

Dublin-helpdesk for guardians and representatives of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers (UMA's)

Does the implementation of the Dublin-regulation present you with any problems as a guardian? Do you have any problems regarding the reunification of UMA's with their family members in other countries within the EU? Are you not sure how to bring the best interests of the child forward to the relevant authorities in the reunification process? And could you use practical support with these processes? In that case the Dublin-helpdesk for UMA's might be interesting for you.

Nidos offers support to guardians of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers

Nidos created a helpdesk for Dublin-support to assist guardians. Nidos is the national guardianship institution for unaccompanied minors in the Netherlands. In the past four years Nidos has generated a lot of expertise on unaccompanied minors in Dublin-cases. All the guardians of Nidos are internally supported with their Dublin cases. The expertise concerns several elements of a reunification under Dublin: making the best interests of the child concrete, aid with getting insight in which factors are important in a reunification process, providing contact details and information about the process in any EU-country and finally the way in which a guardian can position himself in the legal Dublin-procedures.

The new Dublin Directive (Dublin III)

UMA's can for unlimited reasons end up in one member state, while their family ends up in another. The Dublin regulation offers the possibility to reunite the minor with his family in these situations. The determining factor in these situations is whether reunification is in the child's best interest and whether the minor has applied for asylum already or not. In the current Dublin regulation (Dublin II) the minor can be reunified with his parents or legal guardian. In the framework of the new regulation there will be more possibilities for reunification. A minor can, under the new rules, be reunified with parents, brothers or sisters, uncles and aunts, grandparents or any adult that may have taken care of the minor in the country of origin.



Dublin Support for Guardians

The helpdesk is part of the European Refugee Fund-project “Dublin Support for Guardians”. This project is being implemented by Nidos in cooperation with Caritas International and France Terre d’Asile, funded by the European Commission. It started 01-06-2013. In the coming months the helpdesk will be made fully operational, guardians and other relevant stakeholders in European countries will be informed about the service, the steps in a Dublin-procedure (from the point of view of the guardian) in each Member State will be made available and the practical implementation of the new Dublin regulation in member states will be monitored.

The project aims to:

- Formulate concrete steps for each member state on how to reunite a uma with his family (care to care)
- Offer concrete support to guardians and other representatives in Dublin-cases of UMA’s, for example with practical problems with the reunification of minors with their families;

The helpdesk:

- Is meant for guardians and other representatives of UMAs that have family in another member state and want to be reunited
- Can be approached if you have practical questions, such as:
 - a How do I get an overview of the security situation around the minor in the country where he will go to?
 - b How do I approach family members?
 - c Which NGO or guardianship institution can I approach to transfer guardianship to?
- Can help you with cases and examples. The helpdesk can think with you and offer tips and tricks to smoothen the process
- Offers online information on contact details and country practice on www.engi.eu

The project will result in an improvement of the service of guardians in Dublin-procedures in the EU.

Contact details:

The helpdesk: dublin@engi.eu

Nidos: Germa Lourens, +31-(0)30.2391200, g.lourens@nidos.nl

Caritas International: Elvire Delwiche, e.delwiche@caritasint.be

France Terre D’Asile : Alix Pierard, apierard@france-terre-asile.org