



JUSTIZBETREUUNGSAGENTUR  
FACHPERSONAL FÜR DIE ÖSTERREICHISCHE JUSTIZ



# Kinderbeistand (Child's assistant)

INFORMATION FOR  
YOUNG PEOPLE

# WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

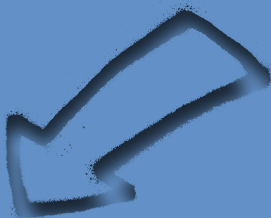
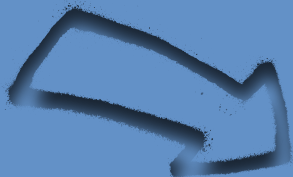
When parents separate or get a divorce, they might not be able to agree on how things should continue. For example, on who will stay in the family home or who will get the car. Or they argue about money.



BUT ABOVE ALL IT'S  
ALSO ABOUT ...

WHICH PARENT

you should mainly live with



HOW OFTEN

you can see  
the other parent and

HOW LONG

these visits should last

Sometimes it's also about which **SCHOOL** you should attend  
or how the visits to **GRANDMA** or **GRANDPA** should be  
arranged or where the **DOG** or **CAT** should live  
in the future as well as other things.

This is a very difficult and sad situation for all children, no matter if they're still small or, like you, already a young person.

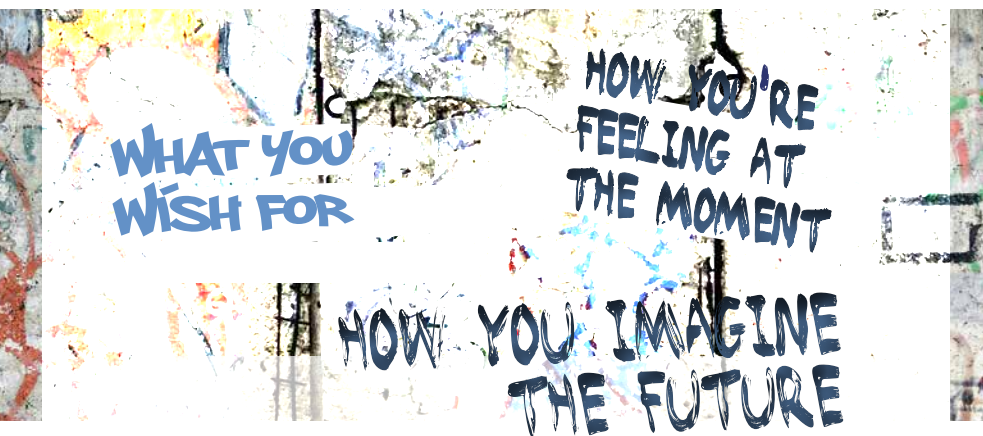
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# If the parents CAN'T AGREE

a judge will decide what should happen. However, the judge must decide based on what they think is best for you. But what is best for you?

Your parents love you very much and want to spend as much time with you as possible. It's probably not easy for you to talk about your fears. You don't want to offend or upset your mum or dad if you honestly tell them:



While adults can get support from lawyers in court proceedings, children and young people used to have to deal with their problems on their own for a long time. That's why the UN decided that children and young people whose parents are fighting in court also have the right to receive support.

For this reason, the Austrian parliament decided in 2009 that these children and young people can receive support from someone called a »**KINDERBEISTAND**«. And you're lucky to be one of these young people!

# AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

The **Kinderbeistand** IS ONLY THERE FOR YOU and he or she is NOT ALLOWED TO TELL ANYONE about what you tell or ask them. Not to your mother, not to your father, not to the judge, and not to anyone else.



**BUT**

there's also something else:

Before the judge makes a decision, something called a court hearing is held. At this hearing, all the adults say what they think is best for you, **BUT** the judge also wants to hear your opinion and your wishes.

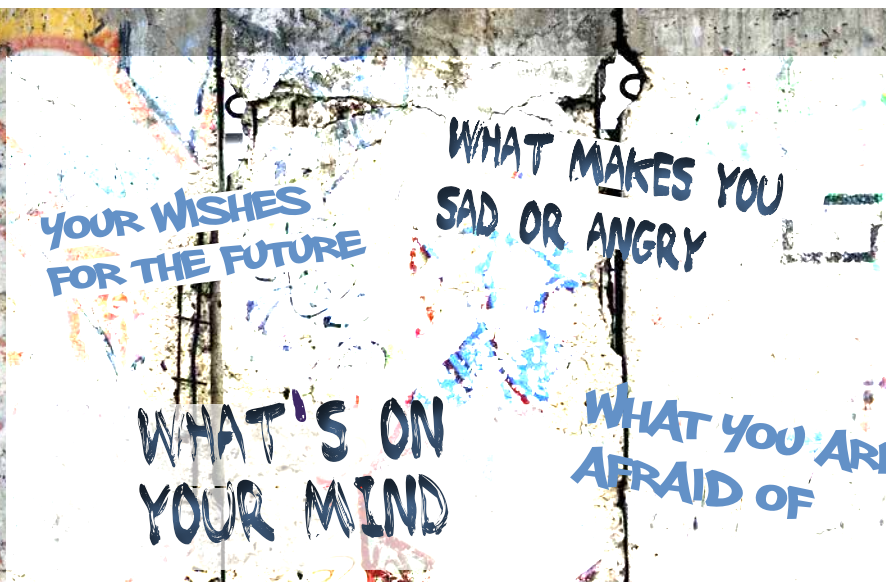
Once you and your **Kinderbeistand** have talked about everything that's important to you, you can think about whether you want to say **SOMETHING** to the judge and your parents or whether you want to **ASK THEM FOR SOMETHING**.

Your **Kinderbeistand** writes down your thoughts and wishes with you and then reads them out loud at the hearing. All the adults have to be quiet and listen while the **Kinderbeistand** delivers your message. Maybe then your parents can come to an agreement. And if not, it'll be easier for the judge to make a decision that's good for you and corresponds to your wishes.

# What's a Kinderbeistand AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

Your **Kinderbeistand** is a woman or man who knows a lot about young people and how difficult it is when parents separate and then fight in court.

YOU CAN TALK TO HIM OR HER about everything ...



... AND YOU CAN ASK HIM OR HER ANYTHING!

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