Prepare a written appeal that includes:

- Applicant's full name
- Contact information
- Description of the issue
- Specific request
- Evidence of the violation (if available)

If you are serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, send your complaint to the Main Directorate for the Protection of Service Members' Rights under the Ministry of Defense at the following email: mpd@mod.gov.ua. Or call the hotline of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine at 15-12.

You may also submit a complaint to the Medical Forces Command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine by sending it to: kms_zsu@post.mil.gov.ua.

If you are serving in the National Guard of Ukraine, contact the Main Directorate of the National Guard of Ukraine at the following email: public-info@ngu.gov.ua

Anonymous appeals are not considered.

Possible Decisions of the Commission and Their Effect on Service

The Military Medical Commission (VLK) may issue one of four decisions regarding fitness for military service:

A. Fit for service. This means you have no health-related restrictions and can continue military service without any limitations. You return to your military unit within 1-2 days and continue service as usual.
B. Fit for service, limited to support units, TCRSS, military universities, training centers/facilities, medical units, logistics, communications, operational support, or security units. This means you have no health-related restrictions and can continue military service in combat subunits without any limitations. After returning to your military unit, decision on reassignment to another position is made (if necessary).
C. Unfit for service or unfit for service with reexamination in 6-12 months You will be discharged from military service due to health reasons. Once the military unit receives the MMS (VLK) conclusion, discharge documents are prepared, and the corresponding order on discharge from military service is issued. In the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the military unit may complete this process without the foreign service member's presence, provided it has received a report expressing the desire to be discharged, submitted through a TCRSS.

Based on the MMC (VLK) results, decisions may also be made regarding:

- The need to provide a person with limitations in daily functioning with assistive rehabilitation devices
- The need for medical leave due to illness or after an injury (post-concussion syndrome, injury or mutilation)
- The need for long-term treatment

For service members, the MMC (VLK) decision on fitness for military service remains valid for 1 year from the date it is issued.

If you disagree with the MMC (VLK) conclusion

Appealing a MMC (VLK) decision is a multi-stage process with specific deadlines. It varies depending on the formation in which you serve.

Volunteer lawyers can provide consultations via the **Pryncyp chat-bot** for questions related to injuries. To receive a consultation, select Injury section, submit your question, leave your contact details, and wait for a response from a lawyer.

4. Payments During Treatment

Types of Payments

- Monetary compensation. During treatment, you continue to receive standard monetary compensation (monthly military salary). The amount depends on factors such as position, rank, and length of service. The minimum monetary compensation in the Armed Forces of Ukraine is around UAH 20,000 per month.
- Additional monthly compensation for treatment. If you are undergoing inpatient treatment/rehabilitation due to injury related to the defense of the Motherland, you are entitled to an additional monthly payment of UAH 100,000. The amount is calculated proportionally to the number of days spent in the hospital. This payment also applies during medical leave if the VLK has classified your injury as severe and related to the defense of Motherland, i.e. Ukraine.

How to receive this payment:

1. Submit a report to the command requesting the payment
2. Attach the below:
    a. Certificate of injury circumstances (Form 5)
    b. Documents confirming inpatient treatment or medical leave (MMC (VLK) conclusion)

After four months of treatment, the payment may sometimes be suspended. It is important to obtain the MMC (VLK) conclusion confirming treatment beyond four months and inform your commander of the treatment continuation. Also, submit the MMC (VLK0 conclusion to your military unit.

In some brigades, additional compensation may be processed through the patronage service.

5. Establishing Disability

If your health condition deteriorates due to a pre-existing or newly acquired chronic illness, injury, post-concussion syndrome, trauma, etc., and you have a valid MMC (VLK) decision, you may initiate an additional medical assessment to determine the percentage of loss of working capacity or obtain a disability group, you will need to undergo a medical examination by the Expert Team for Assessing Person's Daily Functioning (ЕКОРFO, ЕКОПФО (in Ukrainian.)).

Foreign service members have the right to undergo daily functioning assessment just like Ukrainian citizens.

Purpose:

- Determine percentage of work capacity loss/disability group and its cause
- Assess the need for prosthetics and other rehabilitation aids
- Receive recommendations for an individual rehabilitation program
- Obtain medical justification for the right to get a hand-controlled or adapted vehicle
- Determine the need for permanent care
- Receive one-time financial assistance, pension (if residence permit is available), and other benefits

An extract from the Expert Teams For Assessing Person's Daily Functioning (EKOPFO) decision serves as the basis for paying one-time financial assistance and other social benefits. Additionally, if you are assigned a disability group, you may choose to be discharged from military service.

If you have been discharged from service and are abroad, obtaining an EKOPFO referral is no longer possible.

5.1. How to Attend the Disability Assessment Commission

Most often, service members receive a referral:

1. While on leave or during treatment. To obtain a referral for the assessment:

- Contact your doctor or the MMC (VLK) head
- Provide medical records confirming your conditions, injuries, and, if necessary, undergo an examination to determine eligibility for disability status
- Wait for the electronic referral, which will include all required information stated by the doctor

If you obtain a referral from a doctor while on leave and the assessment is scheduled during your leave, no additional approval from command is required.

If this is not possible and the appointment falls during your time in the military unit, you must obtain a permit from your military unit after returning from leave.

2. While on active service, with the commander's permission. To get a referral while in service:

1. Submit a report to the commander requesting permission/referral for MMC (VLK) and EKOPFO assessment
2. Based on a referral from the military unit, report to the MMC (VLK), where the MMC (VLK) head will generate an electronic referral for undergoing the assessment to determine the percentage of loss of working capacity or the disability group. The MMC (VLK) head may also refer you to a specialist physician based on your primary condition, injury, or wound, and the doctor will prepare the referral
3. After the assessment date is scheduled, you must obtain approval from the commander to leave the military unit for the examination. In practice, this requires submitting a report

Disability group can be determined during service or after discharge from service. If you have already been discharged, contact a specialist or family doctor and provide medical records confirming your condition, injury, or wound.

5.2. Documents

Service members must collect the below documents:

- Passport and taxpayer identification number (if available)
- Military records (military service book, certificate of service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, service ID, service certificate, extract from service record) or copies thereof
- MMC (VLK) conclusion
- Medical documentation (originals)

You may also need a temporary (permanent) residence permit / foreign passport, or stateless person ID for people staying in Ukraine on legal grounds.

During referral preparation, the doctor selects the form of the examination (in person, in absentia, or remotely) in cooperation with you. At this stage, you may also indicate that you wish to involve a representative, relative, or doctor in the assessment process.

