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Children's Home "Rada Vranješević"

Attn / Director Mrs Svetlana Blagojević

Subject - Recommendations, submitted

Home for children without parental care is a public institution established with aim to care for children without parental care and children without adequate parental care. Children are placed in Home based on the decision of the competent social welfare center in accordance with the Law on Social Protection and Family Law.

One of the fundamental rights of every child is right to family life and growth and development in a family environment. According to Article 9. of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, separating a child from his parents is undertaken only when in the appropriate procedure, in accordance with the law and procedures is established that separation is necessary and in the best interest of the child.

This means that all available measures of family - legal protection should precede to the placement of a child to Home, in order to eliminate the causes because of which the child who has parents is sent to Home, or all other measures of non - institutional care - foster care and adoption for children without parents should be used.

Thereby, in both cases, the placement of a child in Home is temporary, until conditions are created for return to the family or until the child is provided with other family, foster care or adoption.

But when a child has to live outside the family, at Home, then it must be provided with the right conditions - accommodation, nutrition, education, health care, upbringing, and what is very important professional personnel of different profiles who can answer this very demanding and responsible task. In order for Home to be able to meet the needs of children from different backgrounds, on the grounds that are different, that come with different expectations, children of all ages, and with health problems and behavioral problems, it is very important, with adequate organization and established procedures to avoid situations that will endanger the rights of children on any grounds.

Situations in practice, that are present, are very often the result of non-defined obligations of contracting parties with placement of children in Home, and the consequences of these situations bear only children.

Bearing in mind that the best interests of the child must be a priority for all participants in this process,

Given the responsibility of Home for all situations to which children placed at Home may be exposed,

It is necessary that the Home:

- by contract of placement of a child in the Home defines the rights and obligations of contracting parties / Home and center / related to all the issues of child care, and not only the manner of financing as it is the case now and consequences for failure to meet the established obligations, support agreement must be supporting documentation of the impact on the realization of the child's right to education, health care, etc.,
- decision on the placement of a child in the Home, under which the contract on the placement is concluded, must be explained in a manner that clearly shows the reasons for placement of the child and the evidence that this type of child care is in its best interest,
- by new rules on internal organization and systematization clearly defines the qualification structure of employees and their number given the number of children, their ages, different reasons that led to the placement of a child, their needs and obligations of the Home,
- organizes rules and obligations of conduct (house rules) in the institute that apply to all in the Home, but also to all other persons during their stay in the Home, the rules of safety and protection from socially unacceptable behaviors, and to include children in that process,
- establishes records with necessary data on all persons who are contact persons to children outside the Home and to regulate mutual relations: child - Home - contact person,
- on all plans, especially educational work with children keeps and records reports on the achieved, so that the same could be the basis for new planned activities, from which one could monitor the achievement of objectives and tasks of upbringing – educational work.

I expect that, within 15 days, the Institution is informed on the measures taken.

Ombudsman for Children
Nada Grahovac LLM