

Translation from Finnish

Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish

Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland

Youth Act

(1285/2016; amendments up to 320/2023 included)

By decision of Parliament, the following is enacted:

Chapter 1

General provisions

Section 1

Scope of application

This Act lays down provisions on the promotion of youth work and youth activities, youth policy and related responsibilities and cooperation between central and local government, and on central government funding.

In addition to the provisions of this Act, the international obligations undertaken by Finland shall apply.

Section 2

Objectives of the Act

The objectives of this Act are to:

- 1) promote the social participation of young people and provide them with opportunities to exert influence and ways to improve their capabilities and potential to function in society;
- 2) support the growth, independence and sense of community of young people and related acquisition of knowledge and skills;
- 3) support young people's leisure activities and engagement in civic society;

- 4) promote young people's equality and non-discrimination and the realisation of their rights; and
- 5) improve young people's growth and living conditions.

The underlying principles for achieving the objectives of the Act are:

- 1) solidarity, cultural diversity and an international scope;
- 2) sustainable development, healthy lifestyles, respect for life and the environment; and
- 3) cross-sectoral cooperation.

Section 3

Definitions

For the purposes of this Act:

- 1) *young people* means those under 29 years of age;
- 2) *youth work* means the efforts to support the growth, independence and participation of young people in society;
- 3) *youth policy* means coordinated actions to improve young people's growth and living conditions and intergenerational interaction;
- 4) *youth activities* means activities in which young people engage in voluntarily on their own terms;
- 5) *national youth organisation* means a registered organisation that pursues the objectives and promotes the underlying principles of this Act and whose operations extend to all parts of the country;
- 6) *national organisation in the youth sector* means, aside from national youth organisations, registered associations or foundations providing youth activities or youth-work services that pursue the objectives and promote the underlying principles of this Act and whose operations extend to all parts of the country;
- 7) *national centre of expertise in the youth sector* means an entity that seeks to develop and promote competence and expertise in youth-related issues on a nationwide basis; a centre of expertise may consist of a contract-based consortium of two or more entities.

Chapter 2

National youth work and youth policy

Section 4

Central government responsibilities

The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for the overall management, coordination and development of national youth work and youth policy, and for the creation of favourable conditions for advancing them in central government.

Responsibility for local administrative duties in respect of youth work and youth policy rests with the regional state administrative agencies. Further provisions on the duties are issued by government decree.

When performing the duties, central shall, as appropriate, engage in cooperation with municipalities, organisations in the youth sector, other entities and the young people themselves.

Section 5

National youth work and youth policy programme

The Government adopts a national youth work and youth policy programme every four years.

The programme specifies more detailed objectives for the national youth work and youth policy and the support to be provided for these efforts. The implementation of the programme is monitored and the programme revised as appropriate.

The programme is prepared by the Ministry of Education and Culture in consultation with other relevant ministries. Young people and key actors engaged in youth work and youth policy shall be consulted in the course of preparation.

Further provisions on the content and preparation of the programme may be issued by government decree.

Section 6

State Youth Council

The State Youth Council, appointed by the Government, operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The duties of the Council are to:

- 1) address issues of fundamental and far-reaching importance to young people and assess the impact of the measures taken by central government on the young people and the services and activities intended for them;
- 2) introduce initiatives and proposals to develop youth policy;
- 3) generate up-to-date data on young people and their living conditions;
- 4) issue a statement to the Ministry of Education and Culture on the issues to be addressed in the national youth work and youth policy programme;
- 5) monitor international developments and cooperation in this field.

The Council may include sub-committees responsible for the preparation of the issues to be addressed.

Further provisions on the duties and appointment of the State Youth Council are issued by government decree. Provisions on the composition of the Council are issued by government decree.

Section 7

Committee for assessment and discretionary government grants

The committee for assessment and discretionary government grants, appointed by the Government, operates as the expert body of the Ministry of Education and Culture in regard to discretionary government grant matters related to national organisations in the youth sector. The committee may appoint sub-committees from among its members for the preparation of matters.

The duties of the committee are to:

- 1) issue a statement to the Ministry of Education and Culture on the eligibility for discretionary government grants of national organisations in the youth sector and national centres of expertise in the youth sector;
- 2) submit a proposal to the Ministry of Education and Culture on the allocation of discretionary government grants to national organisations in the youth sector and national centres of expertise in the youth sector;
- 3) at the request of the Ministry of Education and Culture, prepare assessments of the activities of the grant-assisted organisations.