Special notes regarding referrals for foreign nationals:

- Full name is entered in Ukrainian using transliteration rules
- Passport details and taxpayer number are specified in the electronic referral
- Scanned documents confirming legal residence in Ukraine are attached to the referral

5.3. EKOPFO Procedure

1. You will receive a notice (by mail or phone) with the date and time of the examination. The examination may be rescheduled.
2. Arrive on time at the designated healthcare facility. Bring your passport and originals and copies of medical documents with you.
3. The team will review your documents, may ask you to perform certain movements or do exercises, ask questions, or refer you for additional tests.
4. After the examination, you will receive an official **extract from the EKOPFO decision**, documenting disability group, diagnosis, and rehabilitation recommendations. The document may be executed on paper or in electronic form (PDF with Ministry of Health stamp) – both are legally valid.

If you are treated abroad, the examination can be conducted **remotely**.

If you do not agree with the EKOPFO decision, you have the right to appeal within 40 calendar days from the date of receiving the EKOPFO decision. If you miss the deadline for valid reasons, you may request its renewal.

You may appeal the decision:

- In electronic form (the complaint is prepared based on your comments by the doctor who referred you for the assessment)
- In paper form: Send the complaint to the Assessment Center at the following address: Ukraine, 49005, Dnipro, 1-A Feodosiia Makarevskoho Lane

5.4. One-Time Disability Financial Assistance

After disability determination, you are entitled to a one-time financial assistance (OHD). The amount depends on the disability group or the percentage of loss of working capacity, and whether it is linked to military service or the defense of the Motherland (Ukraine).

If your injury is related to defending the Motherland or performing military duties, in 2026, assistance amounts are as follows:

1st disability group – UAH 1,331,200

2nd disability group – UAH 998,400

3rd disability group – UAH 832,000

If the percentage of working capacity loss is determined, the maximum amount of assistance is UAH 69,888. The amount is calculated depending on the percentage of working capacity loss. At the same time, it is currently not possible to receive assistance based solely on a percentage of working capacity loss resulting from military service.

To receive one-time financial assistance (OHD), you must:

1. Obtain a MMC (VLK) conclusion confirming the causal link between the injury and the defense of the Motherland, performance of military duties, or military service
2. Obtain an EKOPFO (ЕКОПФО) decision with an assigned disability group or percentage of working capacity loss, indicating its connection to military service, performance of military duties, or defense of the Motherland
3. If you are an active service member, submit OHD request to your military unit.
4. If you are discharged from military service, submit OHD request.

    - If you served in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, to the Territorial Center of Recruitment and Social Support to which your personal file was transferred
    - If you served in the National Guard of Ukraine, directly to your military unit

You can submit documents for the one-time financial assistance (OHD) within three years after the disability group or percentage of work capacity loss has been established.

Copies of the following must be attached to the request:

- Certificate of injury circumstances (injury, post-concussion syndrome, mutilation) (Form 5)
- MMC (VLK) conclusion
- Extract from the EKOPFO decision establishing the disability group or percentage of work capacity loss
- Passport and taxpayer number
- Bank account certificate (can be requested via online banking)

Section 5. Legal Stay in Ukraine

1. General Information

Foreigners may legally stay on the territory of Ukraine:

- For up to 90 days within a 180-day period from the date of entry, if a visa-free regime agreement exists between Ukraine and the foreigner's country
- For the period specified in the visa
- For the duration of military service, and 3 months after discharge from military service Starting in May 2026, the period of stay in Ukraine after discharge will be extended to 6 months if a temporary residence permit is available, except in certain cases
- For the validity period of a temporary residence permit
- On the basis of a permanent residence permit, the procedure for which includes obtaining an immigration permit in advance
- After acquiring Ukrainian citizenship

2. Entry To and Exit From Ukraine

Required Documents

If there is a visa-free regime agreement between Ukraine and your country, you must have a valid passport to cross the border.

If such an agreement does not exist, a valid Ukrainian visa is required.

If you are already serving, you need the following to cross the border:

- An international passport
- A military ID, i.e. a military service book, plastic ID or electronic ID (Armed Forces of Ukraine), or service ID (National Guard of Ukraine)

Starting from May 2026, a temporary residence permit will also be required.

Obtaining a Visa

There are several types of visas:

- Type C visa: short-term, for temporary stay
- Type D visa: long-term, for extended stay (required if you plan to obtain a temporary residence permit later)

If your country has a visa-free regime with Ukraine, you may enter without a visa and stay up to 90 days within any 180-day period. During this time, you may apply for documents for long-term stay; however, you must submit them no later than 15 days before the end of the permitted period.

To obtain a visa, apply to a Ukrainian embassy/consulate or the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. Documents may be submitted no earlier than three months before the planned entry.

To obtain a visa, the following basic documents are required (supplemented depending on the grounds for obtaining visa):

- Passport – valid for at least three months after the planned departure date from Ukraine, with at least two blank pages, and issued within the last 10 years.
- A completed and signed visa application form. The visa application form can be found here.
- One color photograph (35×45 mm).

- Health insurance with coverage of at least EUR 30,000.
- Proof of sufficient financial resources for the entire stay.
- A receipt confirming payment of the consular fee.

Depending on the basis, additional documents must be attached: An invitation from a government authority, government institution, state enterprise, or state organization (for a Type C visa), or a copy of the decision granting an immigration permit issued by the State Migration Service (for a Type D visa)

A visa may be denied if the foreigner who:

- Poses a threat to national security or public order of Ukraine
- Is listed in the Ukrainian entry ban database
- Submitted an invalid or someone else's passport
- Provided false information or forged documents
- Does not have health insurance
- Does not have sufficient financial resources
- Cannot confirm the purpose of their visit
- Cannot prove intent to leave Ukraine before visa expiration
- Refused to provide biometric data

Leaving Ukraine

If you are legally in Ukraine, you have the right to leave the country freely at any time.

In certain cases, a court or investigative authorities may temporarily restrict departure, specifically if:

- You are suspected of a crime or a case is under court review – the restriction applies until criminal proceedings are completed (for example, absence without leave)
- You have been convicted for a crime – until the sentence is served or you are released
- Departure contradicts national security interests – until the circumstances are resolved
- You have outstanding debts to private persons or organizations in Ukraine: A court may temporarily restrict departure until they are repaid

3. Stay on the Territory of Ukraine During Service and After Discharge

During the military service, a foreigner is considered to be legally staying on the territory of Ukraine. Documents confirming this fact include a military ID, i.e. a military service book, plastic ID or electronic ID (Armed Forces of Ukraine), certificates or service ID (National Guard of Ukraine). After discharge from military service, foreigners may currently stay on the territory of Ukraine for 3 months.

Starting from May 2026, a temporary residence permit will serve as confirmation of legal stay. The period of legal stay in Ukraine has also been changed.

