



What can I do for my child right now?

You can continue to be there for your child during their time in care. This experience is also very unsettling for your son or daughter, but you can support them through your actions. It would be helpful if you could provide us with the following items:

- A cuddly toy or comfort item,
- Possibly a family photograph,
- Clothing,
- Any necessary medication or school items,
- Identity card,
- Health insurance card and child health record book ('U-Heft').

When communicating with us, make it clear that you wish to find a solution together and actively contribute to it. This will strengthen your child and give him or her confidence.



When does the care period end?

Your child's temporary care will end when the conditions for his or her return home are met. If necessary or if you wish, we will support you in this process.

Sometimes, continuing to live in a children's home or foster family seems like the best next step for everyone involved. If you apply for this kind of support, the period of temporary care will come to an end.

If we are unable to reach a mutual agreement during our discussion, it will be up to the family court to decide what is in the best interests of your child.



What should I do if I disagree with my child being taken into care?

You have the right to object to your child being taken into care.

If there is an acute danger, the youth welfare office must inform the family court immediately. The family court will then decide on the next steps. You can seek legal advice. The child will remain in care until the family court has made a decision.

Ombudsman services for children's social care also provide information on the rights and complaints procedures available to young people and their legal guardians. You can find the address of your regional ombuds officer at www.ombudschaft-jugendhilfe.de.

Taking a child into care is stressful for all family members. However, a crisis and physical separation are always an opportunity to find new approaches to your family life in peace. We and your child need you for this!



Who is there for me now?

The specialists at the social services department of the youth welfare office are available to answer your questions. They can also refer you to other counselling centres where you, as parents, can get advice and support in your current situation. Take advantage of these opportunities.



More information
on child protection

<https://www.unterstuetzung-die-ankommt.de/de/das-machen-wir-fuer-alle/kinderschutz/>

WHEN A CHILD IS TAKEN INTO EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE CARE

Initial answers to your questions

What happened?

Where is my child?

What happens next?

What can I do?

Who can help me?

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DAS JUGENDAMT.

(YOUTH WELFARE OFFICE.)

Support that makes a difference.

Dear parents,

The process of a child being taken into care can cause strong emotions in family members, such as anger, annoyance, confusion, fear, uncertainty and doubt.

The purpose of this flyer is to answer some important initial questions.

Children and young people have the right to live with a family, to receive adequate care, and to be raised in an environment free from violence. If they are in danger, the youth welfare office must take action, sometimes providing them with a safe place at short notice.

Our goal is to collaborate with you to find an appropriate solution for your child and end the care placement swiftly.



What is emergency protective care?

Taking a child into care is a temporary measure to protect children or young people in an acute crisis or dangerous situation. Temporary accommodation, e.g. in a youth residential care home for children, ensures that the child or young person is cared for and safe.

During the time in care, the youth welfare office determines the young person's place of residence and arranges everything necessary, such as food, doctor's appointments, and school or nursery attendance where possible. We will take your wishes and ideas as parents into account wherever possible.



When does a child become subject to care proceedings?

A child can only be taken into care under certain conditions. These are set out in Section 42 of the SGB VIII, which is the law that governs child and youth welfare.

A youth welfare office is authorised to take a child or young person into care if there is an urgent danger to their physical or mental well-being. This may be the case, for example, if a young person is found alone by the police at night, if parents are unable to provide adequate care for their child due to illness, or if a child is experiencing violence.

In such situations, the youth welfare office is required by law to take action to protect children and young people.

Even if children or young people themselves ask for protection because they cannot go home or are afraid, a youth welfare office must take them into care.

The decision to take a child into care is not made by one person alone. Such a decision is carefully considered by several specialised professionals. We involve you as parents and your children in this decision-making process as much as possible.

We can only make an exception if it is necessary for the protection of your child.



Where is my child?

Your daughter or son is temporarily living elsewhere. Sometimes, suitable people whom your child knows, such as relatives or acquaintances, can take care of them.

During their time in care, children and young people often live in a children's residential care home or with an emergency foster family. These settings provide round-the-clock care and support. The staff are specially trained for this task. They explain what is happening in a child-friendly way, and give your child the opportunity to inform someone they trust immediately after their arrival.

For the protection of young people, we may not always be able to disclose their whereabouts.



What happens next?

The aim of taking a child into care is to avert immediate danger. You will still be the child's parents. Taking a child into care is a temporary measure. We will keep in close contact with you to discuss the situation in detail. We will also clarify when and how you can speak to or visit your child. You are welcome to bring a trusted friend or a family member with you to meetings.

Other questions we will discuss together include: What does your child need to feel safe and well cared for? What do you need to be able to resume parenting and caregiving? Who can help and support you? The aim is to develop a viable plan for your child that everyone can agree on as much as possible.

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