




YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS ON RECEPTION



This information is for you if:

-  **you are under the age of 18**
-  **you arrived without your parents, either alone or with other family members**
-  **you applied for asylum (also called international protection) in Finland.**

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➤ YOU ARE SAFE IN THIS COUNTRY

You told the authorities that you cannot go back to your country because you are in danger and you applied for asylum. You are an asylum seeker in Finland. It is normal if everything feels new. You are safe in this country and you will not be alone.

➤ WHO WILL HELP YOU?

In Europe, everyone below 18 years old is considered a child and has the right to receive **special support**.



Because you are here without your parents, another adult called a **representative** will help you with your needs. This person is independent of the authorities.

If you have not yet met your representative, you will meet them as soon as possible.

Until then, the authorities will assign another adult to support and represent you.

➤ WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE?

The representative can help you handle matters with the authorities, asks for your opinion and ensures it is taken into consideration in matters that concern you, explains to the authorities their own views of what would be in your best interest in different situations, works in cooperation with the adults and employees taking care of you and will ensure that you are informed of your matters and rights. The representative will not participate in your daily care or upbringing and they cannot let you stay in their home. In your everyday life, you will be looked after by the employees of the reception centre or the adults with whom you live. The representative will not buy you things or loan you money.

Your representative tells the authorities what you need, provides you with advice and helps you with making important decisions.

You can always express your needs and feelings and tell your representative your opinion.

If you have a problem with your representative, tell the reception centre staff.

➤ WHO ELSE CAN HELP YOU?



- The **reception centre staff** will help you with your everyday needs or contact other professionals who can help with a specific problem.
- A **nurse** will help you if you feel sick, you are injured or you need any kind of medical assistance.
- A **legal adviser** will help you and your family in case you believe your rights are not respected.
- An **interpreter** can help you communicate in a language you understand. Their role is to translate exactly what you and the others say.

What is age assessment?



If you arrived in Europe with no document proving how old you are, and the authorities have doubts about your age, they will ask you to take part in a procedure called **age assessment**. In this way, they can decide if they consider you a child or not. If you are asked to take part in an age assessment, your representative will explain the procedure to you.

What can you do if you want to contact your family?

- If you do not know where your family is, or you have lost contact with them, you can ask your representative or the staff for assistance. They will help you to search for your family.
- If you know where your family is and you have their contact details, the staff can help you to call them if you wish.
- If you have family in Europe, tell your representative or the staff everything you know about your family.



Be careful, some people might put you in danger



You might think of leaving this country or some people will try to convince you to run away. It can be dangerous for you and may have negative consequences for your asylum application. Talk to your representative and the reception centre staff, you can explain them the situation and they can advise you.

▶ WHAT WILL YOU RECEIVE?

You will receive different types of support and services while you wait for the authorities to examine your asylum application. This is called **reception**.

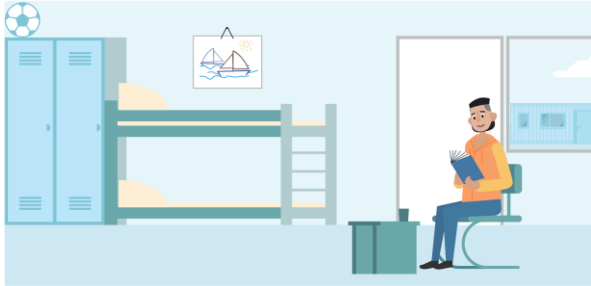
As a child and as an asylum seeker, you have rights but also obligations you need to respect. These are explained in this brochure.

The staff will ask you to confirm that you received the information in this brochure. If you do not understand parts of this brochure or if you have any questions, ask your reception centre staff and your representative.

During your stay in this country, your representative and the staff will provide you with additional information depending on your specific situation. You can ask questions at any time.



You will receive:



- a place to sleep



- food



- personal hygiene products



- clothing



- money for daily expenses, in other words spending allowance

➤ RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE

The authorities will ensure that you receive the health care you need.

You can inform the staff and your representative about any medical problem you have. They will help you to see a nurse or a doctor if you need.



If the doctor considers it necessary, they will prescribe medications as well as visits to see specialists.

The staff will tell you if you may have to attend a medical check with a nurse or a doctor. They will check on your health and provide you with the necessary assistance.

If you have a medical emergency or any injury that needs urgent treatment, tell the staff. If you are outside the place where you are staying, you can call the reception centre or in an emergency the emergency number 112.