Foreigners who are already serving must obtain such a permit by November 2026. For those who are just joining the military, it will be issued after signing the contract.

Foreigners who have been discharged from military service will be able to legally stay in Ukraine for 6 months after receiving a temporary residence permit.

However, this does not apply to foreigners whose contract was terminated (dissolved) due to:

- Court sentence involving imprisonment or restriction of liberty
- Failure to pass the probationary period

- Unsuitability for the position
- Refusal to undergo a polygraph test

In such cases, the foreigner is required to leave the territory of Ukraine immediately after the contract termination (dissolution).

4. Obtaining a Temporary Residence Permit

Starting in May 2026, all foreign military service members are required to obtain a temporary residence permit.

Documents must be submitted in person (remote submission is not possible) to:

1. The territorial body of the State Migration Service of Ukraine (SMS). This is equivalent to a migration office. Such offices exist in every regional center. See the list here.

2. Alternatively, you may apply through an Administrative Service Center or the State Enterprise 'Document', but only if they have the appropriate technical equipment. Therefore, applying to the SMS is the preferred option.

Prepare a set of documents:

- Original and copy of a valid passport
- Notarized Ukrainian translation of the passport
- Receipt confirming the administrative fee payment
- In some cases not related to obtaining a residence permit on the basis of military service, a valid health insurance policy is required.
- A military ID, i.e. a military service book, plastic ID or electronic ID (Armed Forces of Ukraine), or service ID (National Guard of Ukraine)
- Military service contract
- A commitment from the military unit to notify the SMS in case of early termination of the contract

Officially, if you participated in combat as an instructor or volunteer, but don`t sign a contract, the procedure is simplified. You need to submit an application to the Ministry of Defense or the Ministry of Internal Affairs so they can provide an official submission confirming participation in combat or assistance to the Defense Forces units for at least six months. In practice, this can be difficult or time-consuming, which may lead to a violation of the legal stay period in Ukraine.

Additionally, a temporary residence permit may be issued to the spouse of a foreign national for the duration of their legal stay in Ukraine. For this, both spouses must apply together and submit, in addition to the documents listed above, the original military service contract and military ID.

If you wish to remain in Ukraine for reasons not related to military service, additional documents must be provided depending on your grounds (a full list can be found here). In some cases, to obtain the permit and extend your stay, it may be necessary to leave Ukraine and re-enter.

The permit is issued within 15 working days after submission of documents.

- If you have just signed the contract, you must obtain the permit immediately after signing.
- If you are already serving, the permit must be obtained by November 2026.

5. Obtaining a Permanent Residence Permit

1. Obtaining an Immigration Permit

It is available to:

- Those who served in the Armed Forces or National Guard for at least three years in peacetime or one year during martial law
- Those declared unfit for service due to injury, trauma, concussion, or mutilation sustained in combat
- Spouses, parents, and children (under 18 years old) of a foreign national who died during service or while assisting the Defense Forces units

To obtain the immigration permit

1. You must book an appointment in the digital queue system (in advance via the SMS website or on-site via a terminal at the office) at the territorial body of the State Migration Service of Ukraine, where an electronic application will be generated in your presence and the required documents attached. See the address of this authority here.

2. Prepare the documents:

- The original and a notarized copy of a valid passport (if the foreigner's country of origin has committed an act of armed aggression against Ukraine, such a foreigner may submit an expired passport)
- Notarized Ukrainian translation of the passport
- A document confirming lawful stay in Ukraine (for example, a temporary residence permit) (for foreign military personnel, such documents include a military service contract, military ID, and an extract from the order on discharge from service (if the foreigner has been discharged from military service))
- Three photos (3.5 × 4.5 cm)
- A document confirming place of residence in Ukraine (if the foreigner is serving in the military, they should provide a certificate of military service (Form 5 certificate); if discharged from service, either documents confirming ownership of housing in Ukraine or a notarized consent from the property owner for the registration and residence)
- Information about family composition and a copy of the marriage certificate (if married) (if documents are in a foreign language, a notarized Ukrainian translation is required)
- A medical certificate confirming the absence of chronic alcohol or drug use disorder, substance abuse, and dangerous infectious diseases (tuberculosis, cholera, etc.). This is not required when applying for immigration on the basis of military service.
- A criminal record clearance certificate from the foreigner's country of origin, issued either by a competent authority of that country or its embassy/consulate in Ukraine (not required when applying on the basis of military service)
- A certificate of residence from the foreigner's country of origin
- Receipt confirming the administrative fee payment

For service members declared unfit due to injury, trauma, post-concussion syndrome, or mutilation sustained while performing combat tasks, an additional document is required: a MMC (VLK) conclusion confirming unfitness and the link between the injury and service

The application review period is up to six months from the date of submission.

The period of legal stay for submitting an application for an immigration permit for foreigners who remain in Ukraine after termination of their contract is six months.

If you cannot collect the documents within this period, you should extend your legal stay.

If you do not submit the documents within six months and do not extend your lawful stay, the migration service will draw up a report and impose administrative liability (a fine), then restore your period of lawful stay, after which you will be able to submit documents for an immigration permit.

Usually, the territorial body of the SMS sends a written notice of the decision to the registration address specified in the application by the foreigner.

The copy of the immigration permit order (decision) must be collected **in person** at the same SMS office where the documents were submitted.

The application status can be tracked on the SMS website under 'Check application status'. When the status shows 'Decision has been made to grant permit approved', you may collect the copy.

2. Obtaining a Permanent Residence Permit

A permanent residence permit is a document granting the right to live in Ukraine indefinitely. It is issued after obtaining an immigration permit.

1. To obtain it, you must book an appointment in the online queue (in advance via the SMS website or on-site at a terminal in the office) for the service '**Issuance of a permanent residence permit**' at the territorial office of the State Migration Service (SMS). During this visit, you will be photographed and fingerprinted.
2. Prepare the following documents:

- Original and copy of a valid international passport
- Notarized Ukrainian translation of the passport
- A copy of the decision granting the immigration permit
- Receipt confirming the administrative fee payment
- A copy of the taxpayer identification number (РНОКПП)

3. The permit is issued within 15 working days after submission of documents. The application status can be checked on the SMS website under 'Check application status'. When the status 'Document delivered to the office' appears, you may go to the same SMS office.

If you have a Taxpayer Identification Number (RNOKPP), your data will also appear in the **Diia** app.

The permit is issued for 10 years, after which it must be replaced. To do this, apply to the SMS no later than 15 days before the expiration date with the same set of documents.

The right to permanent residence is not lost – this is only a technical replacement of the document.

