

## A representative can help you handle official matters



You have arrived in Finland without a guardian. However, you are not alone; there are many adults who will help you. Every day, the employees of the reception centre or the family you are living with take care of your well-being. In addition, you will have a representative who will look after your interests in different situations. In Finland, young people under the age of 18 are not allowed to handle official matters alone, which is why you will have a representative.

### What does the representative do?

- ❖ The representative can help you handle matters with the authorities. They will come with you to your appointments at the Finnish Immigration Service or the Police, for example.
- ❖ The representative asks for your opinion and ensures it is taken into consideration in matters that concern you.
- ❖ The representative also explains to the authorities their own views of what would be in your best interest in different situations.
- ❖ The representative works in cooperation with the adults and employees taking care of you.
- ❖ The representative will ensure that you are informed of your matters and rights.
- ❖ If needed, the representative will find you a legal counsel.
- ❖ If you are under 15 years old, the representative will sign on your behalf any agreements, applications and minutes that concern you.

### What does the representative not do?

- ❖ The representative will not participate in your daily care or upbringing and they cannot let you stay in their home. In your everyday life, you will be looked after by the employees of the reception centre or the adults with whom you live.
- ❖ The representative will not buy you things or loan you money.
- ❖ The representative is not allowed to talk about your matters to others without your permission.