



Living in Sweden

To you as a newcomer to Sweden living in the
Municipality of Alingsås

Engelska



ALINGSÅS
KOMMUN



This folder is addressed to you as a newcomer to Sweden and to the Municipality of Alingsås and contains information that may be useful for you to know. Integration is about feeling that one belongs in the community. It means that everybody should feel that he or she is part of Swedish society. One aspect of this is knowing one's rights and obligations. Human rights are the foundation for many of Sweden's laws.

Human rights and equality of opportunity for men and women

The UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights is about the fact that every human being is of equal value and has equal rights. Everyone has a right to say what they think, believe in whatever god they like and choose the partner they want to live with. The declaration of human rights is to apply to all the people in the world.

Equality means equality between women and men. Women and men must have the same rights and opportunities. They must also have equal power to influence society and their own lives. When anybody is

treated worse because they are a man or a woman this is sexual discrimination.

Marriage

To get married means to enter into matrimony. Everyone in Sweden has to be 18 years old before they can marry. This is the law. The law applies to everybody in Sweden, even if they are not Swedish citizens. Swedish law specifies the following impediments to marriage:

- that you are, or your partner is, under 18 years of age
- that you are closely related to the person you want to marry
- that you are, or your partner is, already married or a registered partner

Swedish law also prohibits forced marriage. This means that nobody may force another person to marry. Everyone shall have the same right to decide whom they want to marry.

Children's rights

Nearly every country has laws and regulations to protect children and young people. Children and young people in Sweden are protected by both internatio-

nal and domestic law. Sweden takes the rights and protection of children against threat and violence very seriously. Sweden has signed the UN Convention (Convention on the Rights of the Child), which contains rules to safeguard children's human rights. This means among other things that the child must be protected against discrimination, that the child shall have the right to say what he/she thinks and to be listened to and that children have the right to protection against violence in the home. Children must be protected against parents and other adults who use force or who do not care for the child properly.

Violence in close relationships

Violence in close relationships means, for example, using force by controlling, striking or threatening. In Sweden it is forbidden to use violence on other persons. It is a violation of other people's human rights and is a criminal act. It is therefore also forbidden to use violence within the family. This means that it is forbidden to strike one's child, husband, wife or partner.

Forbidden to use violence against children

Swedish law contains a section called the Code on Parents and Children. One part of the code is known as the Anti-Corporal Punishment Act and this has existed in Sweden since 1979. Corporal punishment here refers to hitting a child for educational purposes. The Anti-Corporal Punishment Act states that it is forbidden to use physical or mental force in the upbringing of children. Physical violence means every



form of violence to the body. Light slapping, pulling hair and pinching are also physical violence.

Female circumcision

In some countries girls are circumcised. Circumcision may mean cutting away parts of the woman's outer sexual organs. Female genital mutilation is forbidden in Sweden. The law states that female circumcision is not allowed even if the person agrees to it. A person who performs a female circumcision may be sent to prison. One can be convicted in Sweden even if the circumcision was performed in another country.

Important information on contact

Social services: 0322-61 60 00

Social Services works chiefly by means of voluntary social assistance such as advice, support and treatment. Social Services' work includes support to children and young people who are being badly treated, family homes, support in cases of violence in close relationships, support to persons with addiction problems or mental disabilities and family law cases.

SOS Alarm:112

If you find yourself in danger, have suffered an accident or need emergency help, phone 112. Read more on www.sosalarm.se

Healthcare guide: 1177

If you become ill and need advice on treatment. The treatment guide answers your questions, assesses your need for treatment, gives you advice and refers you to the right care department. Highly skilled and experienced nurses work on the Treatment Guide. Read more on www.1177.se

The Police: 114 14

If you have questions or want to give information to the Police.

This is also the number of the social emergency officer, who deals with social problems at weekends and public holidays, i.e. when other social services are not working. Read more on www.polisen.se

BRIS, Children's emergency phone: 116111

Children can phone and talk to an adult about whatever they like. Read more on www.bris.se

BRIS, adult phone: 0771 50 50 50

If you have questions about your children or other people's. Read more at www.bris.se

Terrafem: 020-52 10 10

Terrafem is a voluntary organization that works to help women of foreign origin who have been subjected to violence. Terrafem's emergency phone service gives women who have suffered violence access to support interviews and advice in their native language. Read more at www.terrafem.org

Utväg: 0707-16 09 29

Utväg [Way Out] offers free support and treatment to women and men who have been subjected to violence in close relationships and to those women and men who have problems with violence and aggression. Read more at www.utvag.com

www.informationsverige.se

This portal is addressed to you if you are a newcomer to Sweden and want to find information about Swedish society quickly and simply. Read more at www.informationsverige.se