

Information for parents about parenting orders

What are parenting orders?

The municipality can give the parental custodian parenting orders, if a child or youth has problems that pose a threat to his or her development. Parenting orders consist of one or more specifically formulated tasks, which the municipality requires parents to fulfil in order to help their child. A parenting order is only given if the municipality believes that the parents are capable of helping and supporting the child's well-being and development.

For example, the municipality can demand that the parents must:

- Ensure their child attends school.
- Participate in parent meetings concerning their child at the school.
- Accompany their child to an after-school activity.
- Ensure that their child is home by a certain time.
- Accept advice and information on how to raise their child.
- Participate in meetings with the municipality about solving their child's problems.

Why are parenting orders necessary?

The purpose of parenting orders and the related duties is to help and support parents in raising their children.

A parenting order is for parents who are capable of fulfilling their parental responsibilities, but who need help along the way. The municipality is happy to help the parents, if the municipality believes help is necessary. That is why the municipality summons the parents to a meeting about parenting orders.

What is a meeting about parenting orders like?

The municipality will usually summon the parents to a meeting about parenting orders before the specific parenting orders are drawn up.

The meeting is a collaborative meeting between a municipal social worker and the parents, and an interpreter, if necessary. The purpose of the meeting is to work together to find solutions for how the parents can help their child or youth thrive and develop, and the child or youth with good opportunities that will enable him or her to gain an education and a job.

Based on the meeting about parenting orders, the municipality must draw up an action plan in collaboration with the parents regarding which tasks and duties can lead to the parents meeting their parental obligations. How and when the agreements reached are to be followed up is also something that is discussed at the meeting.

The current legislation on parenting orders stipulates that the municipality must stop the payment of child benefits (i.e. "*børnefamilieydelsen*" or "*børnepenge*") and limit rental assistance if parents fail to fulfil the agreed tasks and duties, and there are no special reasons for this.

Film about parental responsibilities

A film about parental responsibilities is available at [Socialstyrelsen.dk/forældrepaalæg](https://socialstyrelsen.dk/forældrepaalæg). The film also shows how cooperation between parents, teachers, pedagogues and social workers is of critical importance for children's development and well-being.