

Helsinki

# Child Supervisor Services



Settling paternity and maternity matters  
Agreements on custodianship, residence,  
visiting rights and child support

## Paternity and maternity matters

Child supervisor can assist with matters concerning the determination of paternity and maternity of a child born out of wedlock.

According to the Paternity Act, the mother's husband is the father of a child born within a marriage. If the parents are unmarried, they may acknowledge paternity either prior to the birth of the child, at the maternity clinic, or after the child is born, with child supervisor. A DNA sample may be taken at the child supervisor's in connection with acknowledging paternity.

According to the Maternity Act, the person who has given birth to the child is always the child's mother. The maternity of another woman must always be acknowledged separately, even if the parents were married when the child was born. The parents may acknowledge maternity either prior to the birth of the child, at the maternity clinic, or after the child is born, with the child supervisor.

Digital and Population Data Services Agency will establish paternity or maternity based on the acknowledgement.

The child supervisor may also take legal action to have paternity/maternity established in a court of law.

## Agreements on custody and child support

The child supervisor will provide assistance in drafting agreements and confirm agreements on custody, residence, visiting rights and child support in connection with determining paternity/maternity, or in the event that the parents separate, if these agreements are in the best interest of the child.

### **If a child's parents decide to separate, they should agree on:**

- whether they want joint custody or sole custody for either parent
- where the child should live
- how the child can see and keep in contact with the parent that they do not live with in their everyday life, holidays and vacations
- how the child's need for maintenance is divided between the parents.

A valid agreement or court order can be changed or continued with a new agreement.



## Further information:

### **Paternity:**

[www.thl.fi/isyys](http://www.thl.fi/isyys) (In Finnish)

[www.thl.fi/faderskap](http://www.thl.fi/faderskap) (In Swedish)

### **Maternity:**

[www.thl.fi/aitiys](http://www.thl.fi/aitiys) (In Finnish)

[www.thl.fi/moderskap](http://www.thl.fi/moderskap) (In Swedish)

### **Child Supervisor services:**

<https://www.hel.fi/helsinki/en/social-health/family/law/child-welfare-officers>

### **Children in a divorce:**

<https://www.hel.fi/sote/perheentuki-en/parenthood-and-parents-relationship/crisis-in-the-family/parents-separation/>

### **Ministry of Justice instruction on assessing the amount of child support :**

[https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/76043/omju\\_2007\\_2\\_elatusapuohje\\_suomi\\_87s.pdf?sequence=1](https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/76043/omju_2007_2_elatusapuohje_suomi_87s.pdf?sequence=1) (In Finnish)

### **Paternity Act (11/2015):**

[www.finlex.fi](http://www.finlex.fi)

### **Maternity Act (253/2018):**

[www.finlex.fi](http://www.finlex.fi)

### **Act on Child Custody and Right of Access (361/1983):**

[www.finlex.fi](http://www.finlex.fi)

### **Notes:**

---

---

---

---

---

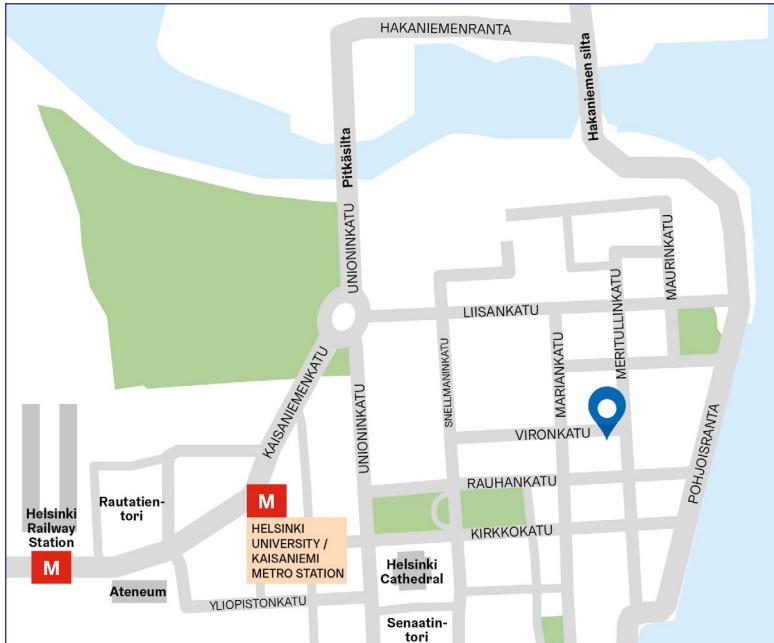
Appointment booking (09) 31044 999

Advice service (09) 31043 447

Access by appointment only.

**Postal address**  
Child supervisor  
PO Box 8620  
00099 CITY OF HELSINKI

**Street address**  
Vironkatu 2, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
00170 HELSINKI



**Helsinki**

CITY OF HELSINKI'S SOCIAL SERVICES AND  
HEALTH CARE DIVISION

Family and social services • Family law services

<https://www.hel.fi/helsinki/en/social-health/family/law/child-welfare-officers>