

# STANDARD FOR SUPERVISION OF PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION OF UNACCOMPANIED MINOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

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## Introduction

It is the vision of the Danish Red Cross that unaccompanied minor asylum seekers get the opportunity to reside in the appropriate socio-cultural and familiar environment during the first step in the application process.

In order to fulfill this vision, the Asylum Department has chosen a strategy where:

- unaccompanied minor asylum seekers will be accommodated, to the extent possible, with relatives residing here, and at the same time it is evaluated that this serves the child's best interest.
- the accommodated minors will be offered the same services as the children and adolescents residing at the centers.
- the accommodated minors' social network will be strengthened.
- the foster families will be supported by regular advice and guidance, training and supervision.

## Goal

In connection to the strategy, the standard for supervision of private accommodation of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers is established with the following objectives:

### Area specific objectives

- the Asylum Department must ensure that the establishment of individual private accommodation of an unaccompanied minor asylum seeker is proceeding according to the guidelines (see *Annex Guidelines for private accommodation of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers*, section 1).
- the Asylum Department shall be able to substantiate, after examination of family care based on the pre-interviews with the child and home visit to the family, that the accommodation will be beneficial for the unaccompanied minor. It must be ensured that there is a match between a child and a family.
- it should also be ensured that the municipal authorities have issued a permit for the family where the private accommodation of the child is sought, according to regulations and instructions in Social Services Act, so that at least a nothing to prevent statement is available from the municipal authorities.
- privately accommodated unaccompanied minors of age 7-17 years old must, as a minimum, be offered education equivalent to that offered to the asylum seekers of school age accommodated at the centers, either locally or at the center they are associated with (see *Guidelines 2.1*).

- privately accommodated unaccompanied asylum seekers of age 17 and 18 years old should be offered education, as a minimum to the same extent as 17-25 years old asylum seekers accommodated at the centers, either in the form of municipal services locally or at the center they are associated with.
- younger children should be offered financial support for enrollment in socio-pedagogical arrangements and school clubs, and participation in leisure activities in organized form should be promoted.
- children with special needs should be offered treatment and special support similar to those offered to minor asylum seekers accommodated at the centers, for example by a specialist, psychologist, psychiatrist, or by a support person through the support funding.
- the Asylum Department must visit and conduct a flexible monitoring of each unaccompanied minor asylum seeker accommodated privately, basically four times a year with approximately three months intervals until the minor turns 18.
- the supervision includes a check on the child's condition in terms of development and behavior, schooling, healthcare offers, real place of residence, following the prescribed treatment, leisure activities, friendships and other relevant factors.
- two annual workshops will be arranged for the unaccompanied minors and their foster families with opportunities for group counseling, exchange of experiences and training in relevant topics. The workshop has an actual and relevant professional content adjusted to the target audience. The workshop offers frameworks and activities to strengthen their network. The form of workshops varies between academic, social and recreational offerings. The workshop focuses on the young people privately accommodated from the age of about 14 and over and their families.
- the Asylum Department will inform the foster parents of the privately accommodated minors about the representative scheme and will qualify those who are interested and link those who are suitable to the scheme.
- the families' efforts are sought to be qualified both by individual teaching and supervision and by offers to participate in different meetings in order to exchange experiences.
- there should be particular focus on foster families approved to have a child less than 14 years.
- if the unaccompanied minors are granted asylum, the social consultant must ensure that the handover to the municipality goes in accordance with the guidelines (see *Guidelines* section 3).
- before the unaccompanied minor turns 18, it is evaluated whether this young person must have an offer similar to after care, in case his or her application for asylum has been rejected (see Social Services Act § 76).
- if the child or the adolescent gets a deadline for leaving Denmark, it must be ensured that there is a real offer of support to a dialogue with the immigration authorities about the prepared return (this is also valid for the adolescent who turned 18 after arrival).

### **Organization and structural framework:**

- the supervision is carried out by the Asylum Department's social consultant, who has an office in building 2 in Sjælsmark and reports to the secretariat's chef.

### **Involvement of volunteers:**

We seek volunteers in the local area to support the child or the adolescent for example with homework and participation in extracurricular activities.

**Performance requirements:**

- all privately accommodated minors must receive a schooling offer.
- a pre-interview with the child and a home visit to the family must be conducted to substantiate that it is in the child's best interest to be privately accommodated.

**Danish Red Cross, Asylum Department**

## **Annex to the standard for supervision of private accommodation of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers**

**References**

The Social Services Act, Executive Order on Social Services Act, no. 941 October 1, 2009.