

Court of the Oktyabrsky District Court of the City of Minsk
33 Semashko Str.,
220045, Minsk

Plaintiff:

citizen of the Kingdom of Sweden
NIKOLAS CHEROPOULOS,
Sweden, Stockholm, Dansbanevägen 28,
126 31 Hägersten
nicolas.cheropoulos@gmail.com
postal address in Belarus:
P.O.B. 60 Minsk 220114

Defendant:

Citizen of the Republic of Belarus
Liudmila Arkadeyevna Trafimovich
64-24 Kizhevatova Str., Minsk

Interested parties:

Department of Education of
the Administration of the Oktyabrsky District
of the City of Minsk

State duty: 54 rubles

paid to the account¹, indicated on the official
website of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus,
for payment by payers who are not
tax residents of the Republic of Belarus
and located outside the Republic of Belarus.
Payment details: 1200513633451 of May 13, 2020

STATEMENT

**on resolving disagreements between parents
regarding parenting**

¹ <http://court.gov.by/online-help/duty/detales/>

Confirmation of the actual transfer of the state duty paid by payers who are not tax residents of the Republic of Belarus and located outside the Republic of Belarus to the republican budget is a certificate from the Inspectorate of the Tax and Duties Ministry of the Republic of Belarus for the city of Minsk, which is sent to a specially authorized state body, another authorized organization, to the official collecting the state duty, within five business days after the state duty is transferred to the budget (Part 2 of Paragraph 5 of Art. 251 of the Tax Code of the Republic of Belarus).

Since 2007, being in the territory of the Kingdom of Sweden, I lived together with the Belarusian citizen Liudmila Arkadeyevna Trafimovich. During our life together we have had two minor daughters – Anthoula Anthie Cheropoulou, born on June 08, 2012, and Alexandra Cheropoulou, born on April 01, 2015, who were born and permanently resided at the address: Sweden, Stockholm, Dansbanevägen 28, 126 31 Hägersten, before their removal to the Republic of Belarus.

On April 18, 2017, Liudmila Arkadeyevna Trafimovich illegally removed the children to the Republic of Belarus from Sweden without my consent. The fact that I knew or agreed to the removal of the children from the Kingdom of Sweden is not confirmed. Moreover, there is plenty of evidence that the children were removed without my consent and knowledge as a father.

On April 19, 2017, I filed a statement with the Swedish police for the search of the children, and subsequently with the Central Authority of Sweden for their return.

The fact of illegal removal of the children from their place of permanent residence was established by the court of Sweden on May 30, 2017. In addition, the Swedish court made an interim decision granting me full custody of the children in connection with the release of Liudmila Arkadeyevna Trafimovich from this right due to her gross offense (unlawful removal of the children). On December 08, 2017, the Swedish court rejected the appeal of Liudmila Arkadeyevna Trafimovich against the said court decision, the court decision itself was upheld. The final decision on granting me full custody of the children was issued by the Swedish court on September 19, 2018. This decision is not subject to the recognition procedure and is automatically recognized, that is, it has been valid in Belarus since September 19, 2018. This follows from Article 14 of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction of October 25, 1980, which allows taking into account judicial decisions of a foreign state recognized and not officially recognized in the state of the child's permanent residence, without resorting to special procedures for the recognition of foreign decisions which otherwise would have to be applied. This conclusion is also confirmed in the response of the Deputy Chairman of the Minsk City Court (ref. No. 13083 of November 08, 2018).

Currently, there is still a dispute between me and L.A. Trafimovich regarding the place of residence of the illegally removed children, and communication with the children. L.A. Trafimovich grossly violates the father's right to communicate with the children in general and creates all kinds of obstacles, including the fact that she periodically refuses to provide information about the whereabouts of the children and their health status, refuses to create conditions for distance communication with the children through electronic means of communication, refuses to agree dates and times of personal meetings. L.A. Trafimovich also refuses to arrange for the children to study Greek or Swedish at the expense of the father so that he could have basic language communication with his children.

Furthermore, between me and L.A. Trafimovich there are unresolved disagreements on the upbringing and education of the children. As I learned, since September 2019, my daughter Anthoula Anthie Cheropoulou, born on June 08, 2012, has been educated at Ikhvis Private School at the discretion of my wife L.A. Trafimovich, but without agreement with me, which

is confirmed by the official response of the Department of Education of the Administration of the Oktyabrsky District of the City of Minsk (ref. No. 1-2/H-208-1-ЭЛ. of November 16, 2019), *as well as photographs posted on the website <https://obitelminsk.ru/smotret/foto/?galAlbum=250>*. Religious rites are conducted in relation to my daughter, for which I did not give my consent.

In accordance with Part 2 of Article 75 of the Code on Marriage and Family, all issues regarding the forms and methods of raising children, their education, their attitude to religion, organization of free time and other issues of raising children shall be decided by both parents by mutual agreement. Disagreements between parents regarding parenting issues are resolved in court.

In accordance with Article 10 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On the Rights of the Child”, every child has the right to independently determine his or her attitude to religion, to profess any religion or not to profess any.

