

The core activities, tasks and competences of the National Specialized Child Protection Services – NSCPS

The NSCPS is an institution providing a home and specialised regional child protection services within the meaning of Article 15(3)(a) and (c) of Act XXXI of 1997 on the Protection of Children and the Administration of Public Guardianship (hereinafter referred to as the Act).

In the scope of the NSCPS's core activities of child protection are as follows:

a) following interim placement and during the procedure of referring children into care:

- it proposes care placement for the child,
- it carries out an assessment on the child's personality and needs, prepares a professional opinion and a placement proposal at the request of the Guardianship Office,
- it draws up an individual placement plan at the request of the Guardianship Office,
- it assigns a foster parent or a children's home as an interim placement for the child;

b) in procedures relating to the declaration of adoptability and adoption of the child:

- it keeps a register of suitable adopters and of children declared adoptable,
- it mediates in open adoption procedures,
- it conducts assessments of the suitability of applicants for adoption,
- it provides information and training to prospective adopters and organising training courses for them,
- it follows up on completed adoptions;

(c) within the scope of its activity of operating a network of interim guardians, trustees and child protection guardians:

- it appoints an interim guardian for a child when the child cannot be represented by a parent/guardian or when the parent/guardian is unable to represent the child in a case requiring special expertise,
- it appoints a guardian as a trustee of the child's possessions on a case-by-case basis, if the guardianship office has not authorised the guardian to manage the child's property,
- pursuant to Article 84 of the Act, it appoints a child protection guardian for children taken into care by the decision of the Guardianship Office, also with regard to the guardianship of unaccompanied minors;

d) performs tasks related to and within the framework of:

- providing professional methodological assistance in the performance of the specialised tasks of care services for children,
- preparing proposals for the development of specialised care,
- promoting the practical application of scientific research,
- organising training courses;

e) operates the metropolitan and county-level child protection expert panels;

f) keeps a register of the care provider stakeholders pursuant to Article 141 of the Act, i.e.:

- placement operators: network of foster parents, children's homes or homes for the disabled and psychiatric patients, or supported housing, and vacancies at such homes,

- interim care providers: network of foster parents or children's homes providing care for children placed in interim care,
- professional individuals who may be appointed as interim guardians, child protection guardians and deputy child protection guardians,
- the time of care (care days) of children placed in care in institutions or foster care and of young adults in aftercare or care after care operated by government and non-government service providers,
- the follow-up of adoptions in accordance with Article 35 (5) c) of the Act;

g) operates interim residential care homes and/or a network of foster parents with interim foster care responsibilities;

(h) operates an on-call service;

(i) performs mediation tasks in compulsory child protection mediation proceedings or compulsory supported mediation proceedings on the basis of a decision of the Guardianship Office;

(j) provides crisis management services to support children in coping with trauma and to support the activities of professionals providing care in the event of the victimisation of multiple children or the victimisation of a child having a significant impact of on multiple children;

(k) may operate a service for the assessment and therapy of neglected and abused children, in particular sexually abused children, and, at the request of an official body, for forensic interviewing of the children concerned, in cooperation with the requesting authority.

The above core activities shall also include activities of a mental and physical (technical) nature and assistance which directly support them.