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Children, youth and family

General information

Children, young people and families are under special protection in Germany. This protection begins during pregnancy and lasts until the child is 18 years old (of age). In Germany, for example, it is forbidden to beat children. Raising children in Germany must not involve the use of violence. Every child must go to school. There are also authorities that ensure that a child is not harmed by its environment (including the family).

The family is also legally protected in Germany. It doesn't matter whether the family consists of a mother, father and their children, whether there are two mothers or two fathers or whether the children are adopted. Single parents with their children are also a family and are therefore legally protected.

Family benefits

Parental allowance

Some parents do not want to or cannot work as much after the birth of their child. That's why some parents work less. They can then receive money from the government, the parental allowance. Parents who live separately can also claim parental allowance. They can apply for parental allowance if they have a residence or settlement permit in Germany.

Child benefit

All parents with a residence or settlement permit in Germany are entitled to child benefit. You must apply for child benefit from the Federal Employment Agency. This agency pays child benefit for every child from birth until at least the age of 18.

Leisure activities for children and young people

Children like to play. Children like to learn. Children like to do sports. There are many opportunities for children in Freiburg. Children can spend time here with their families. They can also meet up with friends here.

There are also lots of activities for teenagers. Here they can spend time with friends.

- [Youth education centre JBW.de](https://www.jbw.de)
- [Freiburg holidays](#)
- [Leisure time for young people](#)
- [Children's city Freiburg](#)

- [Spielmobil Freiburg e.V.](#)
- [Holiday care for children and young people](#)
- [Children's adventure centre](#)
- [Afternoon care for children and young people](#)
- [Freiburg Family Card](#)
- [Mundenhof](#)
- [Finder's Fox](#)
- [Museum](#)

Childcare

Day care centre

Kita means day care centre. Your child can attend a daycare centre when it is at least one year old. Your child can attend a daycare centre until the age of 12. Your child will be looked after there by teachers. They will learn many important things. Some centres also accept children under the age of one.

In many cases, the fees for the day-care centre or day care are paid by the city or district. To do this, you must submit an application to the [youth welfare office](#).

Crèche, kindergarten and after-school care are different types of day care centres for different age groups.

💡 Your child can learn the German language and discover new things at the daycare centre. They will also socialise with other children and get to know friends and the German culture. Take advantage of this opportunity, it is important for your child's future. Attending a day care centre also helps to prepare your child for school.

💡 Unfortunately, there are not always enough places near your home. To find a place, ask the [youth welfare office](#) or your accommodation service.

Day nursery

The crèche is a facility for children aged 1 to 3 years. In the crèche, the children are supported in their development by specially trained staff in small groups. Attention and care from the carers are particularly important here.

Kindergarten

The kindergarten is a facility for children from the age of 3 until they start school. In the kindergarten, the children can play, paint, do handicrafts and learn with other children. In the last year of kindergarten, the children also have regular pre-school lessons to prepare them for starting school. There are private and public kindergartens. Whether attending kindergarten costs you anything depends on the kindergarten and where you live.

(Primary) school children up to the age of 12

There are also after-school care options for school children aged 6 to 12. There are many different childcare models, such as after-school care, lunchtime care or all-day school. In all models, children are supported in completing their homework. In addition, leisure activities are not neglected. You can find out which childcare model is available for (primary) school children in your town from your primary school or from the youth welfare office.

 [You can find information on daycare centres in Freiburg here. You can also register your child for a daycare centre in Freiburg here.](#)

Counselling centres and offers of help

Women's counselling centre for domestic violence

The counselling centre for women in cases of domestic violence provides information and advice:

- For all cases of violence in the family
- After an expulsion from the home
- If your (ex-)partner is stalking you
- If you are to be forcibly married.

The counselling centre advises you on what protective measures you can take:

- Clarification of your personal situation
- Creation of an individual safety plan
- Do you need protection in a women's refuge?

The counselling centre provides information about legal options:

- Advice on the Protection against Violence Act
- How can I make use of the legal options?
- Women should have the courage to demand their rights.

The advice centre provides information about further assistance:

- Help for people who have experienced violence. Also for their children.
- We can advise you on all medical, legal, psychological and professional issues.

Counselling is confidential, free and independent.

Counselling by appointment by telephone or in person.

☎ [076131072](tel:076131072)

🌐 [You can find more information about the women's counselling centre here.](#)

GRC Tracing Service - Restoring Family Links

Have you been separated from your family due to war or migration? Would you like to live with your family in Germany? The Tracing Service of the German Red Cross (DRK) helps families who have lost contact due to wars, disasters or migration.

They help with various questions:

- worldwide search for missing relatives
- Contact with relatives abroad via the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Legal counselling
- Support during the family reunification process
- Help and support with applications
- Contact and correspondence with diplomatic missions abroad

All services are free of charge. On request, the GRC (DRK) can also publish the tracing on the international website of the Red Cross. This means that the wanted ad for a family member can be published all over the world. [Here you can find tracing adverts from refugees from all over the world.](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 76121417694](tel:+49(0)76121417694)

@suchdienst@drk-freiburg.de

🌐 [You can find more information about the tracing service here.](#)

Youth migration service

Are you between 12 and 27 years old? The Youth Migration Service (JMD) supports young people. We help them to arrive in Germany. We provide advice on these topics:

- General orientation
- Residence
- School, training, career
- Personal questions
- Financial and legal issues

You can reach us here:

☎ [+49 \(0\) 76179032112](tel:+49(0)76179032112)

@jugendmigrationsdienst@caritas-freiburg.de

🌐 [You can find more information about the JMD here.](#)

IN VIA social work for girls and women

The IN VIA girls' and women's centre is a safe place for women and girls only. The "DOUNIA +" and "ASHANA" projects provide support in arriving in Germany.

