

Ordinance on a template medical certificate

### **Ordinance on a template medical certificate on the causes and type of injuries related to domestic violence**

Any doctor is obliged to issue a certificate, and every victim can go to a night medical centre or, in larger cities, to the A&E or a hospital with an emergency service. Obtaining such a certificate is always free of charge, regardless of whether the victim goes to a centre cooperating with the National Health Fund or goes to a private medical facility.

It is also important that the doctor cannot refuse to issue such a certificate. The doctor will examine the injured person and the certificate should describe any visible injuries and their detailed appearance:

- type (wound: stab, cut, laceration, torn, bruised, bleeding, abrasion, bumper injury, etc.),
- colour (especially in the case of suffocation, as it is necessary to establish the healing characteristics associated with haemoglobin breakdown),
- size (in millimetres or centimetres), including the depth of wounds, presence of foreign bodies, etc.

Such a certificate is not a forensic medical examination. It is only evidence of what injuries the doctor found in the victim. In contrast, it cannot be treated as evidence confirming the cause and mechanism of the injuries. Only a forensic medical expert can state the cause and mechanism of injuries.