

LASTA form

A tool for pre-trial investigation and risk assessment

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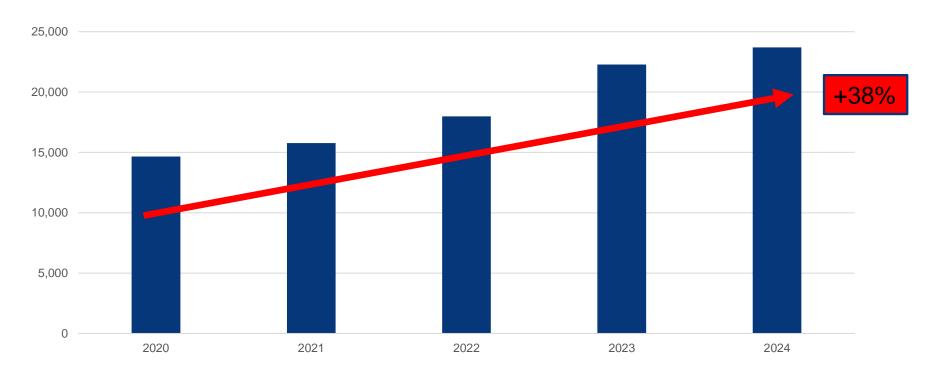


LASTA form

- Filled in by a professional from either social services or health care
- Filled in for the police and by a request from the police
- Evidence-based, multidisciplinary approach
- Mere facts, no interpretation in the process of filling the form (yet)
- Main goals:
 - 1. To gather up relevant information on the child and their circumstances
 - 2. To provide means for risk assessment
 - 3. To provide means for assessing the appropriate measures taken by the police and other officials
 - 4. To provide means for assessing the best interest of that particular child



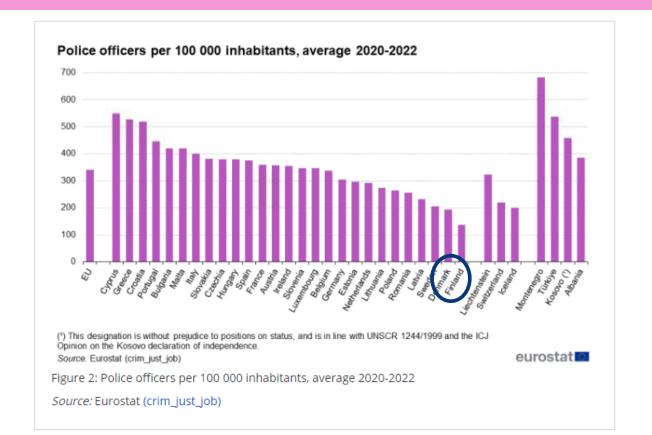
Reported incidents of suspected crimes against children in 2020 - 2024







132 police officers per 100,000 inhabitants in Finland





LASTA-model of multidisciplinary cooperation

in investigations of crimes against children



I. PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

- Consultation
- Reporting to police
- Preliminary announcement to prosecutor
- Report to child protection services
- Status evaluation
- Background information (using the LASTAform)
- Obtaining a guardian ad litem for the child, if needed

2. MULTIDISCIPLINARY LASTA-MEETING

- Background info: healthcare & social services
- Cooperation with child protection services
- Cooperation with prosecutor
- Cooperation with health care services
- Support and care for the child/family

DECISION -> TO INVESTIGATE OR NOT?

3. CLOSING THE CASE

- No crime / no reason to suspect a crime
- Discontinuing the investigation
- Presenting the case to be restricted by the prosecutor on certain grounds.

4. PRE-TRIAL INVESTIGATION

- Investigation plan
- · Coercive measures
- Cooperation with prosecutor
- Cooperation with the appointed guardian of the child
- Legal aid / lawyer
- Interrogation and investigative interviews
- Cooperation with forensic psychology centers for children and adolescents
- Cooperation with child protection services
- Support and care for the child / family
- Utilizing digital forensics
- Preliminary investigation report



- 6. COURT TRIAL
- 7. VERDICT / CONVICTION



The content of the revised form 1/5



- Child's personal information and gender
- Information on the suspected crime
 - Physical / sexual violence or other (define)
 - Recurrent / one-off incident
 - Internet-based (Y/N)
 - Indication of THB (Y/N)
 - Time and date of the suspected crime
 - Information on forensic medical examination (if conducted already)



The content of the revised form 2/5



- Does the family know about the suspicion?
 - What have the parents told about the incident
 - How have they reacted to the suspicion of crime
 - What actions has CPS taken regarding the suspicion
 - Information on the child's living conditions (with whom)
 - Information on the child's guardianship



The content of the revised form 3/5



- Child's mother tongue and nationality
 - Need for interpreter (+ for whom)
- Child's contacts from everyday life
 - Daycare/school
- Child's current status in CPS
 - + contact information
- Possible history with CPS
 - Previous child welfare notifications, house calls etc.



The content of the revised form 4/5



- Any additional causes for concern
 - Substance abuse
 - Mental health issues
 - Parents' own history of trauma
 - Parents' impulsive behavior
 - Financial or other struggles
 - Lack of social support network
 - Lack of parenting skills
 - Negative attitude towards the child
 - Positive attitude towards corporal punishment
 - Negative attitude towards authorities
 - Child custody dispute or pathological divorce



The content of the revised form 5/5



- Child's health and development
 - Any issues concerning the child's ability to participate in a forensic interview
 - Previous unexplained injuries
 - Long-term illnesses
 - Previous traumatic experiences (such as witnessing a domestic violence event)
- + Additional information on all of the previous themes
- Finally: professional opinion of the person filling out the form