We provide advice and information on the following topics:

- Questions about life in Germany
- the search for work
- school or training
- Applications (e.g. job centre, housing benefit)
- Problems in the family

We also offer leisure activities:

- Excursions in Freiburg and the surrounding area
- Learning new things, for example swimming, yoga, computers
- Getting to know other women and girls at group meetings and events

☎ [076133842](tel:076133842)

@ info@invia-freiburg.de

🌐 [You can find more information about the organisation here.](#)

Family education of the DRK Freiburg

We advise and help families right from the start. To this end, we offer courses and events. We want to help families, strengthen parenting skills and promote relationships within the family. There are suggestions for playing with the children and the opportunity to exchange ideas with other parents. Our course leaders are all qualified teachers.

These are the courses we offer:

- Parent-baby groups for babies from four weeks to their first birthday ([PEKiP](#))
- Playgroups for parents and toddlers ([parent-child group](#))
- Massage for babies ([Touch with Respect](#))
- Babysitter training and placement ([Fit for babysitting](#))
- International Mothers' Café ([Open meeting place](#))
- Lectures and seminars ([Lectures](#))
- for more offers click [here](#)

We participate in the state programme STÄRKE. This programme is aimed at families with children in their first year of life. There are also educational programmes for families in special circumstances.

Contact us

 [076188508643](tel:076188508643)

 @familienbildung@drk-freiburg.de

 [Here you can find more information](#)

Outpatient educational support at DRK KV Freiburg

Germany offers a wide range of help and support for families. Everyone is familiar with kindergarten and school. In addition, there are a whole host of programmes for parents, guardians and families.


Outpatient educational support is one type of support. It is provided by the youth welfare office. It is free of charge for families. Families receive counselling and support for many types of difficulties and problems. Every family has the right to this type of support.

Socio-educational family support is help for the whole family. We work with the family as a whole. And also with the individual family members. The resources and strengths of the family members are strengthened. Socio-educational family support can help if you have difficulties. For example, when dealing with the authorities, doctors or school. Or if everything is getting too much for you at home. For example, if there are always arguments in the family. Or you don't know how to bring up your children. The aim is for you to manage your everyday life yourself. And that you know who can support you if necessary.


Parental assistance is a form of help for adolescents and young adults. In other words, for young people who are already 18 or a little older. We work with young people. We support them when they have difficulties at school or in training. Or if there are problems at home or in their social environment. The young people's skills are strengthened. These can include topics such as Developing future prospects, becoming independent, building and maintaining friendships, strengthening self-esteem, dealing responsibly with media and addictive substances and much more.

Both types of help must be applied for from the youth welfare office. The youth welfare office then invites you to an appointment. Together, they discuss what help can be provided for the family or for the young person or young adult. Goals are agreed. As a rule, support is then provided by a pedagogue for one year. If necessary, help is also available for longer.

Contact details:

 [076121417693](tel:076121417693)

 @maike.buehler@drk-freiburg.de

 [Click here for more information](#)

donum vitae counselling centre Freiburg

Recognised pregnancy conflict counselling centre according to § 218/219

Counselling in all matters relating to pregnancy and birth

Specialist counselling centre for early help

☎ 0761 2023096

✉ info@donum-vitae-freiburg.de

📍 Leopoldring 7, 79098 Freiburg

Registration and information

🕒 Mon - Fri 9am-12pm Wed 9am-12pm and 2pm-4pm

Please arrange a counselling appointment.

Our counselling

We offer confidential counselling regardless of nationality and religion.

- Counselling is free of charge.
- We are bound to confidentiality.
- We also offer counselling with your partner, family or friend.
- We offer counselling in the following languages: German, English, sign language
- Interpreters are available if required.

We can advise you on the following topics:

- You are pregnant and have questions about pregnancy and birth, partnership and family
- You don't know how to proceed financially
- You are thinking about terminating your pregnancy
- You have questions about family planning and sexuality
- How to deal with prenatal diagnostics
- You are expecting a child that could have a disability
- On all topics relating to parenting and support up to the end of the 3rd year of life
- You want an application to cover the costs of contraceptives
- You would like a confidential birth

Early help services

Early help services are programmes for families with children up to the age of three. They are low-threshold and are aimed particularly at families in difficult circumstances.

Early help serves to strengthen parental relationship and care skills. It offers parents support, counselling and guidance. The aim is to enable every child to develop healthily and grow up without violence.

- Family paediatric nurses
- Sleep coaching
- Emotional first aid
- Baby groups
- Fit for the child, parent driving licence
- Pregnancy and escape

 [You can find more information here](#)

PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELING CENTRE for parents, children and young people

The main aim of our counselling centre is to help

- parents
- single parents
- couples
- children and adolescents,
who find themselves in crisis family and life situations.

We help you to overcome your problems. This will enable you to emerge stronger from the crisis.

We are independent in our counselling work. We focus on your individual problems and solutions.

[You can find details of our counselling services here:](#)

People can also come to us with personal problems that have nothing to do with parenting, but in this case there is a charge (individual counselling €30 and couples counselling €60). If you have financial problems, we will clarify individual solutions in the initial consultation.

Unfortunately, we do not have access to interpreters, nor can we provide or finance them.