6. Extension of Stay in Ukraine

If you are legally in Ukraine but need to stay longer than your current status allows, you may officially extend your period of stay.

To do this, you must apply to a territorial office of the State Migration Service (SMS) at your place of residence in Ukraine.

To extend your stay in Ukraine, you must have a valid reason. This may include:

- Treatment or childbirth
- Care for a sick family member
- Extraordinary circumstances preventing departure
- Inheritance procedures
- Grounds for obtaining an immigration permit or temporary residence permit
- Other circumstances preventing departure

To extend your stay in Ukraine, you must prepare the following documents:

- Documents confirming the reason for staying (for example, a medical certificate, inheritance documents, etc.)
- The original and copies of passport pages with personal data, along with a notarized Ukrainian translation
- The passport of the receiving party, i.e., the person or organization with whom the foreigner resides in Ukraine
- Proof of sufficient financial resources This may include cash or a bank card with a statement confirming available funds
- Receipt confirming the administrative fee payment

A decision on extension is made within three business days after submission of documents.

7. How to Obtain Ukrainian Citizenship

Foreigners who are serving or have served in the Ukrainian army have the right to apply for Ukrainian citizenship.

Requirements:

- Recognize the Constitution and laws of Ukraine
- Pass exams on the basics of the Constitution, history, and the Ukrainian language within 2 years from the date of citizenship acquisition (registration for exams is available at the link)
- Have lawful sources of income (e.g., military monetary compensation)
- Reside continuously in Ukraine on lawful grounds for a certain period, i.e. five years

For foreigners serving in the army, reduced residency requirements apply:

- One year of continuous service during martial law
- Three years of continuous service in peacetime

For foreigners declared unfit due to injury or awarded state honors, the residency requirement does not apply.

Usually, obtaining Ukrainian citizenship requires renouncing previous citizenship. However, for certain categories, it is sufficient to submit a declaration renouncing foreign citizenship – a simpler and more accessible option. This applies to:

- Current and former service members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) or the National Guard of Ukraine (NGU), including those awarded state honors of Ukraine, as well as their spouses, children, and parents
- Members of the families of service members who died while performing combat duties
- Refugees and persons granted asylum in Ukraine
- Persons who have suffered political persecution in the aggressor country
- Persons who have outstanding merits to Ukraine or represent a national interest for it, as well as their spouses and children

To submit an application for citizenship:

1. You must personally apply to the territorial office of the State Migration Service (SMS); see the addresses here
2. Prepare a set of documents:

- 3 photographs sized 35 × 45 mm
- A declaration renouncing foreign citizenship and recognizing oneself solely as a citizen of Ukraine (except for those who have taken an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship), or a declaration of statelessness (for stateless persons)

- A copy of the military service contract, a copy of the military ID, and a certificate from the place of service
- A document confirming continuous legal residence in Ukraine for the required period (copy of the military ID and passport)
- A commitment to take exams on the basics of the Constitution of Ukraine, Ukrainian history, and to demonstrate proficiency in the official language In this case, the exams must be passed within two years

The SMS reviews the documents, and the case is forwarded to the Presidential Commission. After the Presidential Decree is signed, the foreigner receives a Ukrainian passport.

8. Deportation (Forced Return and Expulsion) and Extradition

Forced Return

This is an official decision by state authorities requiring a foreigner to leave Ukraine. It may be applied if the foreigner:

- Violates border crossing rules or is in Ukraine without legal grounds
- Poses a threat to national security or public order
- Poses a threat to the health or rights of Ukrainian citizens

The decision is made by the State Migration Service (SMS), the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU), or the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS).

After such a decision, a copy is personally handed to the foreigner, who is required to leave Ukraine on their own within 30 days. If the person was in Ukraine legally, the visa in the passport is canceled, and documents confirming legal stay (residence permit, etc.) are confiscated. A decision may also be made to ban entry to Ukraine for 3 years.

A forced return decision can be appealed in the administrative court of Ukraine (a specialized court that considers disputes between individuals and state authorities). If a foreigner receives such a decision and considers it illegal, it is recommended to contact a lawyer as soon as possible, as the departure period is limited. For consultation and possible legal support regarding appeals, one can contact the free legal aid agency at the contacts provided on this website: https://legalaid.gov.ua/.

Forced Expulsion

Forced expulsion is a decision that requires the foreigner to leave Ukraine on their own but involves the physical removal from the country with state authorities' involvement.

It may be applied if:

- The foreigner did not comply with a forced return decision within the allotted period
- There are grounds to believe that the foreigner will deliberately avoid compliance with such a decision
- The foreign national was detained while illegally crossing the border

The decision is made by SMS, SSU, or SBGS.

Consequences of a forced expulsion decision include:

- A ban on entry to Ukraine for 5 years
- If the foreigner already has a valid entry ban, the new term is added to the current one
- The foreigner may be placed in a special temporary accommodation facility for foreigners illegally staying in Ukraine for up to 18 months pending further expulsion from Ukraine

To avoid expulsion, it is important not to ignore a forced return decision. If a foreigner receives such a decision, they should contact a lawyer as soon as possible.

When Can a Person Not Be Expelled?

If a foreigner has assisted the Ukrainian army as an instructor or provided aid to the subunits of the Defense Forces of Ukraine, they cannot be forcibly returned to a country that:

- Committed armed aggression against Ukraine
- Does not recognize the territorial integrity or sovereignty of Ukraine
- Voted against the UN Resolution on the Territorial Integrity of Ukraine dated March 27, 2014

Additionally, regardless of circumstances, no foreigner can be forcibly returned, expelled, or extradited to a country where:

- They may be persecuted based on race, religion, nationality, citizenship, membership in a particular social group, or political beliefs
- They face the death penalty, torture, or cruel treatment
- Their life or freedom is threatened by armed conflict, systematic human rights violations, natural or man-made disasters, or lack of necessary medical care
- They may be sent again to one of the above-mentioned countries

These guarantees comply with the international law and the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. If a foreigner believes that returning to a dangerous country threatens them, they should contact a lawyer or a human rights organization.

Extradition

If the foreigner's country has sent an official request to Ukraine for their extradition, Ukraine may comply provided that:

- The crime for which the foreigner is suspected carries a prison sentence of at least 1 year under Ukrainian law
- Or the foreigner has already been convicted and has at least 4 months of unserved sentence remaining

If you have received an extradition request, you have the right to:

- Know the charges against you and which country is requesting extradition
- Have a lawyer and communicate with them confidentially
- Notify relatives or close persons of your location in case of detention
- Participate in court hearings regarding detention and extradition
- Review or obtain a copy of the extradition request
- Appeal the decision on detention and extradition
- Present your position in court
- At any time before the decision, consent to a simplified extradition procedure
- Use a translator/interpreter and speak in the court in a language you know

Ukraine will not extradite a foreigner to another country if:

- At the time of the decision, you are already a citizen of Ukraine
- The alleged crime does not carry imprisonment under Ukrainian law
- The statute of limitations for the crime has expired
- Extradition contradicts international obligations or Ukraine's national security interests
- The requesting country did not provide the necessary additional materials

If you have refugee status or are recognized as a person in need of protection in Ukraine, you cannot be extradited to the country you fled from or to any other country where your life, health, or freedom

is threatened due to race, religion, nationality, citizenship, membership in a social group, or political beliefs.

