The Child Welfare Service exists because some children and families need help

Some people think that the primary objective of the Child Welfare Service is to take children away from their parents and place them in the care of foster parents or an institution. That is why they are afraid to contact the Child Welfare Service. Perhaps that is not so strange – they may have heard stories or themselves experienced that contact with child services did not turn out as they had hoped.

What are your thoughts about the Child Welfare Service?

The Child Welfare Service is here to help

The main aim of the service is to ensure that families receive the help they need in their own homes. Social workers apply what is known as the “minimum intervention principle”, which means that the steps taken must not be any more intrusive than necessary. Help can be given in many ways. This includes providing advice and guidance to parents or holding strategy meetings with a child’s preschool nursery, if relevant, or other institutions if the parents so wish. The Child Welfare Service can also help arrange various types of respite care that can assist a family to cope in a challenging situation.



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Contact with the Child Welfare Service

You can contact the Child Welfare Service yourself if you need help and support in your role as a parent.

If the Child Welfare Service contacts a family, it may be because they have received a report of concern. This can be a frightening experience, but the objective of the Child Welfare Service is to help children and their parents. The Child Welfare Service has a duty to assess all reports of concern, so you will be invited to a meeting to discuss the matter. You can bring a friend or family member with you to the meeting. The Child Welfare Service may open an investigation to find out what kind of help and assistance the family needs. You will always be notified and have access to everything that is written down and all the information collected during this process.

You can read more about how the Child Welfare Service works here:

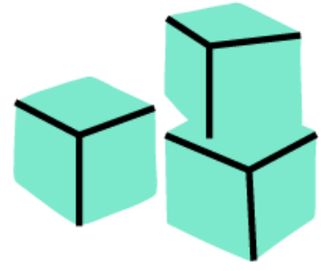
Bufdir.no (what does the Child Welfare Service do)

Taking a child into care

Children are generally taken into care on a temporary basis. The Child Welfare Service will then work to enable the child to return to their family. However, if the parents have shown themselves to be unsuitable, and restoration to the family could harm the child's health and development, the child will remain in care. This might also be the case if a long time has elapsed since the child was taken into care.

You can read more about what happens in a child welfare case here:

Bufdir.no (when the Child Welfare Service receives a report of concern)



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