Further provisions on the duties and appointment of the committee are issued by government decree. Provisions on the composition of the committee are issued by government decree.

Chapter 3

Municipal youth work and youth policy and cross-sectoral cooperation

Section 8

Responsibilities of the municipalities

Municipalities are responsible for youth work and youth policy. When implementing the objectives and underlying principles of section 2, municipalities shall, taking local conditions into account, create scope for youth work and youth activities by providing services and facilities intended for young people, and by supporting civic activities for young people.

When carrying out the duties referred to in subsection 1, municipalities shall cooperate, as necessary, with other authorities that provide services for young people and with the young people themselves, their families, organisations in the youth sector, parishes and other parties engaged in youth work.

Section 9

Cross-sectoral cooperation

For the general planning of cross-sectoral cooperation between local authorities and for the development of its implementation, municipalities shall have a guidance and service network or other similar collaborative group whose target group is all young people living in the municipality. The network or other collaborative groups shall operate in interaction with youth organisations in the youth sector, parishes and other entities that provide youth services. Two or more municipalities may have a shared network. The network shall not address issues related to any individual young person.

The tasks of the network or other similar collaborative group are to:

- 1) collect information on the conditions in which young people grow and live, and, based on this, assess the situation of young people to support local decision-making and plans;
- 2) advance the coordination of services intended for young people and common procedures for referring young people to services as well as ensure smooth exchange of information;
- 3) promote cooperation in the implementation of youth activities.

Section 10

Outreach youth work

The purpose of outreach youth work is to reach young people in need of assistance and improve access to services and other support designed to promote their growth, independence, participation in society and life management skills as well as to improve access to education and facilitate entry into the labour market. Outreach youth work is based on voluntary participation and cooperation with the young people involved.

When a municipality engages in outreach youth work, it shall designate a municipal official or other person contracted by the municipality to assume responsibility for the implementation of outreach youth work. Outreach youth workers shall have adequate training for and experience in working with young people. Outreach youth work may be provided by a single municipality or jointly by several municipalities. Municipalities may organise outreach youth work by procuring the services from an entity that provides youth services. If so, the municipality shall ensure that the procured services are provided in accordance with this Act.

Outreach youth work is primarily initiated in response to information provided by young people themselves or their own assessment of the need for support. Outreach youth work may also be initiated in response to information provided by other authorities.

Section 11

Disclosure of information for outreach youth work purposes

No information may be disclosed for outreach youth work purposes except with the young person's consent, unless otherwise provided in this Act or elsewhere by law.

Notwithstanding the provisions on non-disclosure of information, the identification and contact information of a young person shall be disclosed for outreach youth work purposes to the young person's municipality of residence as follows:

- 1) education providers shall disclose information on young people who are not within the scope of compulsory education and who discontinue their studies in vocational education and training, in general upper secondary education or in preparatory education for programmes leading to an upper secondary qualification;
- 2) the Finnish Defence Forces and the Centre for Non-Military Service shall disclose information on young people who are exempted from military or non-military service because of lack of fitness for service or who decide to discontinue their military or non-military service. (1232/2020)

The education or training provider, the Finnish Defence Forces and the Centre for Non-Military Service may decide not to disclose information on a young person referred to in subsection 2 if they, in the light of the information at their disposal and taking into account the young person's overall situation and need for support, determine that the young person does not require the services and other support measures referred to in section 10. (1232/2020)

Notwithstanding the provisions on non-disclosure of information, the identification and contact information of a young person may be disclosed for outreach youth work purposes to the young person's municipality of residence as follows:

- 1) education providers may disclose information on a young person who has completed comprehensive school and who has not been placed in post-comprehensive school education;
 - 2) education providers may disclose information on a young person who is within the scope of compulsory education and who discontinues their studies in vocational education and training, in general upper secondary education or in preparatory education for programmes leading to an upper secondary qualification;
 - 3) an authority other than the one referred to above in this section as well as the Social Insurance Institution of Finland may also disclose information on a young person if the authority or the Social Insurance institution assesses, on the basis of the information received in the course of their duties and taking into account the young person's overall situation and need for support, that the young person needs support without delay in order to gain access to services and other support.
- (1232/2020)

If registered associations, foundations or other organisations providing leisure activities for young people consider a young person to be in need of outreach youth work, they may, with the express consent of the young person or that of the person who has custody of the young person, if the young person is a minor, disclose the young person's identification and contact details for outreach youth work purposes.

