



## CIRCUMCISION OF BOYS

In Finland, there is no need to circumcise boys for non-medical reasons. Whether boy is circumcised or not does not affect the boy's position and rights in Finnish society.

Non-medical circumcision is also a part of the culture and religion of certain communities in Finland. About 400 boys are circumcised every year in Finland for non-medical reasons.

**If you want your son to be circumcised, please follow the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health**

1. Only a doctor who has the right to practice medicine in Finland can perform a circumcision. You can find out about doctors who perform this procedure from representatives of your culture or religion living in Finland.
2. Non-medical circumcisions are not covered by publicly funded health care and are therefore not performed at health centres or public hospitals. If you want your son to be circumcised, you have to arrange it through the private health care system. In Finland, circumcisions for medical reasons are covered by publicly funded health care. For example, a scarred foreskin is considered to be a medical reason.
3. The doctor should make sure that the procedure is performed in a clean or sterile environment, so that the wound does not become inflamed.
4. Circumcision will cause your son pain. The doctor performing the procedure should make sure that your son receives enough painkillers before and after the procedure.
5. A circumcision can sometimes cause side effects. Soon after the procedure, your son may, for example, develop an inflammation. An inflamed wound can bleed and be sore. There is not much information about possible long-term side effects. The doctor must provide you with this information before you give your consent to the procedure. The doctor will give you instructions on what to do after the procedure.
6. The guardians must give their consent to the circumcision. If the boy has two guardians, the consent of both guardians is required. You have to sign a paper giving your consent to the circumcision of your son.
7. Your son has to give his consent to the circumcision. You must also ask your son to give his consent to the circumcision, if he is at an age when it is possible to discuss this matter. You and the doctor performing the procedure must tell him about the procedure in the best way possible. If the boy is already able to understand the meaning of the procedure and does not want to go through with it, the procedure cannot be performed. From the age of 12, your son should be able to understand the procedure but the ability to understand varies in children of the same age.
8. As the guardians of the boy, you will pay the costs of the circumcision.