



# kesb

Kindes- und  
Erwachsenenschutzbehörden  
Kanton St.Gallen

## KESB BRIEFLY EXPLAINED

The child and adult protection authority (KESB) supports people in difficult life situations. The authorities become active when a **notification** is received. Sometimes the person concerned contacts KESB directly, sometimes it is relatives, neighbours, the school or the police who are concerned. After receiving such a report, KESB experts carefully check whether a child needs help or an adult needs support.

If KESB takes action, it **initiates proceedings**. This is led by one of the members of the authorities. The concrete clarification of the individual case is carried out by a specialist employee. Specialists are lawyers, psychologists or social workers. They invite the affected person or the parents and the affected child to a meeting and would like to know how the affected person assesses the situation. If it seems necessary after this meeting, they obtain further information. For example, they may ask a medical professional or the school. In child protection, a state agency is often commissioned to clarify the family situation in more detail. The procedures usually cost something.

Once these assessments have been completed, the staff of KESB propose assistance and support services if these are useful and necessary. The persons concerned can comment on them. Only then do three members of the authorities decide independently and in accordance with the legal requirements on how to proceed. They use their expertise in the fields of law, social work and Pedagogy. What the members of the authorities now decide is the **final decision**.

In this decision, KESB orders measures if they are necessary and proportionate: for example, it assigns a guardian to look after the needs of the person in need of help. These can be professionals who work for a professional guardianship. In the case of adults, they are often people from their surroundings.

If the parents, child or a related person do not agree with the decision, they can file an appeal. After an **appeal**, the decision will be reviewed by the court