

INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN – PROCEDURE IN THE POLICE STATION

You are in the area of the police station in _____ (town, municipality), in the Republic of Croatia.

I work at the Social Welfare Centre, and since you are under 18 and outside your country of residence and are without your parents or a legal guardian, my task is to protect you and your rights as a child. I will help you during the whole procedure which will take place at the police station.

Police officers, with the help of an interpreter, will collect your personal information (name and surname, date of birth, parents' names, etc.) and information about your family, and they will talk to you about why and how you arrived in the Republic of Croatia.

In order to help you better, we need your personal information and documents (passport, identification card or some other documents). If you do not have any of these papers, you need to give us truthful information about yourself.

We want to know how old you are because we want to accommodate you with your peers while you are staying in the Republic of Croatia.

If you do not feel well, if you are in pain or have any health issues, please tell us so we can take you to a doctor for an examination and treatment. If you do not feel well while talking to the police officers, or if you need to use the toilet, tell us and we will take a break.

If you are frightened, if somebody is threatening you or making you feel unsafe, if you are fleeing from war, exploitation or persecution because of your race, religion or ethnicity, share this with me and the police officers so we can help you. In the Republic of Croatia, you can apply for international protection if you cannot get this protection and help in your own country, and we will give you all the necessary information about this.

After the conversation at the police station, we will take you to a doctor for an examination, so the doctor can check your health and see whether you need medical assistance. After the examination, we will take you to an institution or to a family where you will stay.

During your entire stay in Croatia, a special guardian will protect your rights and interests. You can share your thoughts, feelings and wishes with the special guardian, because he/she will represent you instead of your parents. Feel free to talk to your special guardian if you have any questions about your rights and how to exercise them in Croatia.

If you seek international protection, your special guardian will represent you, provide you with assistance and support during this procedure, just as he/she will in the procedure of reunification with the members of your family in other countries of the European Union. Your special guardian will also be there with you if you are to return to your country.

During your stay in Croatia, you can contact members of your family. You can also start the procedure to trace your family members if you do not know where they are, through the network of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent. In the family tracing procedure, your safety and the safety of persons you want to find will be taken into account.

As an unaccompanied child, you have certain rights in Croatia. These rights include:

- accommodation;
- healthcare;
- one-off financial support;
- learning Croatian;
- education;
- international protection;
- a temporary residence permit on humanitarian grounds.

If you are granted international protection and if you stay in Croatia, you will be given the help and support necessary for inclusion into Croatian society.

Since we do not know much about you and the circumstances of your arrival at the moment, we cannot list all the situations you might encounter and all the rights you can have in Croatia. So, please feel free to contact us if you want to know more about your stay in Croatia, your rights and how you can exercise them.