In such cases, at the request of a foreign state, the investigation may be conducted directly in Ukraine without extraditing the foreigner.

Section 6. Everyday Matters

1. Driving

If the foreigner is temporarily staying in Ukraine, they may legally drive a vehicle without any additional procedures if they use:

- A driver's license issued by a foreign country, if it complies with the requirements of the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic, meaning it is a document that includes the last name and first name, date and place of birth, photograph and signature, place of residence of the holder, date of issue and expiration date, name or seal of the issuing authority, categories covered by the license and the expiration date for each category, as well as information for registration purposes if necessary; or
- A license that does not meet the requirements of the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic, together with an international driver's license.

The information on the licenses must be presented or duplicated in Latin letters.

This rule applies both before the start of military service and during its course.

The need for Ukrainian driver's license, that is, to exchange or obtain a Ukrainian driver's license, arises in three cases:

- You have received a permanent residence permit
- A previously issued Ukrainian driver's license was lost or stolen
- You have not previously had a driver's license and want to obtain one for the first time in Ukraine

If you have received a permanent residence permit, you are required to exchange your driver's license within 60 days from the date of receiving the permit.

To exchange or renew a license, it is necessary to:

- Undergo a medical examination
- In most cases, pass theoretical and practical exams

Exams are not required if the license was issued in certain countries: Italy, Spain, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and the Republic of Lithuania, or if it complies with the international requirements of the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic.

After meeting these requirements, an application is submitted to the service center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

Documents for exchanging or renewing a driver's license:

- Passport document of a foreigner or a stateless person (or temporary or permanent residence permit)
- Military ID (military service book, certificate of service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, service ID)
- Certificate from the military unit confirming service (Form 5 certificate or 'forma pyat' in Ukrainian)
- Taxpayer Identification Number (RNOKPP)
- Medical certificate of the prescribed form, valid at the date of submission. Such a certificate can be obtained by a foreign national by applying to a hospital that has a relevant commission consisting of a GP, surgeon, ophthalmologist, otolaryngologist, neurologist, psychiatrist, and narcologist. In practice, such a commission exists in most hospitals.

Obtaining a Ukrainian driver's license

If you have not previously had a driver's license, you can obtain one in Ukraine.

The process consists of the following steps:

- Undergoing a medical examination. This stage is the same as required for license exchange. In this case, assistance with undergoing the medical examination and, in particular, referral to a hospital that has the required commission, may be provided by the driving school where you will later study
- Lessons at a driving school (theoretical stage)
- Passing the theoretical exam
- Practical driving training
- Passing the practical exam

After successfully passing the exams, a Ukrainian driver's license is issued. It is valid for two years. If you have not committed serious traffic violations during this period, the license is exchanged.

In the case of significant traffic safety violations, there may be an obligation to retake the exams.

For foreigners serving in the military, the address of residence is considered to be the address of the military unit indicated in the certificate of military service.

2. Renting Housing in Ukraine

During military service, a foreign national may legally rent housing. A rental agreement is important for migration and administrative procedures, including obtaining a residence permit.

To conclude a rental agreement, you need to provide:

- Passport of a foreign citizen for travel abroad
- Notarized translation of the passport into Ukrainian (not always required – depends on the country of origin and the notary's requirements)
- Taxpayer Identification Number (RNOKPP)
- A document confirming legal stay in Ukraine (visa or temporary or permanent residence permit)

In the case of short-term rental, proof of legal stay may not be required, but at the date of concluding the agreement, this information must be updated.

Foreign citizens rent housing on the same terms as Ukrainian citizens. It is necessary to:

- Conclude a rental agreement directly with the property owner
- With the owner's consent, register your place of residence at the rented apartment's address
- Use the rental agreement to obtain a residence permit

If the rental agreement is needed for obtaining a temporary or permanent residence permit, then it is necessary to:

- Conclude an official written rental agreement
- Obtain written consent from the property owner to register the foreigner's place of residence
- If the agreement is in a foreign language, get a notarized translation into Ukrainian
- Submit the rental agreement to the territorial body of the State Migration Service of Ukraine along with other documents for the residence permit

3. Marriage in Ukraine

Marriage between a Ukrainian citizen and a foreigner or stateless person is officially registered in Ukraine by the state civil registry offices, located almost in every town (similar to a Registry Office, Standesamt or a similar agency in your country). The application and documents are submitted to the state civil registry office, after which state registration of the marriage is conducted.

When submitting an application for the state registration of marriage, both parties must provide:

- Passport of the Ukrainian citizen and passport document of the foreigner or document proving statelessness
- Temporary or permanent residence permit in Ukraine, or another document confirming legal stay in Ukraine

If the man and/or woman had been previously married, additional documents must be submitted to confirm the termination of the previous marriage, namely:

- Divorce certificate
- Court decision on divorce or annulment of marriage that has entered into force
- Death certificate on the spouse's death
- Documents issued by a foreign state must be legalized or contain an apostille (unless otherwise provided by Ukraine's international treaties)
- Notarized Ukrainian translation of the documents

The marriage application must include information about military service, confirmed by the military ID. This is confirmed by a military ID.

Marriage is registered with one month of the date of application submission. In cases of valid reasons (such as the bride's pregnancy, presence of a common child, or immediate threat to the life of one of the spouses), the term may be shortened.

4. Using the Government App Diia

Diia is an official government application that combines your digital documents and provides access to public services online. In Ukraine, electronic documents on a smartphone have the same legal force as their physical originals.

To display a document in Diia, you need:

- A biometric residence permit issued starting from April 2018
- A taxpayer identification number (RNOKPP)
- A smartphone with an NFC chip (a phone that can be used for payments or data reading by tapping)
- A bank account and a banking app for authentication via BankID

How to add a residence permit in Diia:

- Download the app by searching Diia in the App Store or Google Play
- Log in using your bank application where you have an account
- Scroll through documents to the end and press 'Add document'
- Select 'Temporary or Permanent Residence Permit' and press 'Next'
- Press 'Scan' and hover your phone over the code on the back of your residence permit

- Confirm your identity with a photo

After successful authorization, the following tools become available in Diia:

1. Electronic residence permit (e-permit)

A digital document with a QR code confirming your temporary or permanent residence permit, which can be shown for checks by police or at checkpoints, in banks for opening accounts or updating data, at postal services (except high-value parcels requiring a passport), and at railway ticket offices.

