

Employment of illegal workers in the Republic of Cyprus

Question:

We have a housecleaner, she asked us to offer a shelter for her sister (so that her sister will live with us as a housecleaner), and she resides in Cyprus illegally, because her contract with the previous employer had expired. What are the consequences of having illegal workers at home? **07/09/2015**

Response:

According to the applicable Laws and Regulations of the Republic of Cyprus, illegal employment constitutes a criminal offence, punishable with up to 3 years of imprisonment or with a penalty of up to 5,000 Cyprus Pounds (i.e. approximately 8,000 EUR) or both such penalties. In case you wish to employ the said housecleaner, you should acquire a permit of employment for the said housecleaner by the Ministry of Labor, Welfare and Social Insurance and also an approval issued by the Civil Registry and Migration Department. Since you already employ a housecleaner, this means that you already have a file with the Ministry of Labor, Welfare and Social Insurance, for employing a domestic worker, thus the Ministry would examine in a more favorable way an application for a second domestic worker. However, in order to consult you properly we need to know how the said foreigner became illegal (e.g. maybe her contract of employment expired and she did not renew her permit, or she was fired and remained unregistered after that incident etc.) Another important element is to verify for how long she remained unregistered, e.g. for a period of 6 months she could qualify for an approval by the Civil Registry and Migration Department easier (in conjunction with other requirements). Our Immigration Legal Department is long experienced in such legal affairs and we would be glad to consult you properly. Most importantly, you should act as soon as possible in order to avoid a possible deportation of the said foreigner, whereas in case you decide to employ her, you should not risk facing a criminal offence.