The party who discloses the information referred to in this section shall, in an appropriate manner, inform the young person and the person who has custody of the young person, if the young person is a minor, in advance that information concerning the young person may, in the cases referred to in subsection 2 and 4, be disclosed for the purposes of outreach youth work.

Provisions on the submission of child welfare notifications and anticipatory child welfare notifications are laid down in sections 25 and 25c of the Child Welfare Act (417/2007). Provisions on contacting social welfare services for the purpose of assessing support needs are laid down in section 35 of the Social Welfare Act (1301/2014). If an obliged entity referred to in these

provisions has contacted the social welfare authorities, it is not necessary to report the same information to outreach youth work services.

Section 12

Processing of information on young people by outreach youth work services

The identification and contact information provided for outreach youth work purposes may be submitted electronically. The information obtained in the course of outreach youth work may be combined or otherwise processed in order to identify young people in need of support and to carry out the duties of outreach youth work. When processing a matter concerning a single young person in the context of outreach youth work, records shall be made of who disclosed the contact and identification information of the young person, any further measures to be taken, the type of information disclosed and the parties to which such information is disclosed. The file controller responsible for the processing and management of personal data is the municipality.

Information on a young person obtained in the course of outreach youth work may only be disclosed to another authority with the consent of the young person or, if the young person is a minor, with the consent of the person who has custody of the young person. However, minors may make decisions regarding the disclosure of information on themselves according to their level of maturity. All the information shall be promptly destroyed when no longer essential for the performance of duties.

Persons performing outreach youth work duties may not disclose to third parties, without the consent of the young person and, if the young person is a minor, the person who has custody of the young person, any information that may come to their attention in the course of the duties under this Act regarding the young person's personal circumstances, state of health, benefits received, support measures or financial position.

Section 12a (955/2022)

Leisure activities for young people based on the Finnish model for leisure activities

Leisure activities for young people based on the Finnish model for leisure activities, referred to as '*leisure activities for young people*', seek to promote the wellbeing of young people by enabling young people attending comprehensive school education to engage, after the school day or before it begins, in a leisure activity that they enjoy and one that is free of charge. Participation in leisure activities is voluntary for young people.

Leisure activities for young people can be organised by a municipality independently or together with other municipalities. Municipalities may also organise leisure activities for young people by procuring services from other public or private service providers, in which case the municipalities are responsible for ensuring that the services they procure are organised in accordance with this Act.

When organising leisure activities for young people, municipalities shall consult young people about their wishes for leisure activities, coordinate existing good practices for leisure activities and promote cooperation between schools and the organisers of leisure activities. Municipalities shall draw up school-specific plans for leisure activities on the basis of information obtained from consulting young people. In the context of leisure activities for young people, the municipalities shall ensure that the organisers of the leisure activities have the knowledge and skills to guide the leisure activities for which the organisers of the leisure activities are responsible.

Chapter 4

Workshop activities for young people

Section 13

Workshop activities for young people

The purpose of workshop activities for young people is to provide coaching to improve young people's capabilities to access and complete education and training, enter the open labour market or access other services they need. The workshop activities aim to improve young people's life management skills as well as promote young people's growth, independence and participation in society. Young people acquire these skills by working or engaging in work activities according to their capabilities. A personal coaching plan is prepared for each young person in the workshop

together with the young person. Youth workshop activities may be organised by a single municipality or jointly by several municipalities or by organisations that provide services for young people. Youth workshops shall have expertise in providing individual coaching and job coaching for young people. Youth workshops shall monitor the outcomes of their performance.

As a rule, young people are referred to workshops under the guidance of public authorities or entities performing a public function. Young people can also apply to a workshop on their own initiative. A written agreement on the coaching is drawn up for young people who are referred to a workshop. Information provided in the agreement or in the course of the performance of the duties referred to in subsection 1 may be processed in the context of youth workshop activities in order to identify the young people referred to coaching and participating in coaching and to carry out duties related to workshop activities. The organisers of youth workshop activities shall specify which tasks involve the processing of sensitive information.

