

Counseling and assistance in questions of alimony

You are a single parent and don't get money from the other parent for your child? Or do you get too little money? Get advice on what you can do and who can help you.

Competent Department

- [Bremen-Nord: Sozialzentrum 1 – Beistandschaft/Unterhalt für Minderjährige – Blumenthal, Vegesack, Burglesum](#)
- [Bremen-Stadt: Sozialzentrum 2 – Beistandschaft/Unterhalt für Minderjährige](#)

Basic information

Parents are obliged to provide for the maintenance of their children. If a parent does not live with his or her child in the same household, he or she is obligated to provide support in the form of monetary payments. If the person obligated to pay child support does not do so, the single parent is faced with the question of how to proceed.

A child has a legal right to maintenance. The Youth Welfare Office can give legal advice to a single parent and offer further support.

For example, letters can be written to the other parent and, if the financial circumstances of the other parent are known, the amount of child support payments can be determined. If the latter is the case, a title can be obtained to garnish the child support. Which measures are to be initiated depends on the individual case. This can be discussed in a personal meeting.

If the single parent wishes, a guardianship can be established. The youth welfare office can then, on behalf of the child, independently approach the parent liable to pay.

It can, for example

- calculate the amount of child support,
- request the parent to make payments
- check the receipt of payments,
- if necessary, file an application with the court for the determination of child support, and
- garnish titled child support.

Even if a guardianship is established, there is no guarantee that child support payments will actually be collected.

A guardianship ends automatically when the child reaches the age of majority.

Young persons of full age can be advised by the Youth Welfare Office on maintenance issues until their 21st birthday. They may also be offered assistance in appropriate cases.

In the case of persons of full age, it is not the parents but only the children who are advised by the Youth Welfare Office.

The mother of a child has her own maintenance claim against the father during the maternity leave period. The youth welfare office can support the mother of a child for her own maintenance claims.

If the father takes care of the child immediately after the birth, he has a maintenance claim against the mother. In this case, too, the Youth Welfare Office can offer counseling and, in appropriate cases, support.

Requirements

Parents receive counseling until their child is 18 years old.

Children receive counseling from the age of 18 to 21.

Procedure

Make an appointment with the relevant social center. The appointment can also take place at home if you wish.

A guardianship is established upon request. You can apply for guardianship in writing. The written application is informal and can be written by yourself or at the local youth welfare office.

Legal bases

- [§ 18 Absatz 1, 2 und 4 Sozialgesetzbuch achtes Buch \(SGB VIII\)](#)
- [§§ 1712-1717 Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch \(BGB\)](#)

More information

The Youth Welfare Office also does the following:

- The Youth Welfare Office advises and assists you in asserting maintenance claims.
- The Youth Welfare Office notarizes: Paternity acknowledgments and consents, maintenance claims, declarations of custody for joint custody and maternity acknowledgments.

- The Youth Welfare Office issues certificates for unmarried mothers stating that there is no entry in the custody register and that the mother therefore has sole custody.
- Advice on joint custody and rights of access

What deadlines must be paid attention to?

There are no special deadlines to observe.

You can apply for guardianship before the child is born if you are not married and the parents have not made joint declarations of custody. After the birth, you can apply for guardianship at any time until the child reaches the age of majority. After the birth, even if the parents have joint custody.

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How long does it take to process

The exact processing time depends on the individual case.

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What are the costs?

none

none

Frequently asked Questions

- **I would like to acknowledge paternity.**

You can do this in person at the social centers of the Office for Social Services -Youth Welfare Office- at the specialist service "Beistandschaft/Unterhalt für Minderjährige" <http://www.amtfuersozialedienste.bremen.de/sixcms/detail.php?gsid=bremen02.c.732.de> (see also the service "Acknowledging paternity" http://service.bremen.de/sixcms/detail.php?gsid=bremen128.c.45709.de&asl=bremen2014_sp.c.13091.de).

The personal consent of the child's mother is required.

- **I am to have alimony notarized.**

You can do this in person at the social centers of the Office for Social Services -Youth Welfare Office- beim Fachdienst Beistandschaft/ Unterhalt für Minderjährige.

- **I need a certificate of sole custody.**

You can obtain the certificate at the social centers of the Office for Social Services - Youth Welfare Office - at the specialist service for guardianship/maintenance for minors (see also service "Request information from the custody register" <https://www.service.bremen.de/auskunft-aus-dem-sorgeregister-anfordern-178016>).

- **I would like to have joint parental care notarized**

You can do this in person at the social centers of the Office for Social Services-Youth Welfare Office-at the specialist service "Beistandschaft/Unterhalt für Minderjährige" (see also service "Antrag gemeinsame Sorge" http://service.bremen.de/sixcms/detail.php?gsid=bremen128.c.48454.de&asl=bremen2014_sp.c.13092.de

- **I need child support.**

If you need help in enforcing alimony against the debtor, contact the Social Centers of the Office of Social Services -Youth Welfare Office- Specialist Services Assistance/ Maintenance for Minors.

If you would like to apply for an advance on maintenance payments, please contact the Social Centers of the Social Services Office -Economic Youth Welfare Services- (see also the service "Applying for an Advance on Maintenance Payments" https://www.service.bremen.de/sixcms/detail.php?gsid=bremen128.c.821299.de&asl=bremen2014_sp.c.13092.de).