2. Digital document sharing

The ability to instantly provide a digital copy of your residence permit to an institution.

The institution scans your QR code in Diia, you confirm the request, and the digital copy (PDF) is automatically sent to the institution's system.

3. Diia.Signature (qualified electronic signature)

A qualified electronic signature in your smartphone. It allows a foreign national to sign legal documents remotely.

4. Taxpayer card (RNOKPP)

A digital version of the taxpayer identification number. It is automatically loaded into the application, so you do not need to carry a paper certificate.

5. Fines and tax management

- **Traffic fines:** automatic notifications about violations and instant payment via Apple Pay/Google Pay.
- **Services for Individual Entrepreneurs:** if the foreign national is registered as an entrepreneur, they can pay taxes and submit declarations directly through the app.

The electronic residence permit appears in Diia within 24-72 hours after the physical card is issued to the foreign national and activated in the Unified State Demographic Register.

Section 7. Algorithm of Actions for the Families of Missing, Captured, or Deceased Service Members

1. What families of missing or captured service members should know

Notice of Capture or Disappearance

If a foreign service member goes missing or is captured, the military unit is required to notify their family. The notification procedure differs depending on where the service member served (Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU), National Guard of Ukraine (NGU), State Special Transport Service (SSTS)), but in most cases the military unit does not contact the family directly.

In the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the State Special Transport Service, the military unit sends notices of disappearance or capture of the service member:

- To the local military office (TCRSS).
- To the Main Directorate for Military Cooperation of the General Staff of the AFU, which officially informs the embassy/consulate of the foreign service member's country in Ukraine. If this is not possible, the official notice is sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. The Main Directorate for Military Cooperation may also notify the service member's family using the contact information provided by the service member.

In the National Guard of Ukraine, the military unit informs the diplomatic mission of the foreign service member's country in Ukraine and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

After receiving the information, the foreigner's diplomatic mission or consulate must contact their family. However, in some countries, other authorities handle this: For example, in Germany, the police handle the notification; in France, a special crisis center is in charge of this.

The official process may take a long time, and in some cases the embassy may refuse to notify the family, or it may be impossible to do so. In such cases, the military unit may directly contact the service member's family using the contact details provided during enlistment.

The military unit is also obliged to inform the family about the service member's personal belongings and documents and decide what to do with them. In practice, this process is complicated, as it is not always possible to send all belongings abroad. Delivery costs are covered by the family.

Actions after receiving notice of disappearance or capture

1. Contacting the military unit

The primary source of information about a service member's disappearance is the military unit. After receiving the notice, you may submit a written request to the unit for information about the circumstances of disappearance/capture and to obtain an extract from the order confirming disappearance or capture of your relative.

Send the request to the address of the military unit where the service member served. If you cannot find the address, send the request to:

- The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (if the service member served in the AFU or SSTS) Contacts | Ministry of Defense of Ukraine
- The Main Directorate of the National Guard of Ukraine (if the service member served in the NGU) Contacts - The National Guard of Ukraine

2. Opening a criminal case based on the fact of disappearance or capture of a service member in the bodies of the National Police of Ukraine

After establishing the fact of disappearance or capture, the National Police of Ukraine must initiate a criminal investigation (open a criminal case) to determine the service member's whereabouts.

The military unit informs the National Police of Ukraine about the disappearance or capture. However, any person may also submit such a report.

If you wish to report it to the police in person and are in Ukraine, go to the nearest police department and report the disappearance or capture (see the map of departments). Be sure to provide all known circumstances, distinguishing features, and photos of tattoos or other identifying marks.

If you are abroad, you can report it by sending a report (request) in Ukrainian to: info@police.gov.ua

After accepting the report, you should be informed within 24 hours about the start of the investigation and provided with an official document confirming it (an extract from the Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations).

To submit motions or access case materials, you must obtain victim status. To do this, submit a request to the investigator in Ukrainian asking to be recognized as a victim.

You may collect information and take other actions in Ukraine on your own or through a representative, such as a Ukrainian attorney (check via the Unified Register of Attorneys of Ukraine), or the free legal aid (FLA).

3. DNA sample collection

If you are in Ukraine and are a blood relative (parent/child/sibling), you should provide DNA samples immediately when contacting the police.

Outside Ukraine, DNA sampling is also possible, in particular:

- Through branches of the state enterprise Document; see locations here
- Through the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP)

4. Obtaining an extract from the Unified Register of Persons Gone Missing Under Special Circumstances and contacting the Commissioner for Persons Missing under Special Circumstances

This extract is an official confirmation of missing status. Write an application in Ukrainian requesting the extract and attach copies of documents proving your identity (passport) and documents proving your family relationship to the missing person. Send the application to: pgmia@mvs.gov.ua.

You can also contact the Commissioner for Persons Missing Under Special Circumstances with questions regarding the search for and information about a missing or captured service member at the official email address (bezvisty.info@mvs.gov.ua). The Commissioner collects all available official information from the Ukrainian state authorities and provides updates on actions taken in the search process.

5. Contacting the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War

Submit a report about the disappearance or capture to the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War. The application must follow the form indicated on the Coordination Headquarters' website. Send it to the below email: koord.sk3@gur.gov.ua.

Within three business days, representatives of the Coordination Headquarters will contact you and provide information already collected about your relative, as well as answer any questions you may have regarding the next steps in the process.

6. Contacting the Central Tracing Agency of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Fill out the online form on the ICRC website regarding the foreigner's disappearance for possible further notification of the family about captivity. This body is authorized to transmit information from the aggressor state and confirm captivity on that side.

7. Contacting the National Information Bureau (NIB)

This body was established and operates in accordance with the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of prisoners of war and the protection of civilians during wartime.

Through this Bureau, you can obtain up-to-date information about the status of your relative. To do this, you need to register on their official website, National Information Bureau and submit an application using the form. You may also send an inquiry to their email address: info@nib.gov.ua.

8. Contacting the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

The Working Group helps determine the fate or whereabouts of service members. It receives, reviews, and transmits reports of enforced disappearances submitted by relatives or human rights organizations to states, requesting investigations, searches, and reporting of results. It does not return individuals from captivity but may obtain information about your relative's health status.

