



Important telephone numbers

Emergency duty numbers Mon–Fri 8.15 am – 4 pm

Herttoniemi–Itäkeskus office tel. 09 310 62300

Kaarela office tel. 09 310 72980

Kallio office tel. 09 310 74074

Kamppi office tel. 09 310 73524

Kivikko office tel. 09 310 73273

Lassila office tel. 09 310 73175

Malmi office tel. 09 310 72874

Maunula office tel. 09 310 69572

Tapuli office tel. 09 310 73483

Vuosaari office tel. 09 310 73028

Sheltered homes in child welfare information tel. 09 310 73015

Emergency Social Services every day, 24 hours tel. 0206 96006

Crisis Emergency Support every day, 24 hours tel. 09 310 44222

Centralised Advice S-info Mon–Fri 10 am – 4 pm tel. 09 310 44000

Further information about
the Child Welfare Act
can be found at www.finlex.fi
and about social services at
www.hel.fi/sosv

*The brochure picture is from photographer and social educator
Miina Savolainen's community art project "Maailman ihanin tyttö"
about ten young women who had grown up in a children's home.
In the decade-long project, young women who had been taken into care
came to be viewed as well-adjusted and valuable.*

Child Welfare

THE TASK OF CHILD WELFARE IS TO ENSURE THE HEALTHY
DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.





The task of child welfare is to safeguard children's and young people's healthy development and well-being. When these are endangered, the assistance of child welfare is required.

The need for child welfare may arise, for example, due to parents' intoxicant abuse, mental health problems, or conflict within the family. Sometimes a child or young person may endanger their own development, for example by using intoxicants, missing school or committing crimes.

How can you contact child welfare?

You can always contact child welfare when you are concerned about the wellbeing of your own child or a child who lives nearby. Concrete situations may be, for example, when a child appears poorly cared for, a young child is without safe adult care or a young person under 18 years of age is intoxicated.

The easiest way to make contact during normal office hours is to call one of our child welfare duty social workers, whose telephone numbers by residential district can be found at the end of this brochure. Outside office hours, you can contact emergency social services.

Under the Child Welfare Act, the following authorities and officials have a special duty to report: social services and health care, schools, police and parish workers or people in positions of trust, refugee reception and emergency centre workers, and those working with school children in morning and afternoon activities. Officials must make a report when they become concerned about a child's welfare.

YOU CAN ALWAYS CONTACT CHILD WELFARE
WHEN YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT
THE WELLBEING OF YOUR OWN CHILD
OR A CHILD WHO LIVES NEARBY.

Every report is investigated

A child welfare social worker investigates the content of every report in the manner required by the Child Welfare Act. He or she will contact, besides the family, all necessary parties in order to make an assessment of child welfare needs. Social services works closely with e.g. day-care centres, schools and health care.

Child welfare client relationship

When a decision is made in cooperation with the family to initiate a child welfare client relationship, the family can be assisted through many forms of non-institutional social work. The most important support measures are:

- counselling, guidance and advice
- financial support e.g. for the child's school attendance and pastimes
- support for a young person to obtain an occupation, a home and a job
- home care for families with children
- family work
- peer groups
- support person or support family
- holiday and recreational activity
- the child's short-term placement in institutional or foster care.

Social services work with the family in accordance with a client plan. Sometimes short-term support is sufficient for the family, sometimes long-term work over many years is required. Social services and the family together decide on the ending of the child welfare client relationship.

Taking a child into care

The authorities only resort to taking a child into care,

- when non-institutional measures are not sufficient or possible
- if shortcomings in the child's care and home upbringing conditions seriously endanger the child's health or development or
- if the child's own behaviour, for example intoxicant abuse or criminal offences, endanger the child's wellbeing and
- substitute care is considered to be in the best interests of the child.

If the child or young person and his/her parents agree to taking the child or young person into care and placement in substitute care, the decision is made by the manager of open care social work. If a child of 12 years of age or over or his/her guardian opposes the taking of the child into care and placement in substitute care, the decision to take the child into care is made by the Administrative Court. A child may be placed in foster care, a professional foster home or a child welfare institution.

After-care

If a child has been in substitute care as a non-institutional support measure for a continuous period of at least six months or he/she has been taken into care, he/she has the right to after-care. The objective of after-care is to support a child's return home or a young person's transition to an independent life.