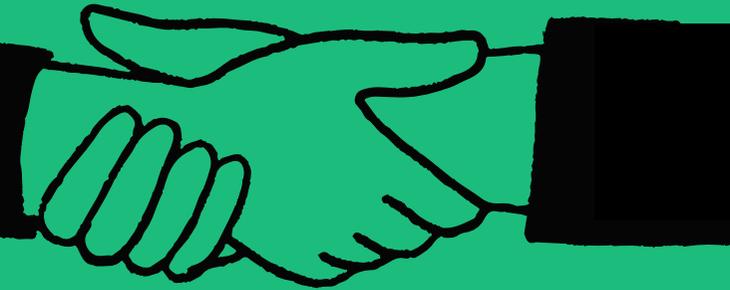


KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



SUMMARY FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN A GUARDED CENTRE FOR FOREIGNERS

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WHAT MIGHT YOUR LEGAL SITUATION LOOK LIKE?

You have found yourself in a Guarded Detention Centre for Foreigners in Poland and your legal situation is still pending. This leaflet will help you understand the legal procedures that may apply to you.

1 *Your case may be in* **PROCEEDINGS ON OBLIGING YOU TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.**

If you receive such a decision, you will have to return to your country, and may be deported.

However, you may disagree with it. Remember that you have **7 DAYS** to send an appeal.

If you do not want to return to your country, **get legal assistance as soon as possible or write that you disagree with such a decision.** Describe your situation in detail, why you left your country and the reason you do not want to return.

If in your life or health has been threatened in your country, you have been persecuted, there is a war going on, you belong to a religious, ethnic or sexual minority that **2** has been in danger - you can apply for **INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION.**



You can do this at any time.
Contact the Border Guard to do so. If you do not know how to do this - on the other next page you will find **a link with a list of organizations that can help you.**

If you are an unaccompanied child in Poland and you ask for international protection, you should be released from a guarded centre. Depriving you of your liberty despite requesting protection, **is against the law.**

When you are under 18, the court must appoint a special lawyer - **a guardian (PL *kurator*)** - to assist you until you turn 18.

You may then be referred to a care facility - that is a place where unaccompanied children are housed. Ask then for contact details of your guardian. Your lawyer is obliged to explain everything to you and assist you. In particular, they must be present at your asylum hearing. Prepare **documents to confirm your age**, such as a copy of your passport or birth certificate

If...

✓ you are a child
(you are less than 18 years old);

✓ you came to Poland because
you had to leave your country;

✓ you came without your parents
or other legal guardians
e.g. grandparents, cousin;

**THEN THIS LEAFLET
IS FOR YOU!**

**FIND OUT
YOUR RIGHTS
IN A GUARDED
CENTRE FOR
FOREIGNERS!**

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY AT THIS CENTRE?

according to the law:

MAX. 6 MONTHS

if you have applied
for international protection
and the procedure is not over;

MAX. 18 MONTHS

if you have received a decision on your
return and deportation has not been executed.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS AFTER LEAVING THE CENTRE?

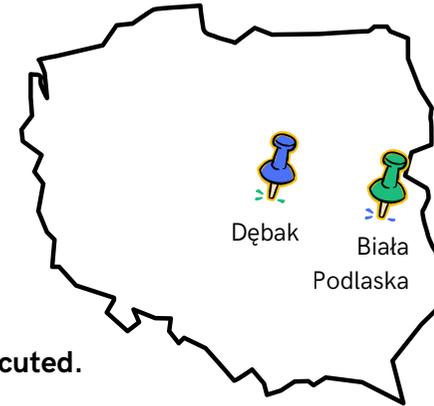
Stay in Poland until the end of your
international protection case. This is important.
You don't have the documents to leave Poland
now. Wait until your case is resolved.

If you leave Poland, your legal situation will
be more complicated.

For example, if you leave for another country
during this time, the authorities of that country
may send you back to Poland.

**If your family lives in Poland or another EU
country, be sure to inform the asylum office:**
Office for Foreigners (PL *Urząd do Spraw
Cudzoziemców*). You have the right to join
them, the Office should issue a decision on this.
Show documents proving kinship.

If, after leaving the guarded centre,
the international protection procedure
continues, you will go to an open centre
in Dębak or in Biała Podlaska.



Then you will be transferred
to another open centre
or you can receive money
to rent an apartment.

If you are not seeking
international protection,
then, unfortunately, you are
not entitled to housing.

DO YOU NEED HELP?

If you don't understand what's going
to happen next, or you need legal
or psychological help, here are the contacts
for organizations that help migrants
and refugees.

Don't be ashamed and seek help:
[https://www.gov.pl/web/udsc/organizacje-
zajmujace-sie-udzielaniem-pomocy-
cudzoziemcom](https://www.gov.pl/web/udsc/organizacje-zajmujace-sie-udzielaniem-pomocy-cudzoziemcom)

If you don't have the money to pay for
a lawyer to help you with deprivation of your
liberty, write an application to the court for free
legal aid. Write that you cannot afford
a lawyer and that the legal procedures
are too complicated for you.