

4.2.7. Draft evasion

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According to the Code of Administrative Offences (Article 21.5), young men of conscript age face liability for failing to appear at a military enlistment office upon receiving a summons[828] – such as for a medical examination or additional medical examination[829] – which is punishable with a fine of 10 000 [102 euros] to 30 000 roubles [307 euros].[830] Smaller fines from 1 000 to 20 000 [10 – 205 euros] are imposed for failing to notify a military enlistment office about changes related to personal information, such as marital status, education, place of studies or employment, and residential address, as well as for not notifying a military enlistment office about leaving Russia for a period of more than six months.[831] The law requires to notify a military enlistment office about of a change of one's address within 14 days, including by sending a notification via the *Gosuslugi* portal.[832]

In June 2025, the State Duma approved an amendment, increasing fines for failing to notify a military enlistment office of a change of address from the previous 1 000 – 5 000 rubles [10 – 51 euros] to 10 000 – 20 000 rubles [102 – 205 euros], noting than more than 47 000 individuals were held responsible under this legal provision, with 28 700 being fined and 18 300 receiving warnings.[833] As noted by Artem Klyga, these fines 'are intended to scare young people and force them to send more supporting documents to military enlistment offices.' However, as of 31 October 2025, a widespread enforcement of these fines has not been observed.[834]

Draft evasion from obligatory military service is a criminal offence, punished under Article 328 of the Criminal Code by a fine up to 200 000 rubles [2 050 euros] or imprisonment for up to two years. Draft evasion from the alternative civilian service is punishable by penalties ranging from a fine of 80 000 rubles [820 euros] to arrest of up to six months.[835] As noted by Sergey Krivenko, the court must establish that there was a deliberate intent to evade military service, which can be demonstrated, for instance, through proving 'repeated failures' to appear at the military enlistment office without a valid reason.[836]

In 2024, as reported by IStories, 916 individuals were convicted of draft evasion, and two more were found guilty of evading alternative civilian service. In 95 % of convictions the punishment was a fine of up to 100 000 rubles [1 025 euros].[837] According to a human rights lawyer, in the first half of 2025, 580 people were convicted by courts for draft evasion, with the majority (576) punished by a fine. Only two individuals were sentenced to imprisonment (up to one year): these are the first prison convictions in several years, which indicates that penalties for draft evasion remain relatively lenient.[838] As reported by IStories, based on data from the Judicial Department, actual prison sentence was applied previously only once, in 2022.[839]

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  Forbes, Госдума приняла закон о новых штрафах за несообщение в военкомат о переезде [The State Duma passed a law on new fines for failure to notify the military enlistment office of a change of address], 24 June 2025, url

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  IStories, How and for What Russians Are Judged in 2024, 18 April 2025, url

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