

5.

Who can help you?

♥ THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE FACILITY WHO ARE THERE FOR YOU.

GUARDIAN

A guardian is an adult appointed by the authorities to support you. They are there to protect your rights and represent you if your parents or relatives are not with you. Your guardian will explain everything to you, be with you when you speak to the police or the authorities, and help arrange a lawyer if needed. They are also someone you can turn to if you have questions, worries, or need help contacting your family or people from your home country. If you don't have a guardian yet, ask for one.

SOCIAL WORKERS

You can come to them if you need to resolve something, want to ask a question, or are not feeling well.

LAWYERS

They advise you on how to defend yourself if you disagree with detention, transfer or deportation to another country, or how to apply for asylum. They provide free advice and visit the facility once a week.

PSYCHOLOGISTS


You can talk to them if something is bothering you or if you are sad. They will help you feel better.

INTERPRETERS

They translate if you don't understand Czech. You should learn everything important in a language you understand.

POLICE OFFICERS

They must treat you well and protect you. You can ask them anything or tell them if you feel threatened.

 IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO ONE OF THEM, TELL A SOCIAL WORKER OR ANOTHER ADULT. THEY WILL HELP YOU ARRANGE A MEETING.

6.

THE POLICE OR COURT
WILL DECIDE IF YOU CAN
BE RELEASED BEFORE
THE 90-DAY LIMIT.



How can you defend yourself – how can a lawyer help?

If you **disagree** with being in detention
→ you can file an **appeal** against the decision

➤ **within 15 days** of receiving the decision on detention or its extension.
→ The court must then decide within 7 working days.

1

2

If you do **disagree** with being transferred to a facility for adults
→ you can file an **appeal** against the decision

➤ **within 15 days** of receiving the detention decision.
→ The court must then make a decision within 7 working days.

3

If you **disagree** with your deportation or transfer to another country (sometimes under the Dublin Regulation)
→ you can file an **appeal** against the decision

➤ **within 10 days** of receiving the deportation decision, or

➤ **within 15 days** of receiving a transfer decision under the Dublin Regulation.

1.

INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN IN DETENTION

What to expect,
what can you do,
and who will help
you if you are
in a detention
center for
**unaccompanied
children?**



**Find out what
your rights are.**

FORUM
Human Rights

 **icj**
International
Commission
of Jurists
European Institutions (ICJ-EI)

 **Funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

 **REMEMBER: DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP.**

2.

Why are you here?

A POLICE OFFICER OR SOCIAL WORKER WILL TELL YOU WHY YOU ARE IN DETENTION.

- **Most often**, unaccompanied children are here because:
- they arrived in the Czech Republic alone (without family) and do not have a permit (visa) or passport (or have lost them), and:
 - their **age is unknown**,
 - **or they are 15–17 years old**, and the police are concerned that they might run away, hide, or pose a security risk.

What awaits you?

IT DEPENDS ON THE REASON WHY YOU ARE HERE.
YOU WILL BE HERE UNTIL YOUR AGE IS DETERMINED, BUT NO LONGER THAN 90 DAYS.

- **Then you will be:**
- transferred to another facility (for children or adults),
 - released and you will stay here (in the Czech Republic), for example if you are granted asylum,
 - returned to your home country,
 - transferred to another country.

How do the police find out your age?

YOU CAN SHOW ANY DOCUMENTS YOU HAVE (YOUR ID, BIRTH CERTIFICATE, SCHOOL REPORT, OR EVEN PHOTOS OF DOCUMENTS ON YOUR PHONE).



- If you don't have documents, or the police do not trust the ones you showed, they may send you for a medical examination. → Your guardian and an interpreter will always be present during this examination.
- In the facility, social workers will also observe you and write a report with their opinion about how old you appear to be.
- The police will then decide whether to consider you a child or an adult.
- This decision must be told to you in the presence of your guardian.

! IF THE POLICE ARE STILL NOT SURE HOW OLD YOU ARE → THEY MUST TREAT YOU AS A CHILD.

➤ If the police decide **you are a child**, you will most likely be sent to a facility for children.

➤ If they decide **you are an adult**, they may transfer you to a facility for adults.
→ **Don't agree?** Talk to a lawyer – they can help you appeal the transfer.

3.

Important words



ASYLUM

If it is dangerous in your country, you can apply to stay here (in the Czech Republic). This permission is called *asylum*. When you get it, you will no longer have to be in detention.

DEPORTATION

The authorities may decide that you will be returned to your country or to another country.

DUBLIN REGULATION

This European rule states that the first European country you arrive in will decide on your asylum application. This means that Czech authorities can return you there.

UNACCOMPANIED MINOR

You are a minor if you have not yet turned 18 and you are here alone, that is, if you are not with a parent or other relative who is responsible for you and takes care of you.

AGE ASSESSMENT

A procedure to determine whether you are an adult or a child. It involves a medical examination (X-ray) and observation by social workers at the facility. You can prove your age with documents such as a travel document (passport), birth certificate, or school records. You can also show photos of the documents on your mobile phone.

GUARDIAN

An adult assigned to you by the Czech authorities because you are here alone. S/he will help you and will always be with you when you talk to authorities or police officers.

FACILITY FOR CHILDREN - FOREIGNERS

A children's home in Prague where children who are alone in the Czech Republic stay. There are adults working there who help the children – social workers, psychologists, teachers or interpreters. You can go to school there. If you stay there, you will get permanent residence permit.

4.

What are your rights?



OFFICIALS AND POLICE OFFICERS:

- should **treat you well**. No one should hurt you.
- speak to you **in a language you understand**.
- **explain everything** to you and ask you what you think about it.
- they will tell you: why you are here, what your rights are, what rules you must follow, what will happen next and approximately when you will be able to leave.

IF SOMEONE TREATS YOU BADLY, TELL AN ADULT YOU TRUST.

IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, YOU CAN ASK BY YOURSELF.

IN THE DETENTION CENTRE:

- You can **call your family and other people**. Your mobile phone must be handed in, but you can use a public phone or the internet. A social worker will explain how.
- You have the right to receive **visits**.
- You can **go to the doctor** if you get sick or feel unwell.
- You can **go to school**.
- You can **play** – there are toys, playgrounds, trips, and activity clubs.
- You can **consult a lawyer**.

YOU WILL GET:



food and drinks
– 5 times a day
(if you can't eat something, say so, they will give you something else)



hygiene items
(soap, toothbrush, shampoo, sanitary pads...)



clean bedding



clothes and shoes

IF SOMETHING IS BOTHERING YOU OR YOU MISS SOMETHING, WRITE IT DOWN AND PUT IT IN THE "TRUST BOX", OR TELL A SOCIAL WORKER OR THE POLICE.