



Progetto co-finanziato dall'Unione Europea



MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO

FONDO ASILO, MIGRAZIONE E INTEGRAZIONE 2014-2020

Obiettivo Specifico: 2.Integrazione / Migrazione legale - Obiettivo Nazionale: 3. Capacity Building - lett j) Governance dei servizi - Interventi di sistema per il rafforzamento della prevenzione e del contrasto delle violenze a danno di minori stranieri
Progetto Remi - Reti per il contrasto alla violenza sui minori migranti - PROG-3536 CUP H49J21000240007

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN ITALY



Remi

Reti per il contrasto alla violenza sui minori migranti



CISMAI
COORDINAMENTO ITALIANO DEI SERVIZI
CONTRO IL MALTRATTAMENTO E L'ABUSO ALL'INFANZIA
Società Scientifica (DM 5491/17)

HOW TO:

Are you a parent just arrived in Italy?

These guidelines will help you to get familiar with the main Italian laws regarding you and your children and with the services that might provide you some support. In Italy there are laws on the protection of minors, to be intended as all the children and youngsters from 0 to 18 years old.

WHAT RIGHTS DO MINORS HAVE?

- To be registered at birth
- To have freedom of thought and expression
- To choose freely the religion to follow
- Not to be subjected to torture or other cruel treatment or punishment
- Not to be subjected to physical, psychological, or sexual violence
- Not to be subjected to physical punishments
- Not to undergo female genital mutilation
- To live together with their family or, whenever this should not be possible, to live with another family
- To have good health, to have access to health care and rehabilitation treatments
- To attend school. Attending school is compulsory for children from 6 to 16 years old
- To have free time to play and rest
- Not to work: children under the age of 16 years cannot work, not even freely.

Why do these rights exist?

Because they allow minors to be fine and to grow up in a healthy and peaceful way. Furthermore, in Italy the best interest of the minor is always the priority.

What does it mean?

It means that Italian laws give more importance to the interest of the minor than to the interests of any other person, including parents, grandparents, ...

Moreover, minors have the right to express their opinion and to be heard in any decision regarding them.

IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTIES, IF YOU NEED HELP TO ENSURE THE WELL-BEING OF YOURSELF AND OF YOUR CHILDREN, WHAT CAN YOU DO?

In Italy two types of services can support families and minors: **social services**, and **health and welfare services**.

Social services are available in every municipality. Going to social services office, you can talk to a social worker. The social worker's job consists in helping people and families who are facing difficulties. The social worker tries together with you to find a solution to the difficulties that you are experiencing, the

social worker helps you. Sometimes the social worker, together with the psychologist and the cultural mediator, meets the family and talks with parents, children and youngsters, teachers, and all the people who are important for the family. His job aims at helping the family to overcome the difficult moment and he does whatever can contribute to the well-being of everyone.

Health and welfare services ensure people's health. Many professionals work in health and welfare services, including social workers, psychologists, paediatric neuropsychiatrists, psychiatrists, doctors.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE RIGHTS OF A MINOR ARE DENIED?

The growth of minors, their health, and the respect of their rights are considered by Italian laws as something important and as a matter of interest for the entire community. In Italy, everybody can report to the authorities a situation in which the rights of a minor are being violated. There are some people obliged to protect the rights of the minors.

Who are these people?

- Teachers and school managers
- Social workers employed in municipalities' social services and in health and welfare services (hospitals, family health clinics, ...)
- Public security forces (local police, police, carabinieri, financial police, ...)

How can these people know whether the rights of a minor are being denied?

Teachers, for instance, can assess the well-being of the child at school; health care staff can verify the well-being of a child on the occasion of a medical examination. In different situations, still, these people can speak with a neighbour, with a relative, or directly with the minor.

What do these people do when they know that the child is not fine?

Están obligadas a presentar una denuncia ante la autoridad judicial que protege los derechos de los menores (Tribunal de Menores o Tribunal Ordinario).

¿Qué hace la autoridad judicial?

Pide a los servicios sociales que conozcan a la familia para saber cómo están los niños/jóvenes y cómo están sus padres. Los servicios sociales intervienen y trabajan para ayudar a esta familia a mejorar y proteger los derechos de los menores. Los servicios sociales y la familia tienen entonces que trabajar juntos para encontrar una solución. Es importante saber que la autoridad judicial decide por el bien del niño/joven incluso cuando los padres no quieren hablar o cooperar con los servicios sociales.

Social Services and Judicial Authority work to help the parents to take care of their own children. Italian law states that it is important to help the family to solve their problems, and that nobody should stay alone! Social Services are there to listen to you and to welcome you. Don't be afraid to ask for help!