

Information for Humanitarian frontline workers in Hungary

- Overview of referrals for unaccompanied children -

The aim of the document is to put on paper a referral pathway of **unaccompanied children** which is coordinated between the Hungarian authorities and the humanitarian service providers who are in close contact with refugee children in the context of the Ukrainian crisis.

What is an unaccompanied child?

- **According to European Law: Art. 2 f 2001/55/EC** (Temporary Protection Directive) *'unaccompanied minors'* means *third-country nationals or stateless persons below the age of eighteen, who arrive on the territory of the Member States unaccompanied by an adult responsible for them whether by law or custom, and for as long as they are **not effectively taken into the care of such a person**, or minors who are left unaccompanied after they have entered the territory of the Member States.*
- *According to Hungarian law¹ the term "unaccompanied minor" is defined similarly, namely as follows: "unaccompanied minors: citizens of a third country below the age of **18 years** who have entered the territory of Hungary **without the company of a person of adult age** responsible for their supervision **under law or custom**, or who remained without supervision following entry; as long as they are not effectively taken into the care of such a person."*

Referral: What to do if an unaccompanied child is identified by a frontline worker?

If a child is travelling alone or with an adult that is not by law or custom responsible for the child, the **Legal Guardianship Authority** or the **Police** need to be informed.

Generally, during working hours please contact the Legal Guardianship authorities. Outside of working hours please contact the Police.

However, if you are at a border crossing point, please always reach out to the Police first.

¹ Section 2(b) of Act II of 2007 on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals (hereinafter "Third Country Nationals Act") and Section 2(f) of Act LXXX of 2007 on Asylum.

The Legal Guardianship authority will – in cases of children travelling with adults that are not their parents – assess the relationship between the child and the accompanying adult, or in cases of children travelling alone or with their peers place the child in suitable childcare facilities and appoint a legal guardian.

You can search for the territorial (járások) legal guardianship office at this website: <https://www.kormanyhivatal.hu/hu>

You will need to select the county first on the left side of the page, then the relevant territorial office ('járási hivatal').

Otherwise, you can also contact the **Budapest Guardianship Office Guardianship Department** from anywhere in the country via **(1) 896-0468** or **(1) 896-0469** gyamugyi.fosztaly@bfkh.gov.hu

The Police is available 24/7 and will refer cases of unaccompanied and separated children to the Legal Guardian authority.

You can contact the police at the general emergency line wherever you are in the country: 112.

Alternatively, you can contact the **local county police**:

County police	Contact
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	06-46/514-500, 06-46/514-506, borsodmrfk@borsod.police.hu
Szabolcs-Szatmár	06-42/524-600, szabolcsmrfk@szabolcs.police.hu
Hajdú-Bihar	06-52/516-400, hajdumrfk@hajdu.police.hu
Nógrád	06-32/411-255, nogradmrfk@nograd.police.hu
Heves	06-36/522-111, hevesmrfk@heves.police.hu
Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	06-56/501-600, jaszmrfk@jasz.police.hu
Békés	06-66/523-700, bekesmrfk@bekes.police.hu
Budapest	06-1/443-5000, budapest@budapest.police.hu
Pest	06-1/443-5800, pestmrfk@pest.police.hu
Bács-Kiskun	06-76/513-300, bacsmrfk@bacs.police.hu
Csongrád-Csanád	06-62/562-400, ugyelet.csongradmrfk@csongrad.police.hu
Komárom-Esztergom	06-34/517-777, komarommrfk@komarom.police.hu

Fejér	06-22/541-600, fejermrfk@fejer.police.hu
Tolna	06-74/501-100, titk.tolnamrfk@tolna.police.hu
Baranya	06-72/504-400, ugyelet.baranyamrfk@baranya.police.hu
Somogy	06-82/502-700, somogytitk@somogy.police.hu
Veszprém	06-88/428-022, titk.veszpremmrfk@veszprem.police.hu
Győr-Moson-Sopron	06-96/520-000, gyormrfk@gyor.police.hu
Vas	06-94/521-011, vasmrfk@vas.police.hu
Zala	06-92/504-300, zalamrfk@zala.police.hu

The authorities will then need to implement measures to protect the child based on the **best interest of the child**.²

Inform the child of what is happening. Keep in mind not to do any harm while engaging with children, as it is our responsibility to prevent and to mitigate any negative impact of our actions on children.

² Art. 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Annex I. – Map for reference with counties of Hungary

