

Trustee for child arriving alone

Children arriving in Sweden without their parents usually need someone who can represent them, for example in contact with various authorities. A relative cannot represent a “child arriving alone” and so a trustee has to be appointed.

A trustee for a “child arriving alone” represents the child as both guardian and legal custodian. This means that the trustee is responsible for and makes decisions about both the personal and the financial circumstances of the child. However the trustee is not responsible for daily care of the child and does not have any liability for maintenance either.

It is important to know that a trustee is not an authority figure. This means that the trustee does not represent an authority but only represents the child. In general it may be said that a trustee must ensure that the child receives the support that he or she needs during his or her first time in Sweden.



Duties

A trustee's duties include:

- supporting the child in dealings with the Swedish Migration Board and being present at the asylum hearing.
- applying for relevant grants (e.g. student grant, child allowance, income support).
- ensuring that the child has adequate accommodation.
- ensuring that the child receives health and medical care as needed.
- ensuring that the child receives appropriate schooling.
- ensuring that the child can if this is possible contact his or her parents or family in the home country.

Chief Guardians' Committee

Every municipality in Sweden has a Chief Guardian. The Chief Guardian ascertains the need for a trustee and decides whether to appoint trustees for children arriving alone. The Chief Guardian also supervises trustees and pays out their fees.

Contact/Questions

If you have questions regarding trusteeship, please contact us.