

ARE YOU 0-18 YEARS OLD?

If there is anything you wish to know about your rights and responsibilities, please visit the website **barn.is** or contact the *Office of the Ombudsman for Children*.

You can call **800 5999**,

send an e-mail to **ub@barn.is**,

or come to our office at **Laugavegur 13, 101 Reykjavík**.

When you contact the *Ombudsman for Children*, you do not need to disclose your name unless you wish to.

The Ombudsman for Children wants to know what children are thinking, how they feel and what their opinions are about things that affect them and their environment.



UMBOÐSMAÐUR BARNA



HÖNDLUN - MUNDVORRYTUNGA ÖRN SAMAR (2011)

LAUGAVEGUR 13 · 2nd FLOOR · 101 REYKJAVÍK · TOLL FREE NUMBER 800 5999 · TEL 552 8999 · FAX 552 8966 · WWW.BARN.IS · UB@BARN.IS

OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL CHILDREN IN ICELAND



UMBOÐSMAÐUR BARNA

WWW.BARN.IS

ROLE OF THE OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN

THE OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN WORKS TOWARDS IMPROVING THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN. THE OMBUDSMAN AIMS TO ENSURE THAT CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, NEEDS, AND INTERESTS IN ALL AREAS OF SOCIETY; FOR EXAMPLE, IN PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION, DECISION-MAKING, AND ORGANISATIONAL WORK. THE OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN PROVIDES THOSE SEEKING HIS OR HER ASSISTANCE WITH GUIDANCE ON THEIR LEGAL POSITION AND POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION.

THE OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN:

- is autonomous and is not dependent on instructions from the authorities,
- operates in all areas of legislation and legal enforcement,
- decides him- or herself what cases shall be investigated further,
- has far-reaching authority to compile information and has unrestricted access to all institutions for children,
- does not have the power to render rulings and cannot use coercive measures,
- does not become involved in disputes between individuals.

BY LAW, ALL INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 ARE CHILDREN

Children have the right to know both of their parents and interact with them both.

Children are entitled to the custody, support, attention and respect of their parents. Parents have the right and the duty to take important decisions on behalf of their children.

Parents oversee their children's financial affairs, but the general rule is that children control the funds that they have acquired through their own work or through gifts. Children may not go into debt.

Violence against children is never justifiable. Parents are to protect their children from psychological or physical violence and other debasement.

If a child lives in poor conditions or is subjected to mistreatment, or is in difficulties or has been the victim of harassment, violence, or other violations, he or she can contact child protection authorities by dialling Emergency Alert. The telephone number is 112.

Adults are to take due account of children's opinions, in accordance with the age and maturity of the children concerned.

The national and municipal governments are to ensure that all children receive basic education and healthcare so as to protect their emotional, physical, and social health and wellbeing.

Children are entitled to privacy.