Submit a request here: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - Submission of information to Special Procedures**.**

9. Contacting the Joint Center for Coordination of the Search For and Release of Prisoners of War and Illegally Detained Persons As a Result of Aggression Against Ukraine

If you suspect that your relative is in captivity, send a report to the Joint Center for Coordination of the Search For and Release of Prisoners of War and Illegally Detained Persons As a Result of Aggression Against Ukraine.

This agency facilitates the return of service members from captivity and is involved in the process of repatriating the remains.

Actions after receiving unofficial information about a service member's captivity

If you have unofficial information (for example, you monitored open sources or received messages, photos, or videos from third parties), report it to the relevant Ukrainian authorities for proper verification.

There are currently many cases of fraud, where people promise to return a relative from captivity in exchange for money: under no circumstances should you transfer funds, and you should report such fraud to the National Police of Ukraine.

Priority actions if you receive information about captivity:

1. Contact the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War. Follow the same procedure as for a missing person.

2. Contact the Joint Center for Coordination of the Search For and Release of Prisoners of War and Illegally Detained Persons As a Result of Aggression Against Ukraine in accordance with the missing persons procedure.

3. Contact the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) by filling out the relevant form.

A written appeal to the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War and to the Joint Center for Coordination of the Search For and Release of Prisoners of War and Illegally Detained Persons As a Result of Aggression Against Ukraine must be clear and concise. You must indicate where you obtained information about the captivity and what evidence supports it.

If you receive a photo or video in which you recognize the missing relative:

- Contact the police officer (investigator) handling the investigation with a request in Ukrainian requesting a facial recognition expert examination to identify the person in the photo or video. Attach the photo/video and photos of your relative taken during their civilian life for comparison. Please note that such a request to the investigator can only be submitted if you have obtained victim status. Your lawyer may also submit such a request.

The police officer (investigator) must respond to the request within 3 days.

If they deny the examination, send the request to:

➔ Ombudsman of Ukraine, hotline@ombudsman.gov.ua
➔ Commissioner for Persons Missing Under Special Circumstances, pgmia@mvs.gov.ua

Requirements for the photo or video: The face must be clearly visible to allow identification. If multiple people appear in the frame, clearly indicate who should be identified (describe their position in the frame or clothing details).

Provide recent quality photos of the relative taken before disappearance. The angle should match the angle in the photo/video confirming captivity (e.g., if the first photo was a side view, provide a similar side view photo of the relative).

If the facial expert examination confirms the missing person's identity, the expert's conclusion becomes evidence of captivity. Obtain a copy of the conclusion and send it to the National Information Bureau at: info@nib.gov.ua. This will help establish your relative's location more quickly.

Receiving monetary remuneration during disappearance/captivity

While a service member is considered missing or is in captivity, their family has the right to receive a portion of their monetary remuneration (salary).

If the service member prepared a personal directive in advance (a document in which the service member specifies who they would like to receive their salary in the event of disappearance or captivity), then the funds are paid to those individuals and in the shares they specified.

If no personal directive was prepared, 50% of the monetary remuneration is distributed equally among:

- The spouse
- Legal representatives of minor children (if there is no court decision on alimony enforcement in Ukraine or another country)
- Children with disabilities since childhood (regardless of age)

- The service member's parents (if they have not been deprived of parental rights)

If none of the above persons exist, then 20% is distributed among adult children and siblings for whom the service member is the legal representative.

The remaining is retained in the service member's special account.

You may also waive the payment of monetary remuneration or simply refrain from submitting the request for payment. However, please note that it is not permitted to waive the share of monetary remuneration belonging to minor children of the service member.

To receive payments:

1. Obtain a tax identification number (RNOKPP) by applying to a regional office of the State Tax Service of Ukraine in the regional capital (the list of offices is available here)
2. Open a bank account in a Ukrainian bank
3. Collect a package of documents (each document must be apostilled or certified by a Ukrainian consulate in your country and, if necessary, translated into Ukrainian):
    - A copy of the passport and a certificate of name change (if applicable)
    - A copy of the document on the registered place of residence
    - Documents confirming the family relationship with the service member: Marriage certificate, birth certificates of children or of the service member (for parents)
    - Death certificate of a family member (if someone in the family has passed away)
    - Document confirming family status (if the service member was not married and/or had no children)
    - Notarized waiver (if a family member wishes to transfer their share to another person)
    - Copy of the service member's Ukrainian Taxpayer Identification Number (RNOKPP)
    - Bank account details in IBAN format (in a Ukrainian bank)
4. Submit the documents in Ukraine:
    - Option A (preferred): One of the family members personally travels to Ukraine with powers of attorney from other family members, obtains notarized translations of all documents into Ukrainian, submits the application, and opens a bank account. The power of attorney must be bilingual
    - Option B: The family sends the full package of documents along with a power of attorney to their representative in Ukraine – a relative, lawyer, or other trusted person – who completes all procedures on their behalf

In practice, payments may be waived if documents are submitted through a representative whose authority or documents are improperly executed. The process of obtaining a tax number, opening a bank account, and collecting all necessary documents may take quite a long time.

2. What families of fallen service members should know

Notification of Death

If your relative served in the Armed Forces of Ukraine:

1. The military unit sends a notice to the local military office (TCRSS) and to the Main Directorate for Military Cooperation of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.
2. This directorate contacts the embassy or consulate of the foreigner's country in Ukraine.
3. The diplomatic mission searches for the family and notifies them of the death.

If your relative served in the National Guard of Ukraine:

The military unit directly contacts the diplomatic mission.

The foreigner's embassy or consulate must contact their family. However, in some countries, other authorities handle this – for example, in Germany, the police handle the notification; in France, a special crisis center is in charge of this.

The official process may be lengthy, and sometimes the embassy may, for various reasons, refuse to notify the family. In such cases:

- The military unit may contact the foreigner's relatives directly using the contacts provided upon enlistment
- Representatives of the unit also contact the family to return the foreigner's personal belongings

Practical advice: When enlisting, the foreigner should provide current contact information for their relatives – this significantly speeds up the process in case of an emergency.

Burial and Repatriation Procedure

If the body of the foreigner can be visually identified, the commander of the military unit contacts the family to agree on further actions: Burial in Ukraine or repatriation of the body to the home country. At the same time, the procedure is coordinated with the embassy or consulate of the deceased's country and a funeral service provider.

All expenses for burial or repatriation are covered by the respective unit.

If the body cannot be visually identified, a molecular genetic examination (DNA test) is first conducted to confirm the identity of the deceased. That is why it is important to submit DNA samples at an early stage.

The commander of the military unit organizes the transportation of the body to a pathology or forensic medical facility, where it is kept until a decision on burial or repatriation is made. The location of the foreigner's body is determined by the detective (investigator) conducting the investigation into the death.

In Ukraine, a death certificate is officially issued based on medical documents.