Section 14

Processing of information on young people in the context of youth workshop activities

The organisers of the youth workshop activities are the file controllers and responsible for the processing of personal data. When processing a matter concerning an individual young person in the context of youth workshop activities, the following entries shall be made in the personal data file: the young person's coaching agreement referred to in section 13, the young person's training plan, the data obtained as a result of monitoring the coaching, any further measures to be taken, and the type of information disclosed and the parties to which such information is disclosed. The individuals responsible for the coaching of the young people shall also be entered in the personal data file.

Information is collected on young people in order to plan their coaching, to demonstrate the progress they have made in their skills and competences, and to show the outcomes of the coaching provided and any need for other services on the part of the young people involved. Information is obtained from the young people themselves, by observing the progress made in the young people's coaching and from the authorities or other entities performing a public function that referred the young people to the workshop.

Information on a young person obtained in the course of duties related to youth workshop activities may only be disclosed to other authorities or other entities performing a public function with the consent of the young person, or if they are a minor, also with the consent of the person who has custody of the young person. However, minors may make decisions regarding the disclosure of information on themselves according to their level of maturity. All the information shall be promptly destroyed when no longer essential for the duties related to the workshop activities, but no later than four years as of the date of entry of the information in the data file.

Organisers of youth workshop activities or persons employed by them may not disclose to third parties, without the consent of the young person and, if the young person is a minor, of the person who has custody of the young person, any information that may come to their attention in the course of the duties under this Act regarding the young person's personal circumstances, state of health, benefits received, support measures or financial position. However, minors may make decisions regarding the disclosure of information on themselves according to their level of maturity.

Section 15

Drug testing in connection with youth workshop activities

Organisers of youth workshop activities may ask a young person to present a drug test certificate if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the young person is under the influence of drugs while undergoing coaching in the workshop or that the young person is addicted to drugs. A further condition is that testing is essential to determine the functional capacity of the young person and that the young person acts in tasks which require special precision, reliability, independent judgement or good ability to react, and where acting under the influence of drugs or while addicted to drugs:

- 1) seriously endangers the life and health of the young person or that of others;
- 2) seriously compromises road safety; or
- 3) significantly increases the risk of illicit trafficking or distribution of substances referred to in section 3, subsection 1, paragraph 5 of the Narcotics Act (373/2008) in a youth workshop or other coaching environment.

A drug test certificate means a certificate issued by a municipality or other registered healthcare professional attesting that the young person has undergone a test to detect the presence or absence of a substance referred to in section 3, subsection 1, paragraph 5 of the Narcotics Act, and a statement drawn up on the basis of the test on whether the young person has used drugs for non-medical purposes in a way that has impaired the young person's functional capacity. The certificate shall be presented within a reasonable period of time determined by the organiser of the youth workshop activities. The person who has custody of a young person who is a minor shall be notified of any request for a drug test certificate.

The information obtained as a result of the drug testing may only be used for revising the young person's coaching plan and the agreement referred to in section 13. Information obtained as a result of the drug test may only be processed by those who are responsible for the young person's coaching in the youth workshop or who make the decision on revising the agreement. The drug test certificate shall be filed separately from other personal information. If the organiser of youth workshop activities does not receive the requested drug test certificate and the tasks referred to in subsection 1 have been planned for the young person, the young person's coaching plan and the agreement referred to in section 13 may be revised.

The organiser of youth workshop activities shall cover the costs of the drug test certificate referred to in this section.

In all other respects, any drug test performed on a young person is governed by the provisions on drug tests performed on employees under section 19 of the Occupational Health Care Act (1383/2001).

Chapter 5

Central government funding

Section 16

Central government transfers to municipalities

Provisions on central government transfers to municipalities for purposes specified in this Act are laid down in the Act on the Financing of Educational and Cultural Provision (1705/2009).

Section 17

Eligibility of national organisations in the youth sector for discretionary government grants

To qualify for discretionary government grants for their activities, national organisations in the youth sector shall first be approved as eligible for discretionary government grants by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Organisations in the youth sector that implement the objectives and underlying principles laid down in section 2 may be approved as eligible for discretionary government grants. When considering the eligibility of a national organisation in the youth sector for government grants, due consideration is given to the significance and ability of the activities of the organisation to have an impact from the viewpoint of youth work and youth activities and to the organisation's nationwide scope. When assessing eligibility for government grants, due consideration is also given to the requirement that the organisation promotes equality, non-discrimination and participation for young people and that the organisation's administration and finances are managed responsibly. (955/2022)

However, an organisation whose principal purpose is to promote studies in a single field of training, study or field of activity is not eligible for discretionary government grants. Organisations whose principal purpose is to promote trade unions are not eligible for discretionary government grants either.

