

Identify the Problem Related to the Sale, Trade, or Donation of Human Organs

Trafficking in human organs is strictly prohibited in most countries of the world, including all developed countries. It is banned by the World Health Organization and the criminal codes of most countries. Nevertheless, in many countries of the world, legal use of organs of living donors is still allowed. There is a developed social system of providing medicine with fresh organs, in which two official channels for obtaining organs and tissues for transplantation can be distinguished. The first of them is free receipt of organs from relatives of the patient. The second one is through free removal of organs from dead people.

This, as a rule, requires prior special permission from the court. In most countries, it is prohibited to use donor organs of people with mental disorders, as well as donor organs of prisoners, even with their consent. As a result, an existing problem of the shortage of donors acquires a negative factor of commercialization. The ethical problems associated with the commercialization of transplantation are related to the fact that human organs become a commodity, and in conditions of a general shortage of donor organs, it is a rather scarce and very expensive commodity (Abouna).

It is considered absolutely unacceptable to create a market for donor organs and tissues and to profit from their trade. However, it is well known that, in accordance with the economic law stating “demand creates supply,” there is a black market of donor organs and tissues (Jonsen). In this case live people act as donors and sellers, who for various (mostly material) reasons decide to sell one of their organs. Mainly one of the paired organs of the human body is sold, among which the greatest demand are the kidneys. According to Jonsen, commercialization contradicts the highest humanistic idea of transplantology: death serves to prolong life.

In solving these problems, the observance of the ethical principles of informed voluntary consent, causing no harm, and adhering to social justice are of particular importance. These principles are the basis for all international and national ethical and legal

documents regulating the activities of medical workers in the field of human organ and tissue transplantation.

Works Cited

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