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Republic of Srpska Government
Ministry of Health and Social Care
Attn / Minister, Mr. Ranko Škrbić

Subject - Strengthening the capacities of social welfare centers

Under jurisdictions stipulated by the law, social welfare centers have great responsibilities and authorities whether they conduct proceedings and make decisions themselves or in proceedings before the court and other authorities give their opinion related to the implementation and protection of the rights of the child.

In many situations in which the Institution has acted - divorce and regulation of contact, payment of alimony, issuing travel documents for a child, the child victim of various forms of abuse and neglect ... social welfare centers play a crucial role.

The problem of beggary in children, placement of children without parental care in children's home, behavioral disorders, children in conflict with law, problems with alcohol and other categories of children at risk, very often are result of inadequate parental care and untimely responses to such conditions of children's growing up. Discussions about these, and many other matters concerning the rights and interests of children, indicated the necessity of strengthening the teams of social welfare centers in order to provide, within the measures of family legal protection, the necessary assistance and support to family to protect the interests of the child.

By the law, the guardianship authority is obliged to take necessary measures to protect personal and property rights and interests of the child. Among other things, if justified interests of children require, the guardianship authority is authorized to determine by measures of family legal protection continuous monitoring of the exercise of parental rights, a measure of increased monitoring of parents and other measures in accordance with the Law, and thus assist the family in upbringing and improving the personal status of the child.

On the other hand, social welfare centers, regularly point out the problems they face with every day, which affect the quality of their work, such as - greater competences of the centers on various grounds are not accompanied by the required number of workers, than lack of skilled

personnel of different profiles that is essential for performing the activities under the jurisdiction of the center, the inability of formation of expert teams to work on certain areas of social protection, lack of counseling services for children and parents and other organized forms of support for children and parents for a number of situations they face with on the path of growing up of children, insufficient financial resources, insufficient education and training of professional personnel.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, by considering the Initial Report of B&H on the state of the rights of the child in 2005. in its concluding remarks notes the important work and broad mandate of social welfare centers, and recommends:

- that social welfare centers are provided with adequate personnel and financial resources and the systematic training of personnel, and to take all other measures which would guarantee the quality, efficiency and transparency of all activities of these institutions.

Starting from an extremely important role of social welfare centers in the system of social protection in general, and bearing in mind that the problems the centers face with in their work, have a consequence of inadequate measures in the protection of the interests of the child and based on data on the treatment of centers, not only in the work on individual cases but also in conversation with numerous centers about their powers and possibilities of an adequate treatment -

- It is necessary to ensure the necessary conditions for treatment of centers in accordance with the established powers, foremost in the part:

- of providing the required number of professional personnel,
- continuous training of employees and
- mandatory professional supervision.

Ombudsman for Children
Nada Grahovac LL.M