Organisations for which separate provisions on financial assistance have been issued or for which a separate appropriation exists for discretionary government grants in the national budget are not eligible for discretionary government grants either.

Further provisions on the conditions for granting eligibility for discretionary government grants for organisations within the meaning of this section and the procedures to be followed may be issued by government decree.

Section 18

Awarding discretionary government grants to national organisations in the youth sector

An annual appropriation may be included in the national budget to be allocated for the activities of national organisations in the youth sector.

National organisations in the youth sector may allocate resources from the funding they receive to their own regional or local registered member organisations in accordance with section 7, subsection 3 of the Act on Discretionary Government Grants (688/2001). (955/2022)

When considering the discretionary government grant amount to be awarded to national organisations in the youth sector, the following shall be taken into account:

- 1) the quality and the ability of the activities of the organisation to have an impact;
- 2) the topical nature of the organisation's activities;
- 3) the scope and accessibility of the organisation's activities;
- 4) how the organisation promotes equality and non-discrimination among young people;
- 5) how the organisation promotes the social participation of young people; and
- 6) how the organisation's administration and finances are managed.

(955/2022)

Grant-assisted activities shall be non-profit and shall promote the objectives and underlying principles laid down in section 2. Expenses incurred from business activities or other similar activities do not qualify as eligible costs. (955/2022)

Further provisions on the conditions for granting eligibility for discretionary government grants referred to in this section and the procedures to be followed in awarding discretionary government grants may be issued by government decree.

Section 19

Awarding discretionary government grants to national centres of expertise in the youth sector

An annual appropriation may be included in the national budget to be allocated for the activities of national centres of expertise in the youth sector.

The Ministry of Education and Culture makes the decisions on approving the centres of excellence for eligibility for discretionary government grants. One condition for eligibility for government grants is that the centres of expertise develop and promote basic and advanced expertise in youth-related issues as well as expert and other services in youth-related fields by generating, compiling, harnessing or sharing knowledge and information on young people, youth work or youth policy. In addition, the centres of expertise shall implement the objectives and underlying principles laid down in section 2.

When considering the eligibility of centres of expertise for discretionary government grants, the plan for the activities of the centre of expertise submitted by the applicant is examined by comparing it with the centre of expertise priorities outlined in the national youth work and youth policy programme, and the feasibility of the proposed plan is assessed. When considering eligibility for discretionary government grants, due consideration is also given to the requirement that the centre manages its finances and its administration in a responsible manner and that the applicant has national competence and experience in the youth sector. In addition, the whole network of centres of expertise is taken into account in the consideration. Eligibility for discretionary government grants is awarded for a fixed period of time. (955/2022)

When considering the discretionary government grant amount, the quality and scope of the tasks and activities of the centres are taken into account. Grant-assisted activities shall be organised for

non-profit purposes. Expenses incurred from business activities or other similar activities do not qualify as eligible costs. (955/2022)

Further provisions on the centres of expertise and their tasks as well as the conditions for granting eligibility for discretionary government grants and for awarding discretionary government grants may be issued by government decree.

Section 20

Awarding discretionary government grants to youth centres

An annual appropriation may be included in the national budget for youth work at youth centres.

The Ministry of Education and Culture makes the decisions on youth centres that qualify for discretionary government grants. One condition for eligibility for government grants is that the youth centre implements the objectives and underlying principles laid down in section 2 and that the main purpose of the centre is to provide young people with guided activities throughout the year by means of youth work. In addition, the youth work of the youth centres shall seek to promote sustainable development and young people's international orientation. When considering eligibility for discretionary government grants, consideration is given to the requirement that the centre manages its finances and its administration in a responsible manner and that the operational potential, quality, scope, ability of organisation's activities to have an impact, as well as the overall network of youth centres, are taken into account. (955/2022)

When considering the discretionary government grant amount, the quality and scope of the youth centre's youth work activities and their ability to have an impact as well as the centre's finances and administration are taken into account. Grant-assisted activities shall be organised for non-profit purposes. Expenses incurred from business activities or other similar activities do not qualify as eligible costs. Any surplus shall be used for advancing youth work and for maintaining and improving the infrastructures used in youth work. (955/2022)

Further provisions on the conditions for granting eligibility for discretionary government grants to youth centres and for being awarded discretionary government grants may be issued by government decree.

