



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF CHILDREN,  
EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**

**Circular**

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**GUIDELINES FOR PROCESSING CHILD WELFARE CASES  
WHERE CHILDREN HAVE TIES TO OTHER COUNTRIES**

*With subsequent amendments of 14.03.2016*

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## **Guidelines for processing child welfare cases where children have ties to other countries**

Many children in Norway have ties to another country and have parents or other family members living abroad. Children who are foreign nationals may stay in Norway for a short or long period of time and may have legal or illegal residence. Some families apply for protection (asylum), and some children are living in Norway because their parents are labour immigrants. They may be EEA citizens or nationals from countries outside the EEA cooperation area. The child welfare service must take such matters into consideration when assessing which child welfare measures are in the child's best interests.

Child welfare cases that involve children with foreign citizenship or children who have strong ties to other countries may be challenging for the child welfare service. It may be difficult to have these cases adequately examined, and it may be demanding to assess which measures will be in the child's best interests. These type of cases may also attract a great deal of political attention and media focus abroad. The circular will provide information about how the child welfare service can handle these type of cases, including examinations, measures and the possibility of alternative follow-up of the child abroad. The circular also include a chapter on how to deal with children who apply for asylum or who are illegally residing in Norway. One chapter also deals with the child welfare service's cooperation with the immigration authorities.

An increasing number of foreign service missions in Norway would like to assist children or parents in child welfare cases. For example, foreign consular missions want to have access to information in individual cases, participate in meetings with the child welfare service, witness cases in the County Social Welfare Board and meet children under the care of the child welfare service. The circular will provide information on the role foreign authorities may play in child welfare cases, and on how the child welfare service can deal with enquiries from foreign consular missions.

This circular has been written with input from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs, the Directorate of Immigration, the National Office for the County Social Welfare Board and the Immigration Appeals Board have also contributed.