

How to contact us?

You can contact us **24/7** on this phone number:

**** 078/15.43.24

You can also send an email to:

utelles@just.fgov.be

If you need help to contact us, you can ask **your** social worker at your reception centre or **your** lawyer.



We have taken account of your status as a MENA, i.e. an unaccompanied foreign minor.



It means that:

- You are under 18 years of age
- You do not have Belgian nationality
- · Your parents are not with you in Belgium
- You don't have a valid permit to be in Belgium

In Belgium, unaccompanied foreign minors are entitled to **a guardian**.







But... what does a guardian do?

A guardian is an individual whom we designate to support you and help you with your daily life in Belgium.

She/He is **your legal representative**: this means that she/he helps you with all the procedures you need to follow to live in Belgium. For example, if you are applying for asylum or applying to live in Belgium, she/he is there to support you and help you throughout the procedure.

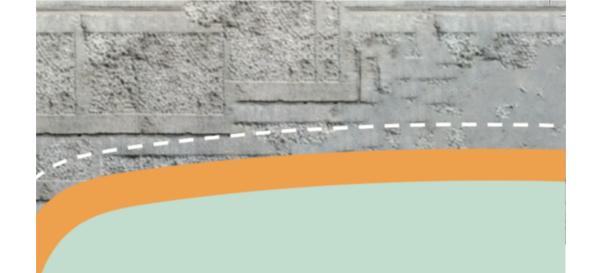
A guardian does other things, too. Here are a few examples:

- She/He visits you often;
- She/He explains to you the decisions the authorities have made concerning you;



- She/He finds a free lawyer for you; She/He checks that you feel comfortable in your accommodation and, if necessary, helps you to find suitable accommodation;
- She/He registers you for school and makes sure everything's going well at school;
- If you have any medical problems, she/he makes sure you get all the care you need;
- She/He manages your money in consultation with you;
- When things are not going well, she/he listens to your problems; She/He respects your opinion and your beliefs;
- She/He talks to you about your future;
- If you want, she/he will help you look for your parents;

If you have any questions about **your guardian's duties**, you can talk to her/him.





How long will you have a guardian?

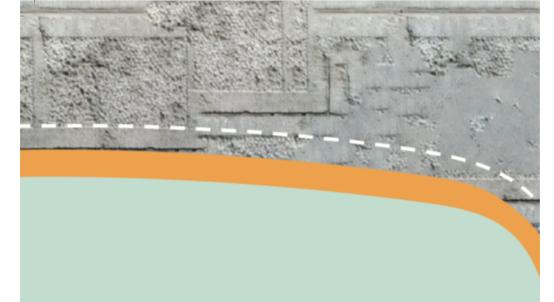
Your guardian will support you until you turn 18 years of age. When you turn 18, you become independent.

What does that mean?

It means you have to take care of yourself. The guardian will no longer be able to make decisions for you.

But don't worry, your guardian will help you prepare for your 18th birthday: she/he will give you advice and explain what you need to know.

However, it is possible that your guardian's work may stop before you turn 18: if your parents arrive in Belgium, or if you leave Belgium. In such cases, we will send you a letter to say that you no longer have a guardian. The guardian will discuss this with you.





What happens if you have a problem with your guardian?

The guardian must listen to you and be available for you. Try to talk to her/him about what's wrong.

What if it doesn't work?

- Get in touch with us; we can try to solve the problem.
- You can also go to the Justice of the Peace.
 She/He is there to solve problems between you and your guardian. You can ask us for more information or ask the social worker at your reception centre.