



WHEN IS THE CHILD CHECK RELEVANT?

The Child Check is relevant if a professional healthcare worker is concerned about any minor children because of the serious situation of his or her adult clients. The Child Check must be carried out if a professional healthcare worker believes that, as a result of the condition of his or her client, there are risks of serious injury to children who are dependent on the client's care, or a threat to their safety. This means that the Child Check is applicable in cases of severe or chronic depression, severe addiction, eviction or imminent eviction, and violence between roommates, among other situations.

NOTE: The Child Check should also be performed if a professional healthcare worker has contact with an adolescent and becomes concerned about any siblings in the family. In addition, the Child Check applies to pregnant women.

Situations in which the Child Check must be performed.

Below are a number of cases in which a Child Check must be performed, in order to examine whether there are children who are dependent on an adult client:

- severe chronic or acute psychiatric disorder;
- severe or acute suicidal thoughts or behaviour;
- severe aggressive behaviour;
- severe manifestations of substance use (alcohol, drugs or medication);
- suspicion of domestic violence between family members of minor children;
- eviction or imminent eviction, disconnection of gas, water and electricity;
- severe chronic physical problems or other issues where adults are overloaded and there is a risk of children being overloaded;
- extremely poor hygiene in the home, or unsafe or very poor housing;
- intellectual disability in terms of social interaction, where it is suspected that parenting is a problem and threatens to harm any children;
- violent behaviour, possession of weapons;
- extreme anxiety for family members in connection with honour issues;
- evidence of forced marriages;
- divorce where residency rights may be revoked;
- indications that clients consider female genital mutilation for themselves or for the female partner and any daughters as being normal.

Examples of situations where the Child Check must be carried out:

- severe or acute mental disorder or problems (including severe depression, mania, psychosis, and dissociation)
 - example: escalation to such an extent that hospitalisation or emergency help is required, acute psychosis or confusion

- severe or acute suicidal or aggressive thoughts or behaviour
 - example: client¹ He has attempted suicide, shows signs of self-harming, says that he wants to end it all, that he is going to smash everything up at home, that he is going to do something to his partner or kids,
 - parents in refugee centres with post-traumatic stress disorder, combined with uncertainty about accommodation and/or living together with other adults with similar problems. This situation may pose a continuous threat to the safety of others.

- severe signs of substance use (alcohol, drugs, medication)

- example: because of overuse or overdose, the client can no longer speak coherently and clearly about what is going on at home, or his behaviour
- the adult is clearly a victim of domestic violence, and/or involved in serious fights or conflict with an abusive partner
 - example: client reports that he was beaten up by his partner, that his partner is aggressive towards the children, and threatened to do something to the client and/or children
- Crisis situations other than those listed above, such as eviction, disconnection of gas/water/electricity, bailiff action.
 - example: the client mentions this crisis situation (or the professional healthcare worker takes this to be true), and makes it clear that he now has no roof over his head, or that he no longer knows how to keep his family afloat
 - the professional healthcare worker knows that there are children involved. They are now out of the picture because the family left after eviction, and the professional healthcare worker is concerned about the children's well-being.
- extremely poor hygiene in the home, or unsafe or poor housing
 - example: the client says that his home is uninhabitable, dangerous or deficient in terms of hygiene, or the professional healthcare worker notices that living conditions are intolerable due to stench, dirt, or furnishings.

¹ For convenience, we always use the terms 'client' and 'he/his'.