

### Question 7.c.

Forms of placement:

- Placement in a crisis centre

In the event of an emergency removal or temporary order to remove a child from his/her parents, the child may be placed in a crisis centre. The Crisis Centre provides crisis accommodation, which is short-term. Crisis Centre placement is implemented as a crisis placement, which provides first social assistance, personal assistance, reception and care of users, shelter, measures for return to the home environment or another form of substitute for the home environment, and cooperation with social work centres, educational and public health institutions, the police and other state bodies and organisations competent for the treatment of children and adolescents. The Crisis Centre is also a crisis placement centre, which is used for the placement of children and adolescents.

- Foster care

In the event of an emergency removal or temporary order to remove a child from his/her parents, or the removal of a child from his/her parents, the child may be placed in foster care. The purpose of foster care is to enable children to grow up in a healthy way with persons other than their parents, to be brought up and educated, to develop a harmonious personality and to be able to live and work independently. Foster care is carried out by foster parents who have obtained a licence in accordance with the law regulating the practice of foster care.

- Care of another person

A child can also be placed with another person. With regard to this placement, the Family Code provides that the child may not be placed with a person who cannot be a guardian. As regards the obligations of the other person with whom the child is placed and the supervision of the placement, the provisions of the law regulating foster care shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

- Institutional care

In the event of an emergency removal or a temporary order to remove a child from his/her parents, or the removal of a child from his/her parents, the child may also be placed in an institution, in which case the child will be placed in a specialised centre in accordance with the law regulating the treatment of children with emotional and behavioural problems and disorders in upbringing and education. The court may also place a child in such institutions or specialised centres on the grounds of psychosocial problems manifesting themselves in the form of behavioural, emotional, learning and other problems in his or her upbringing, if the child or other children in the family are at risk.

Domestic violence prevention act stipulates that the court may order the perpetrator of violence who lives in a common household with the victim to transfer the accommodation to the victim for exclusive use in the extent enjoyed by the perpetrator.

The Social work centre (SWC) upon a notification of violence provides conduct or ensure a professional treatment procedure for the victim of violence and the procedure for protecting a minor child. In the event of an imminent threat to the life and/or health of the victim, the SWC shall take urgent measures

to protect the victim, such as assistance in going to a crisis center, a safe house or other safe location, referral to appropriate medical care. SWC shall also immediately inform the police and coordinate initial activities. If children are at risk alongside an adult victim of violence or children themselves are victims of violence, the SWC must determine whether the parents, or at least one of the parents (the non-violent parent), are willing and able to protect the child, its needs, rights, and best interests. The SWC may place a child in a crisis centre for children and adolescents as a first withdrawal measure from the environment where the child is at risk until arrangements are made regarding further safe accommodation. The purpose and goal of the operation of crisis centres for children and adolescents (KCM) is primarily to provide assistance to children and adolescents who find themselves in acute distress, which necessitates their removal from the environment in which they live. In the crisis center, children and adolescents who are in any kind of distress that they cannot resolve in their home environment can find help: unbearable conditions at home (mental and physical violence, sexual abuse, parental alcoholism...), emotional distress, adolescent crisis, relationship problems with school. Children or young people can also come just for a conversation. KCMs operate continuously 24 hours a day. The duration of the accommodation is usually up to three weeks, but in exceptional cases an extension is also possible. Children may also be placed in crisis centres on the basis of measures as laid down in the Family Code, namely on the basis of an interim court order depriving the child of the parents or on the basis of a decision of the SWC when an emergency child removal measure is involved under the Family Code, if the child is likely to be in such a serious threat that his/her best interests can only be protected by taking the child from the parents immediately, even before the court decides on an application for interim measures.

Every year, MOLFSA co-finances programs in the field of violence prevention or programs of safe houses and maternity homes. We have 13 safe houses and 8 maternity homes in Slovenia.

Safe houses offer women and children who experience any form of violence: psychological, physical or sexual, the possibility of retreat and accommodation. They offer a shorter form of accommodation support for women and children who are victims of violence. They represent a safe place where they can take refuge and reorganize their lives with the support of counselors. The location of the safe houses is secret.

Maternity homes are intended to help mothers with minor children up to the age of 14, pregnant women, women giving birth, and single women who have found themselves in current or long-term hardship and have no other accommodation option. Maternity homes provide accommodation support or accommodation and offer both help to solve temporary hardships and longer-term help.

In the event of an acute threat, women and children who are victims of domestic violence can immediately retreat to the safety of a crisis center for women, where they can stay for three weeks. After this time, they are placed in a safe house and continue to be treated for domestic violence. When leaving home can be planned in accordance with the safety plan and when it is not an acute threat that would require an immediate retreat to safety, admission to a safe house is possible directly without prior accommodation, also with the help of the competent center for social work, the Women's Counseling Center and/or other related organizations.

The lower age limit for children who could take refuge in a safe environment with their mother is not set. Only the upper age limit for boys is set, namely 15 and 16 years, respectively.