

## Social and Legal Protection of Children

If you find yourself in a situation when you find out about a child who needs help particularly for these reasons:

- the child's parents died or they do not perform their parental responsibilities,
- the child leads idle and immoral life, does not attend school, does not work, does not have a sufficient source of income, drinks alcohol or uses drugs, makes a living by prostitution, committed a crime or an offence,
- repeatedly runs away from the parents,
- is threatened by violence between the parents or by violence against him/herself,
- is an applicant for granting international protection, an asylum seeker or a person having an additional protection, or who is in the territory of the Czech Republic without a company of the parents or other people responsible for their education,

then, contact one of the authorities which deals with social and legal protection of children. The aim of the social and legal protection is to keep a function of a family and therefore, the state entrusted including but not limited this activity to:

- regional and municipal authorities,
- Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Prague,
- Office for International Legal Protection of Children in Brno.

The best thing is to visit the nearest authority according to the place of residence. In case **you are in Karlovy Vary and its surroundings, contact Municipal Authority, U Spořitelny 2, division of social affairs.**

The social-legal protection of children is determined to all persons younger than 18 years (children), that are in the territory of CR **regardless of their citizenship**. Social and legal protection is provided **FREE OF CHARGE** to all children with no difference, without any discrimination on the ground of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin.

The authorities employ social workers for this activity and they, while solving a case, always consider the required continuity in the child's education and his ethnic, religious, cultural and language origin with emphasis on the child's interest and well-being.

**The problems of protection of children's rights are very difficult and are subject to Czech and international law. For acting at authorities we recommend you to take an interpreter with you, alternatively a person who can speak Czech language properly. The official language at authorities in the Czech Republic is always Czech language.**