

## When you suspect that a child is being abused:



In a situation where a child's health or life is at risk, call the police on 112 and describe the situation. Notify a member of staff or the facility manager.

If you witness violence against a child or suspect that a child is being abused, you must report this to a staff member or the facility manager. You can also do this by email to: .....

### Remember that:

- Every report of suspected child abuse is taken seriously and is subject to investigation whether it comes from the child, parent/carer, staff member/co-worker of the facility.
- If you are concerned about your safety, your submission will be anonymous and your identity will not be revealed.
- All information concerning a suspicious situation is treated confidentially unless a situation has arisen in which the facility staff are obliged to pass on information to the relevant authorities (police, court, social welfare, etc.).
- A child who may or has been harmed will always be given appropriate help and support.
- If your child has been harmed at the facility, you have the right to request a 'Child Support Plan' from the facility staff, which will outline what support and safety measures will be taken by the facility staff, by you as well as possibly by other professionals.

### Attention!

If you are/were a witness to child abuse or have knowledge or suspicion that a child is being abused - by law you must report this to the police. If for various reasons you do not want to or cannot inform the police, report the matter to a member of staff at the facility.

In Poland, failure to report a crime against a child is punishable by up to three years' imprisonment (Penal Code Art. 240; Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 304).

Remember that you may be the only person to notice that a child needs help!  
Your reaction is very important!

# Policy on protection of children from abuse in facilities for foreigners run by the office for foreigners

## Information for adult residents of the facility (abridged version)

### Dear Adults,

Children who are staying in the facilities of the Office for Foreigners are entitled to the special protection and assistance to which all children are entitled under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly the right to protection from all forms of abuse.

The facility has a **Child Protection from Abuse Policy**. This is a document that provides a set of policies and procedures to protect children from harm by adults and peers. This means that all adults, including residents, facility staff, and people on the premises are required to respond to child abuse.

**A child is any person under the age of 18.**

## What child abuse is:

Child abuse is any action or inaction that violates a child's rights or prevents their development.

### The use of physical violence by adults against children is prohibited, among others:

- beating with hand, belt and other objects,
- smacking a child in the face, head or body,
- shaking, pushing, throwing objects,
- kicking, shaking or throwing the child, scratching, pinching, biting, pulling hair/ears,
- forcing to stay in an uncomfortable position,
- burning, scalding,
- forcing to eat/swallow something,
- and other forms of physical violence that cause pain and violate the child's bodily boundaries.

Note that spanking is also violence!

### It is forbidden for adults to use psychological violence against children, among others:

- name-calling, threatening, blackmailing,
- humiliation, embarrassment, ridicule,
- blaming, denigrating, humiliating, threatening,
- emotional rejection (not speaking to the child, ignoring it, not showing emotions and feelings),
- making demands that a child cannot meet due to its age and emotional and physical development,
- burdening the child with adult problems and responsibilities (taking care of younger siblings, berating or setting against the other parent, etc.),
- limiting contact with peers,
- prohibiting participation in developmental activities (going to school and extracurricular activities).

### The use of sexual violence by adults against children is prohibited, among others:

- kissing and touching a child when it is for the purpose of sexually arousing an adult
- stimulating the intimate parts of the child's body,
- getting the child to touch an adult's intimate parts,
- exposing oneself to a child,
- having conversations with sexual content inappropriate for the child's age,
- forcing a child to watch and show pornography (pictures, films, drawings),
- the use of images and films with the image of a child for sexual purposes (child prostitution, pornography),
- the use of practices and traditions that harm children, such as circumcision of girls or a child marriage.

Please note: Any sexual activity with a child under the age of 15 is an offence under Polish law and will be reported to the Police or the Public Prosecutor's Office.

### All forms of child neglect by adults are prohibited, among others:

- failure to provide a child with safe shelter and care (e.g. a child has no place to sleep or study, is not dressed appropriately for the weather, is left unattended, especially a child under 7 years of age),
- neglecting the child in terms of nutrition (eating and drinking regularly),
- failing to treat the child, including failing to take care of appropriate medication and equipment, e.g. glasses, hearing aid, diet in case of allergic or metabolic diseases (diabetes), vaccinations,
- failing to provide the child with access to education, e.g. not sending to school, not providing books and school aids,
- lack of attention to the child's physical and emotional safety,
- any action by parents or caregivers that makes a child feel unloved, rejected, worthless, unaccepted, because the parents do not care for the child, do not support the child, are not interested in the child's health, nutrition or their problems.

### Commercial exploitation of children in all forms is prohibited, among others:

- child trafficking for adoption purposes,
- exploiting children for begging,
- coercing or allowing the sexual exploitation of children, using children for illicit transactions and services, including labour or other forms of exploitation from which the adult derives some benefit.

The use of violence against children, including physical, psychological, sexual violence, and neglect, is met by the Polish law with consequences (including imprisonment), which are regulated by selected provisions of the Anti-Domestic Violence Act, the Family and Guardianship Code, and the Penal Code.

## Protection of the child's data and image:

The use of the child's data (name, address, etc.) and/or their image (photographs, films) can only take place if the child's parent/carer agrees to this (in writing). The child should also consent to the publication of the image.

This means that no one is allowed to take photos, film or record children on the premises of the facility, without the consent of the parent/carer and the child itself. This applies to outsiders (employees of institutions, organisations, media, etc.) as well as to the facility staff and associates.

- If the image of the child is only a detail of a whole, such as a gathering, landscape, or public event, the consent of the child's parent/carer is not required.
- Parents/legal carers of children have the right to access, amend, rectify, complete, or restrict the processing of their child's data.
- At any time and in any form the parent/carer may request the deletion of the child's data. However, this will not apply to the processing of data or the presentation of an image that has already taken place because of the parent/carer's previously given consent.
- The parent/carer may object to the processing of the child's data or complain to the President of the Office for the Protection of Personal Data at: kancelaria@uodo.gov.pl.
- Any photograph made public must not violate the child's sphere of intimacy or dignity or present the child in situations that demean, insult or present them in a negative context.