The same article of the Law provides that the state cannot intervene in the upbringing of the child based on a certain religious worldview of the parents (guardians, custodians), and, therefore, it cannot interfere with the performance of religious rites with the participation of the child outside educational institutions, observing traditions, except when the incitement to religious actions directly threatens the life and health of the child, violates his or her rights and legitimate interests. For a child under the age of fifteen, religious rites shall be performed with the consent of the parents (guardians, custodians).

Moreover, in accordance with Clause 1.10 of Article 2 of the Code of the Republic of Belarus on Education (hereinafter - the Code), the state policy in the field of education is based on the principles of the secular nature of education.

Thus, these principles are grossly violated by Ikhvis Private School.

By virtue of Clause 3 of Article 2 of the Code, the establishment and anonymous or other activities of religious organizations contradicting the law are not allowed in educational institutions.

According to Clause 4 of Article 2 of the Code, educational institutions can interact with registered religious organizations with regard to the issues of upbringing on the basis of written statements of students (legal representatives of minor students) after school hours, taking into account their influence on the formation of the spiritual, cultural and state traditions of the Belarusian people.

At the same time, I did not file such an application with Ikhvis Private School, I did not give my consent to this, and the obvious activities of a religious organization in this educational institution are expressly prohibited by Belarusian law.

I adhere to the Orthodox religion (Greek Orthodox Church), the mother of the child L.A. Trafimovich adheres to the Orthodox religion (Russian Orthodox Church), however, I believe that a child should receive a general education in a state secular school, and not a private religious school. A child must have freedom of religion and exercise his or her right to freedom of religion at a conscious age, without the pressure of studying at a religious school at a young age.

As follows from numerous publications on Internet resources, Ikhvis Private School is based on the personality cult of its religious leader, Archpriest Andrei Lemeshonok, who established an authoritarian regime in the institution. Thus, during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the institution continued its activities as usual, without taking measures to protect the health of its employees, students and parishioners. As a result, most nurses and staff fell ill with pneumonia and the coronavirus COVID-19, but officially this information is hidden (<https://news.tut.by/society/683501.html>). It became known to me that my daughter Alexandra and her mother L.A. Trafimovich are currently in the hospital with an infection, allegedly they have the COVID-19 coronavirus, which they contracted in the abovementioned facility.

FOR REFERENCE. *Ikhvis Private School is located within the territory of the St. Elisabeth Convent, located at 6, Vygotskogo Street in Minsk, and is an integral part of it. This monastery is often visited by odious individuals who hold radical neo-Nazi views that they do not hide, but, on the contrary, show publicly, in particular, Dmitry Lemeshonok - the son of Archpriest Andrei Lemeshonok (<https://nn.by/?c=ar&i=197309&lang=en>), and is also used as a platform for propaganda of hatred and the cult of war by people with a dubious reputation, namely the 'warrior of Christ Anthony' or as he calls himself 'lieutenant colonel of the Russian Military Intelligence Directorate Anton Manshin' (<https://nn.by/?c=ar&i=197200&lang=en>).*

I would also like to note that Ikhvis Private School is located far from my child's place of residence in Minsk, which means that either the child travels significant distances to and from school every day, which creates an additional danger for the child, especially in the context of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, or the child lives in the premises of the school itself, which is unknown to the father. Studying at a public school at the place of residence would reduce the time spent on moving, which could be used to attend language courses, sports sections and other developing courses, and reduce the corresponding risks.

In addition, I believe that the public school creates better conditions for providing a child with basic education, has a better teaching staff and infrastructure, and can better prepare a child for living and development in a universal social environment. Furthermore, the public school is under the direct control of the Ministry of Education and state bodies and therefore deserves more trust than Ikhvis School, which is controlled by the Archpriest.

Under such circumstances and in accordance with Articles 75-77 of the Code on Marriage and Family, Article 6 of the Civil Procedure Code,

I demand:

1. To oblige Liudmila Arkadeyevna Trafimovich not to impede my participation in the upbringing and education of the daughter Anthie Anthoula Cheropoulou, born on June 08, 2012.
2. To oblige Liudmila Arkadeyevna Trafimovich to transfer my daughter Anthie Anthoula Cheropoulou, born in 2012, from Ikhvis Private School to the full-time secondary

educational institution at the child's place of residence certified by the Ministry of Education to receive further general secondary education.

Annex:

1. Copy of the statement of claim on 4 sheets in 2 copies;
2. Copy of the document on payment of state duty.
3. Copies of documents confirming the kinship to Anthoula Anthie Cheropoulou;
4. Copy of the response from the Department of Education of the Administration of the Oktyabrsky District of the City of Minsk No. 1-2/H-208-1-ЭЛ. of November 16, 2019;
5. Copies of photographs on the website <https://obitelminsk.ru/smotret/foto/?galAlbum=250>;
6. Copy of the response of the Deputy Chairman of the Minsk City Court (ref. No. 13083 of November 08, 2018).
7. Copy of the Court Decision of September 19, 2018.
8. Copy of the power of attorney to the representative.

Representative of Nikolas Cheropoulos
Attorney A.S. Korsak

Per Power of Attorney
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___ May 14, 2020