Section 21

Awarding discretionary government grants for workshop activities for young people

An annual appropriation may be included in the national budget for funding the activities of youth workshops.

To qualify for discretionary government grants for their activities, youth workshops shall first be approved as eligible for discretionary government grants by the Ministry of Education and Culture. Youth workshops that perform the duties and purpose of youth workshop activities as well as the objectives and underlying principles laid down in section 2 may be accepted as eligible for discretionary government grants. When considering eligibility for discretionary government grants, consideration is given to the workshop's financial and operational resources and the societal impact of the activities.

When considering the discretionary government grant amount, the quality and societal impact of the youth workshop activities and how the workshop implements the objectives and underlying principles laid down in section 2 are taken into account. Grant-assisted activities shall be organised for non-profit purposes. Expenses incurred from business activities or other similar activities do not qualify as eligible costs. Any surplus shall be used for maintaining and advancing youth workshop activities.

Further provisions on the conditions for granting eligibility for discretionary government grants to youth workshop activities and for being awarded discretionary government grants may be issued by government decree.

Section 21a (955/2022)

Granting discretionary government grants for leisure activities for young people

An annual appropriation may be included in the national budget for leisure activities for young people referred to in section 12a.

When considering the discretionary government grant amount, the quality and scope of the leisure activities to be provided, the feasibility of the planned activities and the budget, and how the municipality implements the tasks referred to in section 12a, subsection 3 are taken into account.

Further provisions on the conditions for granting eligibility for discretionary government grants to leisure activities for young people may be issued by government decree.

Section 22

Other discretionary government grants

An annual appropriation may be included in the national budget for research related to youth work and youth policy; international cooperation in youth-related issues; construction, renovation and fitting-out of youth work facilities; outreach youth work; and the development of youth work activities.

Section 23 (955/2022)

Withdrawal of eligibility for discretionary government grants

The Ministry of Education and Culture may withdraw eligibility for discretionary government grants for a national youth work organisation referred to in section 17, a national centre of expertise in the youth sector referred to in section 19, a youth centre referred to in section 20 or a youth workshop referred to in section 21, if it no longer meets the eligibility conditions for discretionary government grants laid down in this Act.

Chapter 6

Miscellaneous provisions

Section 24

Participation, influence and consultation of young people

Provisions on opportunities for young people to participate and exert influence in youth councils or similar youth advocacy groups are laid down in section 26 of the Local Government Act (410/2015) and in section 32 of the Act on Wellbeing Services Counties (611/2021). (955/2022)

In addition to the provisions in this Act or elsewhere in the law, municipal and central government authorities shall provide and organise opportunities for young people to participate in and exert influence in the handling of matters related to local, regional and national youth work and youth policy, or they shall otherwise be consulted in these matters. In addition, young people shall be consulted in matters that affect them.

Section 25

Government grant authority

The Ministry of Education and Culture is the government grant authority in the matters referred to in this Act.

The Ministry may allocate funds from the national budget to the Regional State Administrative Agencies, to be awarded as discretionary government grants.

Section 26 (320/2023)

Section 26 was repealed by Act 320/2023.

Section 27 (955/2022)

Request for review

A request for an administrative review of a decision made by the Ministry of Education and Culture may be filed. Provisions on requesting an administrative review are laid down in the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003).

Provisions on requesting a judicial review by an administrative court are laid down in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (808/2019).

Section 28

Discretionary right of disclosure

Notwithstanding non-disclosure obligations, anyone performing the duties referred to in this Act is entitled to disclose to the police information essential for the purpose of assessing any threat to life and health and preventing any acts of threat if, in performing their duties, they become aware of circumstances suggesting that a person may be at risk of being subjected to violence.

Chapter 7

Entry into force

Section 29

Entry into force

This Act enters into force on 1 January 2017.

This Act repeals the Youth Act (72/2006).

If reference is made elsewhere in the law to the Youth Act in force at the time of the entry into force of this Act, this Act shall be applied instead.