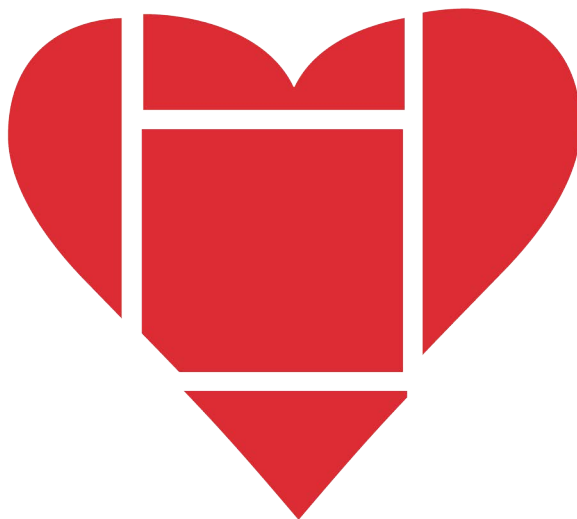


Information for parents:
Report of Concern to Social Services



Report of Concern to Social Services

If healthcare staff become concerned for a child's wellbeing, and/or believe that the child and its family are in need of the help and support of social services, they are duty-bound to report this to social services immediately, as per the Social Services Act, chapter 14, § 1. The purpose of the report of concern is to find out if you need support and help in your role as a parent or guardian.

A report to social services is always made out of concern for the child. The report can be made due to concern that the child is not getting what it needs, e.g. insufficient supervision and care due to parents' own difficulties, inadequate food, hygiene, medication and dental care, or due to concern that the child is subject to psychological, physical or sexual abuse.

You and your child are entitled to good care and to being treated well, regardless of whether a report has been made.

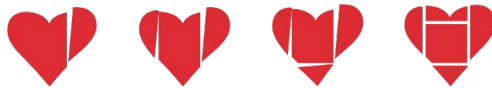
There are welfare officers working within Region Skåne's healthcare system who can be a great support if you're wondering what will happen once a report is made to social services. Ask staff at the ward or clinic to help you contact the welfare officer.

If the report is made in connection with the child being treated, healthcare staff are responsible for the child's medical treatment and care, while social services are responsible for the investigation. If medical examinations don't confirm the concern that the child has been neglected or caused harm, this will be noted in medical records, and social services will be informed.

If the report is made in connection with you, the adult, being unwell, and staff have perceived that you and your children need support, your care will continue as before. Social services will contact you and your family for an initial meeting, and a decision as to whether the child's situation needs to be investigated and what measures might be needed is made thereafter. You and your children are entitled to receive information, advice and support from care staff where you receive treatment.

From the Social Services Act, chapter 14, § 1:

If, in their operations, authorities whose operations put them in contact with children and adolescents, as well as other authorities in healthcare and social services, are made aware or suspect that a child is being maltreated, they are duty-bound to report this to the Social Welfare Committee immediately.



What happens when a report is made?

Social services in the child's home area are contacted.

Social services always try, to as great an extent as is possible, to perform their investigation in collaboration with the child and the family.

When a report is made to social services, the child and guardian are normally called to a meeting. There, it is decided whether social services are to investigate the child's wellbeing or not. The person who made the report is sometimes present at the meeting.

If the child or parent is in hospital, the social services official may come to the ward to contact you, the guardian, and to get information from doctors and staff.

If social services initiate an investigation, they often contact others, e.g. the child welfare centre, preschool and school, to get the full picture.

If needed, social services will call a consultation meeting with the concerned authorities.

An investigation takes a maximum of four months. The investigation establishes what help and support the child and its family may need, and/ or whether the child needs protection. The findings of the investigation are passed on to the healthcare system if the guardian gives permission.

Region Skåne
291 89 Kristianstad
044-309 30 00
Skane.se

