



JUSTIZBETREUUNGSAGENTUR  
FACHPERSONAL FÜR DIE ÖSTERREICHISCHE JUSTIZ



# Kinderbeistand (Child's assistant)

INFORMATION FOR

CHILDREN

# WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

When your 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 about you!



WHICH PARENT you should mainly live with.

HOW OFTEN you can see your  
mum or dad and HOW LONG these  
visits should last.



Sometimes it's also about which **SCHOOL**  
you should go to, or how often and for  
how long you can visit **GRANDMA** or **GRANDPA**,  
or where your **DOG** or **CAT** should live in the  
future as well as other things.

This is a very difficult and sad situation for children.



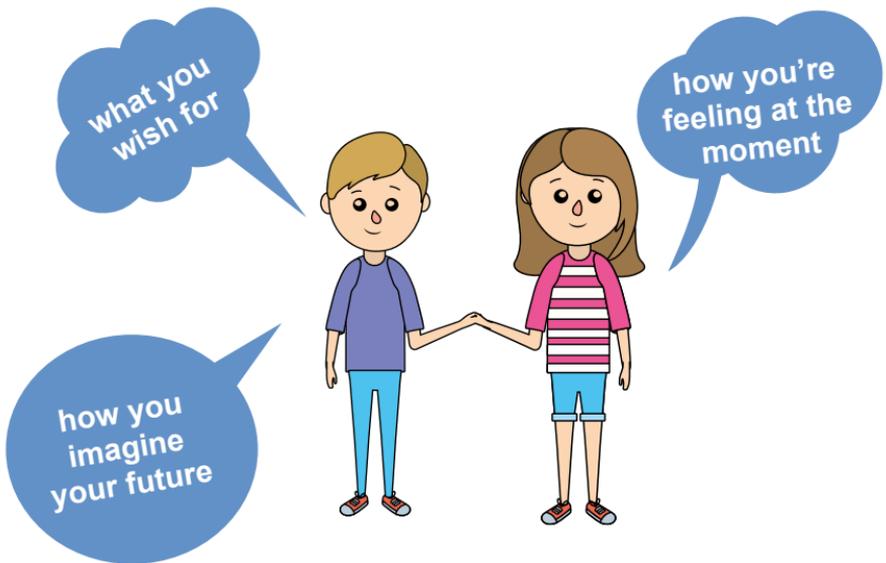
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# IF YOUR PARENTS can't agree,

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?

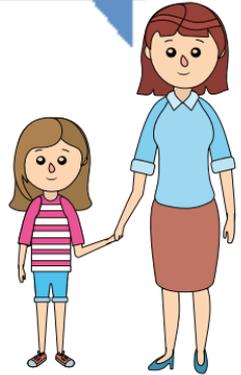
Your parents love you very much and want to spend as much  
time with you as possible. It's probably not easy for you to talk  
about your fears. You don't want to offend or upset your mum  
or dad if you honestly tell them:



This is why many judges decide that you should receive support  
from someone called a »**Kinderbeistand**«. And you're lucky  
to be one of the children who gets a **Kinderbeistand!**

# AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

The **Kinderbeistand** is **ONLY** there for you and he or she is **NOT ALLOWED TO TALK TO 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 **ASK 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. Maybe your parents can then come to an agreement after all. And if not, it'll be easier for the judge to make a decision that's good for you and what you want.

# WHAT'S A KINDERBEISTAND AND what do they do?

Your **Kinderbeistand** is a woman or man who knows a lot about children 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  
you don't know!



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