For this document to be recognized in your country, an apostille must be placed on it – an international certification that confirms the authenticity of the document and makes it valid abroad. To do this, you need to apply to the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine with a letter in Ukrainian, enclosing the original death certificate, proof of payment of the fee, and an application specifying which document is being submitted for apostille and in which country it will be used. The letter must be sent to the following address: 01001, Kyiv, 13 Horodetskoho Street

Burial in Ukraine

Before the burial of the foreigner's body in Ukraine, the military unit coordinates the place, time, and date of the burial with the relatives.

If the family agrees to burial in Ukraine, a farewell ceremony and burial of the foreign service member or their ashes is conducted with military honors stipulated for all service members of the Defense Forces of Ukraine.

Repatriation

Repatriation of the foreigner's body to the place of burial is carried out by a funeral service provider with which the military unit enters into a contract. The funeral service provider is responsible for preparing all documents necessary for transporting the body.

It also handles the transfer of personal belongings to the relatives.

Establishing the Status of the Family of a Deceased Veteran and Social Support

In the event of the foreigner's death, their relatives may obtain the status of a family member of a fallen (deceased) Defender of Ukraine. This status entitles the family of the deceased foreigner to state benefits from Ukraine. To obtain this status, it is necessary to receive an official conclusion from a medical commission (VLK) confirming that the death or injury is related to the performance of military duties.

The VLK process can be initiated in three ways:

- The family submits an application through the local military office (TCRSS) to the medical commission (VLK).
- The commander of the military unit where the deceased served sends the relevant request on their own.
- A family representative in Ukraine submits an application on their behalf to the medical commission (VLK) under a notarized power of attorney.

The application must include documents that must be apostilled or certified by a Ukrainian consulate and translated into Ukrainian (however, most documents are obtained directly from the military unit where the deceased served and do not require additional certification):

- Certificate of military service or a copy of the military ID
- Certificate confirming direct participation in combat operations as part of defense of Ukraine
- Medical documents confirming injury, post-concussion syndrome, mutilation, or illness
- Certificate describing the circumstances of the injury or trauma
- Copy of the accident or death investigation report (if such an investigation was conducted)
- Documents on the circumstances of death – commander's order regarding death, official death notification, decision to close criminal proceedings (if available)
- Copy of the medical death certificate
- Copy of the death certificate

Tip: Contact the military unit as early as possible – it is the primary issuer of most of the required documents. If the family cannot travel to Ukraine, all these steps can be carried out by a trusted person or a lawyer in Ukraine.

The status of a family member of a fallen Defender of Ukraine entitles the family of the deceased foreigner to benefits in Ukraine stipulated by the Ukrainian law for families of fallen service members.

The following family members of the foreigner may obtain this status:

- Parents of the deceased
- Husband or wife who has not remarried (regardless of whether they receive a pension)
- Children who have never had their own family
- Children who became disabled before reaching adulthood
- Children whose both parents died or went missing
- Dependents of the deceased who receive a pension due to the death (if they hold a residence permit in Ukraine)

To obtain the status, you must apply to a local government authority (local state administration – city or district), specifically to the subunit responsible for veteran policy. The application may be submitted either in person or electronically.

To obtain the status, the following set of documents must be provided:

- Death certificate or a court decision declaring a missing person deceased

- Certificate confirming the deceased's direct participation in the defense of Ukraine (template available here)
- Conclusion of the medical commission (VLK) confirming the causal link between the injury or trauma and the death

A decision on granting the status is made within one month from the date of the documents submission.

After obtaining the status of a family member of a fallen Defender of Ukraine, the family members of the deceased foreigner are entitled to a range of state benefits, including medical, housing and utility, labor and social protection, educational, and others.

These benefits include:

- 50% discount on housing payments (within established area limits)
- 50% discount on utility services: gas, electricity, etc.
- The right to take annual leave at a time convenient for you
- Additional unpaid leave of up to 2 weeks per year
- Priority right to retain employment in case of staff redundancy
- Admission to state universities and colleges without competition for state-funded programs, etc.

All these benefits apply only within the territory of Ukraine.

One-Time Financial Assistance for Families of the Deceased

In the event a foreign service member dies during combat, their family is entitled to a one-time financial payment in the amount of UAH 15,000,000. The amount is distributed equally among all recipients.

The following persons are entitled to receive this payment:

- Children of the deceased, including adopted children, conceived during the service member's lifetime and born after death
- Widow or widower
- Parents (if they have not been deprived of parental rights)
- Grandchildren, if their parents died before the service member
- A partner who lived with the deceased without official marriage, provided that this fact is confirmed by a court decision

The payment is not granted to:

- Citizens of Russia or Belarus, as well as persons permanently residing in these countries
- Persons convicted of treason or collaboration with the aggressor state

To receive payments:

1. Obtain a tax identification number (RNOKPP) by applying to a regional office of the State Tax Service of Ukraine in the regional capital (the list of offices is available here).
2. Open a bank account in a Ukrainian bank
3. Collect a package of documents (each document must be apostilled or certified by a Ukrainian consulate in your country and, if necessary, translated into Ukrainian)

Documents required to receive the financial assistance:

- Death certificate of the service member
- Conclusion of the medical commission (VLK) confirming the causal link between death and military service

- Certificate describing the circumstances of the injury or death
- Copy of the passport, and if applicable a certificate of name change
- A copy of the document on the registered place of residence
- Documents confirming the family relationship: Marriage certificate, birth certificates of children or of the deceased (for parents)
- Death certificate of a family member (if someone in the family has passed away)
- Document confirming family status (if the deceased was not married and/or had no children)
- Notarized power of attorney (if a family member wishes to transfer their share to another person)
- Copy of the deceased's Ukrainian Taxpayer Identification Number (RNOKPP)
- Bank account details in IBAN format (in a Ukrainian bank)

4. Submit the documents in Ukraine.

There are several options for submitting the documents:

- Option A (preferred): One of the family members personally travels to Ukraine with powers of attorney from others, obtains notarized translations of all documents into Ukrainian, submits the application, and opens a bank account.
- Option B: The family sends the full package of documents along with a power of attorney to their representative in Ukraine – a relative, lawyer, or other trusted person – who completes all procedures on their behalf.

In practice, when the documents are submitted through a representative, there may sometimes be a refusal to accept the documents. The process of obtaining a tax number, opening a bank account, and collecting all necessary documents may take quite a long time.

To process the payment, depending on the place of service, you should apply to:

- Armed Forces of Ukraine – any local military office (TCRSS)
- National Guard of Ukraine – the military unit where the deceased served, or the Financial and Economic Department of the Main Directorate of the NGU (if it is not possible to contact the military unit).