



SUCCESS STORY

Improving Professionalism of Enforcement Officers

On 24 September 2009 Director of Court Department of the Kyrgyz Republic approved the Code of Honor of Enforcement Officers.



«I am sure that the enforcement of officers' moral will be improved upon enactment of this Code».

J.Bozgorpoev, Head of the Division for Judgments Enforcement and Information in the Court Department of the Kyrgyz Republic

In the Kyrgyz Republic, enforcement officers are entrusted with a very important mission — to enforce judgments. However, these officers are not required to undergo special professional training before taking up their position — their ethical standards only become apparent as they perform their work. Poor performance gives rise to many complaints, reflecting badly on a particular officer, and also on the entire enforcement system. In fact, negative experiences during the enforcement process can undermine public trust in the judiciary as a whole.

To address this situation, the Court Department needed to establish ethics rules for enforcement officers, and then train officers to uphold these standards. The USAID Judicial Reform Assistance Project, funded by the MCC Threshold Program, drafted and sought enactment of an Enforcement Officer's Code of Honor. The drafting process took several months, after which it was submitted to the Court Department for their consideration and approval.

The Code of Honor of Enforcement Officers was developed in accordance with the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Enforcement Procedure and Status of Enforcement Officers", the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Public Service" and other normative national acts regulating ethical conduct of enforcement officers in the course of their professional activities. The Code: establishes ethical norms to improve officers' professionalism and ethical conduct during in- and out-of-service activities; documents the rights of individuals and legal interests of organizations; and seeks to improve the level of enforcement of court judgments, acts of other bodies, and authorities in the Kyrgyz Republic. In addition, the Code of Honor details the consequences for violations of its provisions.

In the future, the USAID Judicial Reform Assistance Project will assist the Court Department in conducting training seminars to explain the provisions of the Code of Honor to the enforcement officers.

The joint work of the Court Department and the USAID Judicial Reform Assistance Project will improve officers' professionalism, strengthen their ethical standards of conduct, and eventually increase the public's trust in the judiciary.