

LAW
ON HEALTH CARE OF ALIENS
IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Law regulates conditions and manner in which aliens in the Republic of Croatia receive health care.

Aliens under this Law are persons who are not Croatian citizens and who are in the Republic of Croatia either on temporary or extended stay, stay with the business visa, stay on the basis of the granted permanent settlement, stay at the invitation of the bodies of state authorities of the Republic of Croatia, stay under the recognised refugee status, persons undergoing the procedure for recognition of their refugee status, stateless persons or expelled persons whose extradition is not possible due to exceptionally serious health problems and under-age aliens found in the Republic of Croatia without their parents.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF HEALTH CARE OF ALIENS

Article 2

Health care of aliens in the Republic of Croatia is performed in the manner and under the same conditions as for Croatian citizens.

Aliens have the right to health care to the same extent secured to members of the families of insurees according to the regulations on health insurance of the Republic of Croatia.

The alien bears health care expenses in the Republic of Croatia unless he or she has health insurance under some other grounds.

The alien who was granted extended stay, business visa stay and refugees, upon expiration of three months from the date the status was recognised, and if health care is not secured under some other grounds, have to personally register with the regional office of the Croatian Health Insurance Institute competent according to the place of his or her residence and has to pay contributions for health care.

The Croatian Health Insurance Institute establishes the minimum amount and rate of contributions under Paragraph 4 of this Article by a special decision.

Article 3

Resources for health care are secured from state budget funds:

- to aliens whose health care is secured pursuant to international agreements unless established otherwise in these agreements,
- to stateless persons or expelled persons whose extradition is not possible due to exceptionally serious health problems,
- to aliens residing in the Republic of Croatia at the invitation of its state authorities,
- to aliens with recognised refugee status or who under special regulations have the right to health care in the Republic of Croatia,
- to aliens undergoing the procedure for recognition of refugee status,
- to under-age aliens found in the Republic of Croatia without their parents,
- to aliens suffering from plague, pest, viral haemorrhagic fevers, stomach typhoid and diphtheria,
- to aliens under Article 2, Paragraph 3 and Article 6 of this Law who could not pay for the received health care.

Article 4

Aliens in the Republic of Croatia for education, specialisation or scientific research and aliens who stay in the Republic of Croatia under the granted permanent settlement have to have health care under the regulations on health insurance of the Republic of Croatia.

The grantor of scholarships submits the application for health insurance of aliens found in the Republic of Croatia for education, specialisation or scientific research as scholarship-receivers of the state authorities of the Republic of Croatia or specific legal entities.

Aliens granted permanent settlement in the Republic of Croatia personally submit the application for health insurance.

The application for health insurance of aliens under Paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article is submitted to the regional office of the Croatian Health Insurance Institute competent according to the place of education, specialisation or scientific research or according to the place of permanent settlement of the alien.

The aliens under Paragraph 1 of this Article are obliged to have health care for members of their families (spouses and children) who reside in the Republic of Croatia with them and bear health care expenses for them themselves.

Article 5

The grantor of scholarships pays contributions for compulsory health insurance to the aliens under Article 4 of this Law found in the Republic of Croatia by reason of education, specialisation or scientific research, and who receive scholarships of the state authorities of the Republic of Croatia or specific legal entities, unless scholarship contracts determine that aliens pay the contributions for compulsory health insurance themselves.

The aliens under Paragraph 1 of this Article who do not receive scholarships pay the contributions for compulsory health insurance themselves if not receiving health insurance under some other grounds.

Article 6

Aliens are secured urgent medical assistance.

An alien who may not prove with the required document that he or she has secured health care according to the regulations on health insurance in the Republic of Croatia or other special regulations or under an international agreement, shall be charged the expenses of urgent medical assistance by the medical institution or an employee of the private practice.

Article 7

If in case under Article 6 of this Law, as well as in other cases when the alien personally bears the expenses of health care in the Republic of Croatia, the medical institution or an employee of the private practice cannot charge the provided medical service, they are obliged to take a written statement from the alien or legal representative for under-age minors.

The written statement under Paragraph 1 of this Article contains the following information:

- surname and name of alien,
- citizenship of alien
- permanent residence or temporary residence and address of alien,
- passport number, issuance number and name of issuing body,
- amount of expenses for rendered medical services,
- manner and dead-line for payment may not exceed 30 days.

If within 30 days the alien does not pay expenses for rendered medical service, the said resources are paid to the medical

institution or to the employee of the private practice from the state budget funds.

Article 8

Expenses of health care personally paid by the alien are directly charged by the medical institution or the employee of the private practice.

The manner of payment of health care expenses under Paragraph 1 of this Article is established according to the regulation passed by the Croatian Health Insurance Institute with the previous consent of the Minister of Health Care.

Article 9

The manner of payment of expenses from the state budget for medical services rendered to the aliens under Article 2, Paragraph 3, Article 3, Subparagraph 6 and Article 6 of this Law who could not pay for the same is established according to the regulation passed by the Croatian Health Insurance Institute with the previous consent of the Minister of Health Care and Minister of Finance.

Article 10

Upon executed payment of compensation for health care under Article 9 of this Law the Ministry of Health Care of the Republic of Croatia will address through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia the competent bodies of the other state to refund the said expenses into the state budget.

Article 11

The medical institution or the employee of a private practice who compensates from the alien expenses for rendered medical services under Article 2, Paragraph 3, Article 3, Subparagraph 6 and Article 6 of this Law is obliged to within eight days inform

the Ministry of Health Care of the Republic of Croatia about this.

If the medical institution or the employee of a private practice received from the alien the compensation of expenses for rendered medical services under Article 2, Paragraph 3, Article 3, Subparagraph 6 and Article 6 of this Law, and they also received compensation for the same expenses from the funds of the state budget, they are obliged to within 15 days return this compensation to the state budget.

3. PENAL PROVISIONS

Article 12

The legal entity who does not pay the contribution for compulsory medical insurance of aliens (Article 5, Paragraph 1) shall be fined in the amount between HRK 5,000.00 and 20,000.00.

The responsible person within the legal entity shall also be fined in the amount between HRK 2,500.00 and 5,000.00 for the offence under Paragraph 1 of this Article.

4. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 13

The Croatian Health Insurance Institute is obliged to pass the regulations under Article 8, Paragraph 2 and Article 9 of this Law within three months from the date this Law enters into legal force and effect.

The Croatian Health Insurance Institute is obliged to within three months from the date this Law enters into legal force and effect make its by-laws and decisions comply with the provisions of this Law.

Article 14

The Law on Health Care of Aliens in the Socialist Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette No. 18/78) shall cease to be valid when this Law enters into legal force and effect.

Article 15

This Law shall enter into legal force and effect eight days from its publication in the Official Gazette.

Class: 504-04/96-01/01

Zagreb, 17 October 1997

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Speaker
of the Parliament House of
Representatives
Vlatko Pavletić

[REDACTED]

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

1712

Pursuant to Article 89 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, I hereby pass the following

DECISION

on Enactment of the Law on Health Care of Aliens in the
Republic of Croatia

I hereby enact the Law on Health Care of Aliens in the Republic of Croatia passed by the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia at its session held on 17 October 1997.

Number: 081-97-1718/1

Zagreb, 22 October 1997

President of the Republic of
Croatia
Franjo Tuđman