➤ INFORM THE STAFF AND THE REPRESENTATIVE IF:



- you are unwell, injured or in need of urgent medical assistance or medication
- you use drugs or drink alcohol
- you experienced violence or abuse in the past or you are experiencing it now
- you are or you might be pregnant
- you cannot walk on your own or you have difficulties hearing and seeing
- you are very worried, sad, you cannot sleep or you have negative thoughts
- you feel unsafe or are afraid of someone, either a stranger or a person you know
- you have been or are being forced to do things you don't want to do
- you feel unsafe due to your faith, who you love, how you dress or behave.

Remember, the staff of the reception centre and your representative are here to help.



▶ WHAT IS A BEST INTERESTS ASSESSMENT?



It is an activity where you will meet specialized staff who will ask you questions to:

- understand your **needs**
- decide which **support** you need.

This will help the authorities to make important decisions, for example where you will stay.

You can trust the nurse, the doctor, the staff and your representative. You can share anything with them.

▶ RIGHT TO EDUCATION



As a child, you have the right to education and to learn. If you go to school and you turn 18 during this time, you can continue your attendance until schooling finishes.

The staff of the reception centre will help you to register at the local school. They will inform you about preparatory language classes and other courses.

The staff will tell you about educational and recreational activities to help you learn, develop and make new friends.

➤ RIGHT TO WORK

Depending on your age and your situation, you might be allowed to work in Finland, if you want to. The staff of your reception centre and your representative will give you more information.



All boys and girls under 14 years old are not allowed to work.

➤ YOUR ASYLUM SEEKERS DOCUMENT

You will receive a personal document with your name and photograph. This shows that you are an asylum seeker in Finland. You must always carry it with you.



This document is important. Be careful not to lose it and don't give it away to someone else.

➤ WHERE WILL YOU STAY?

The place where you will stay while the authorities examine your asylum application depends on your age and needs.



The authorities and the staff will inform you **where you have to stay**, for example in a certain accommodation or in a city

You will receive support and services only in the place decided by the authorities.

Very rarely, children might be put in a centre where they cannot come and go as they wish. If you are in this situation, your representative, a legal adviser and the staff will assist you.

**No matter where you are staying, you have the right to be safe.
Nobody is allowed to:**



threaten you



insult you



harm you

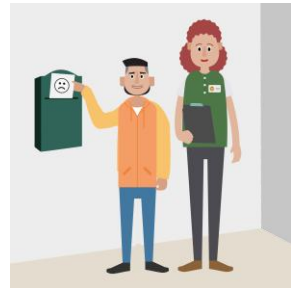
No matter who they are, a stranger or someone you know.
If you have any problems with the staff or your representative, you can speak up.

➤ WHAT CAN YOU DO IF SOMEONE TREATS YOU BADLY?



You can talk to a person you trust, another staff, your representative, or the reception centre staff.

If someone treats you badly, you [plural] can report this to the authorities to avoid it happening again. This is called 'making a complaint'.



Attention!

If you are outside the place where you are staying and you are in danger, you can call for free the national emergency number 112 from any phone.

➤ WHAT ARE YOUR RECEPTION OBLIGATIONS?



It is important that you tell the truth and that you cooperate with the authorities, even if sometimes it feels scary and difficult to tell your story. You are not alone. Your representative and the staff are here to listen to you and to help you with your everyday needs.

The staff can help you if they know about your situation.

Wherever you will stay, there will be rules to follow. For example, you must respect the other residents and the staff, and you must not be noisy during the quiet hours.

The staff will explain the rules and the consequences when rules are not followed.

It is very important that you:

- ✔ follow the rules of the place where you are staying
- ✘ do not run away from the place where the authorities told you to stay
- ✔ follow the laws of this country, which the staff and your representative will explain to you.

➤ WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY WITH YOUR OBLIGATIONS?



If this happens, you can speak openly to the reception centre staff or your representative and explain your situation and the reasons you had.

The authorities will evaluate your situation and will inform you and your representative if they decide to take some measures.

The authorities might decide that:

- **you may receive less support**, for example, if you run away from the place where the authorities told you to stay or if you do not cooperate with the authorities.
- **you may lose some of the support you are receiving**, if you behave violently or if you break the rules of the place where you are staying in a repeated or serious way. The police may also be called.



You are now in Finland, which is an EU+ country.

The EU+ countries are:



27 Member States of the European Union (EU): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and



4 other countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.



RULES FOR APPLYING FOR ASYLUM AND TRAVELLING TO EU+ COUNTRIES



Your representative and the staff of your reception centre will explain these important rules to you. **You can ask them questions at any time.**



You must stay in Finland and not run away to one of the other EU+ countries.



