

SURVEY FOR ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND THE DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AS COMPONENTS OF A PERSON'S LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS

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In recent decades, empirical studies of individual legal consciousness have become increasingly important. However, psychologists still have no a valid and reliable instrument that would allow assessing the extent to which the initial legal principles of law are reflected in the personality's legal consciousness, which can serve as a guideline for lawful behavior in a legally significant situation when the subject is not aware of special legal regulations. Legal axioms acquired socially fixed values expressed by the world community in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which reinforces the legal dogmas that form the basis of the constitutions and national legal systems of the developed countries of the world. We have taken this Declaration as a basis for the development of a questionnaire aimed at measurement of the level of awareness and the degree of significance of rights as the components of the person's individual legal consciousness. The theoretical basis for the developed methodology was the functional model of legal consciousness proposed by A.A. Ratinov. The original version of

the test is represented by 47 statements, each of which reflects the foundations of the legal status of an individual, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as provisions establishing the foundations of personal, political, social, economic and cultural rights. The method allows revealing a person's level of awareness and his /her evaluative attitude to the basic initial legal provisions that determine the basic principles of legitimate interaction in modern society. The structure of the questionnaire is represented by two scales – "awareness" (cognitive component of legal consciousness) and "significance" (emotional and evaluative component of legal consciousness). The following second order scales are substantiated: the legal status of the individual, personal rights, political rights, social rights, cultural rights. The factor structure of the questionnaire was confirmed on a representative sample of adults (N = 100) using the principal component method (54% of the variance explained). Further steps needed to support the validation of the new survey are discussed.