

Kindes und Erwachsenenschutzbehörde (KESB/Child and Adult Protection Authority)

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE KESB

The Kindes- und Erwachsenenschutzbehörde (KESB) supports people dealing with difficult life situations. The authority takes action when a **report** is submitted to it. Sometimes, affected persons contact the KESB directly and, sometimes, family members, neighbours, schools or the police contact them out of concern. Once they have received such a report, the KESB specialists determine whether a child or grown-up is in need of help and assistance.

If the KESB takes action, it initiates **proceedings**. They are headed by one of the members of the authority. Social Services, whose employees are professionally trained, take care of actually dealing with the individual case. They meet with the affected person, parents or the affected child. They want to learn how the affected persons assess the situation themselves. If it is deemed necessary after meeting with the affected person, they make further inquiries while complying with the duty of confidentiality. For example, the specialist staff inquire with a medical specialist or the school.

Once these inquiries are complete, the employees of the KESB recommend specific help and support services or further measures to the extent they deem necessary. The affected persons have the possibility of responding. Only afterwards, do three members of the authority decide, independently and in accordance with legal requirements, on how to proceed further. They contribute their expertise from the areas of law, social work and psychology. At this point, the members of the authority issue a **decision**. With its decision, the KESB concludes the proceedings.

In its assessment, the KESB orders measures providing they are necessary and appropriate: It may, for example, commission a support person, who attends to the needs of the affected person. These are specialists who work for the professional support service. With the adults, they may be private officers, who come from the affected person's surroundings.

If the parents, the child or a loved one do not agree with the decision, they can lodge a **complaint** with the canton court of Lucerne within 30 days. The complaint is lodged in the form a letter to the court explaining the reason for disagreeing with the decision and what should change. The decision of the KESB will again be lodged by the court.