If you have family members in one of these countries, the authorities will inform you about your rights on family reunification. Do not just run away.



If you run away, there will be negative consequences, that are explained in the brochure. For example, you will receive less reception support in the other country.



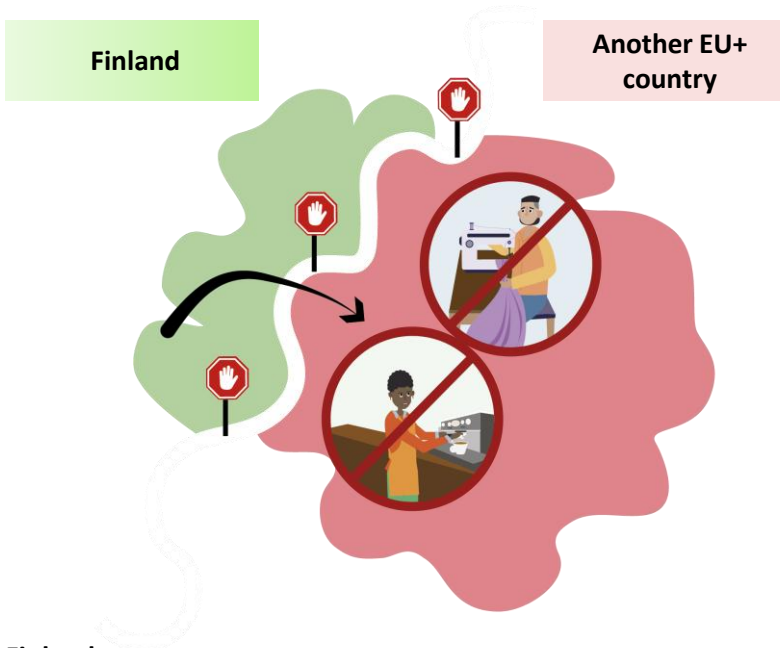
Remember, you must register your asylum application in the EU+ country where you first arrived, unless the authorities informed you otherwise.



Only one of these countries is responsible to examine your asylum application. The authorities in Finland will tell you which country is responsible for this.

You will learn about these procedures in separate brochures.

▶ WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU RUN AWAY TO ONE OF THE EU+ COUNTRIES?



In Finland:

- your asylum procedure may be stopped.

In the other EU+ country:

- the authorities may decide to send you back to the EU+ country that you left.

From the moment the authorities inform you about the decision to send you back, you will not have access to certain rights, for example:

- you will not receive some types of support.

➤ WHO CAN HELP YOU IF YOU DON'T AGREE WITH A DECISION MADE BY AUTHORITIES?

You can talk to your representative and ask any questions.

Together with your representative you can ask for help from a legal adviser.

A legal adviser is a person who knows the rules in this country and can study your situation and assist you.



The staff will also inform you about non-governmental organisations who may also provide you with information and assistance.



You can contact the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) anytime. UNHCR protects people who were forced to leave their country.

▶ WHAT HAPPENS IF SOME SUPPORT CHANGES?

If the authorities decide to limit or cancel some types of support because of the situation as explained on page 15, you will still be able to:



- go to school



- receive medical assistance



- receive help based on your personal situation and needs.

When the authorities decide to cancel the reception support provided to you because you ran away and moved to another EU+ country, the type of support you will still receive will depend on your personal situation and needs. You will still be able to go to school.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions or you need support during your stay, you can talk to staff working in:

the reception authority	
Your own reception centre	

General information on reception or asylum process	
	Migri.fi, Infofinland.fi

other relevant authority	
Finnish Immigration Service (Maahanmuuttovirasto)	Postal address: PO Box 10, FI-00086 Maahanmuuttovirasto, Email: migri@migri.fi

legal counselling, assistance and representation



[...] [include hotlines, websites or relevant contacts of organisations which can provide legal counselling]

the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

protects the interests and rights of asylum seekers and refugees



[...] [include relevant contact details]

**Non-Discrimination
Ombudsman
(Yhdenvertaisuusvaltu
utettu)**

Postal address: PO Box 24, FI-00023
Valtioneuvosto, Email: yvv@oikeus.fi
www.syrjinta.fi/en

If you have a medical emergency and you are in danger, contact the staff. They will help you.

If you are outside the place where you are staying and you have an accident or you are in danger, you can call this emergency number for free: **112**



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1/12.6.2026