

SOCIAL WELFARE DECREE 607/1983

Section 1

- (1) In order to improve social conditions and prevent and eliminate social grievances, municipal social welfare boards shall gain familiarity with living conditions in the municipality concerned and monitor their development.
- (2) When pursuing their activities, the boards shall ensure that the social perspective is taken into account in the various municipal functions, such as health care, public education, land use and construction, the provision of housing, employment, cultural and leisure-time activities, and the provision of transport and other services.
- (3) Municipal social welfare boards shall support municipal residents in independent action to prevent and remedy social grievances, and also in the maintenance and development of circumstances augmenting and promoting the well-being of the community.

Section 2

- (1) In pursuit of the functions referred to in section 1, social welfare boards shall cooperate with other authorities, institutions and residents, take initiatives, issue opinions and provide other expert assistance.
- (2) Different social welfare units and officeholders shall cooperate in the implementation of social welfare.

Section 3 (21.8.1992/803)

The multimember organ responsible for functions related to the implementation of social welfare shall monitor said implementation in the municipality and organize the necessary education and training, research and experiments to develop the units, forms of operation and procedures of social welfare.

Section 4

Besides urgent cases, the conditions referred to in section 15 of the Social Welfare Act (710/1982) shall be considered to exist when, for example, a person is staying in the municipality for study, employment or a corresponding purpose and the domicile of the person therefore remains unchanged under section 10 of the Population Register Act (141/1969).

Section 5

Social welfare clients shall be provided with an opportunity to appropriately participate in and influence the planning and implementation of social welfare and the care provided in the various social welfare units.

Section 6

- (1) The client's individual circumstances and special needs shall be taken into account in the implementation of social welfare. Attention shall also be paid to the client's close personal relationships and their maintenance.
- (2) When necessary, individual welfare plans shall be drawn up with clients to assess their need for social welfare and to ensure the supply of assistance.

Section 7

Social work is carried out in the form of individual and family case work, community work and administrative social work, and using other necessary measures.

Section 8

The function of child guidance and family counselling is to support and promote the favourable development of children and families by organizing

- 1) guidance, counselling and other expert assistance in issues involving human relations, family life and child upbringing; and
- 2) research and care in problems involving child upbringing and family life.

Section 9

Home-help services are organized in the following forms:

- 1) assistance, personal attendance and support provided at home by a trained home helper or house aid for an individual or a family; and
- 2) auxiliary services, such as meals on wheels, clothes maintenance, bathing, cleaning, transportation and escort services, and services promoting social interaction.

Subparagraph 3 was repealed by **Decree No. 320/1993**.

Paragraph 2 was repealed by **Decree No. 320/1993**.

Section 10

Housing services are organized in the form of service housing and supported accommodation to support a person's independent living or transition to independent living by means of social work and other social services.

Section 11

- (1) Persons in institutional care shall be provided with the rehabilitation, care and attendance that they need depending on their age and physical condition. They should also be ensured a safe, home-like and activating living environment that permits privacy and promotes rehabilitation, independent initiative and functional ability.
- (2) Institutional care is provided at homes for the elderly and, as separately provided, at institutions for the welfare of children and young people, the special care of the mentally handicapped, the care of invalids and the care for intoxicant abusers and, as needed, at other welfare institutions.

- (3) Institutional care may be provided in the form of short-term or continuous day or night care or 24-hour care. In addition, activities supporting independent living and rehabilitative activities may be arranged in the institution.

Section 12 (8.5.1992/419)

When the suitability of a family home referred to in section 26 of the Social Welfare Act is evaluated, the municipality or joint municipal board shall pay particular attention to the human relationships in the family home, the potential of the family carer to take into account and satisfy the needs of the person to be placed in family care in the interests of said person, and the ability of the family carer to cooperate with the municipality or joint municipal board and those close to the person to be placed in family care. Furthermore, whether the other members of the family home accept the person to be placed in family care and whether this person can obtain an equal position with the other members of the family home shall be considered. The structure, facilities and standard of equipment of the family home shall also be suitable for the care to be provided.

Section 13 (21.8.1992/803)

On the grounds of social welfare needs, holiday services may be provided for families with children, the handicapped and the elderly, and arrangements for their holidays may be supported.

Section 14 was repealed by **Act No. 1413/1997**.

Section 15 (21.8.1992/803)

If the multimember organ responsible for functions related to the implementation of social welfare has, under section 38 of the Social Welfare Act, collected and withdrawn benefits due to a person, the organ shall give said person an account of use of the funds.

Section 16

- (1) A matter referred to in section 45, paragraph 2, of the Social Welfare Act shall be submitted for consideration as prescribed in the Administrative Procedures Act (598/1952).
- (2) The social welfare board shall process the matter referred to in paragraph 1 urgently.

Section 17

- (1) The social welfare board shall ensure that, in contexts where it is appropriate, the parents of a child are informed of the options laid down in the Child Custody and Right of Access Act (361/1983) for the parents to agree on the custody of the child and on visiting rights.
- (2) The social welfare board shall also ensure that, when necessary, the parents are guided and assisted in concluding written agreements concerning child custody, visiting rights and child maintenance.

Section 18

- (1) When necessary, a child welfare officer shall, under the supervision of the social welfare board, take action to forward maintenance payments, and to collect and otherwise secure maintenance, in so far as the said officer has been so authorized by the representative of the child referred to in section 5, paragraph 1, of the Child Maintenance Act.

- (2) When a child welfare officer brings legal action against an individual man to establish paternity, the officer is required to bring action to confirm maintenance at the same time, unless the representative of the child has expressed opposition to such action.

Section 19

- (1) Specialist and other necessary education and training designed for social welfare personnel may be organized in units providing social welfare.
- (2) An officeholder subordinate to a municipal social welfare board is required to participate in the provision of such education and training as further specified in an agreement between the municipality and the party providing education and training referred to in section 52 of the Social Welfare Act, or as otherwise stipulated.

Section 19a (13.3.1992/222)

- (1) A municipality and an institution of higher education may agree that a social service centre involved in the organization of vocational education and training in social work be designated as a teaching social service centre.
- (2) In addition to its social welfare functions, a teaching social service centre shall contribute to basic vocational education and training in social work. The functions of a teaching social service centre may also include the organization of research and development on the improvement of social services, as well as specialised, further or in-service vocational education and training in social work.
- (3) Designation of a social service centre as a teaching social service centre requires that the municipality and the institution of higher education allocate sufficient resources for the above-mentioned functions in the agreement referred to in paragraph 1.

Section 20

- (1) Before a party other than the State or a municipality starts or stops providing social welfare services or materially changes such operations, it shall notify the social welfare board in the municipality where the operations primarily take place.
- (2) The social welfare board shall forward the notification referred to in paragraph 1 to the competent provincial State office.

Section 21 (27.11.1992/1145)

The National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health shall monitor research and experimental and development activities and see to it that results with national significance are utilized.

Section 22 (15.2.1991/328)

Further instructions on the application of this Decree shall be issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health when necessary.

Section 23

This Decree enters into force on January 1, 1984.