

# Statens barnehus

Information for adults



# Facilitated investigative interviews at Statens barnehus

If it is suspected that a child or a particularly vulnerable adult has witnessed or been the victim of sexual assault, violence, or other possible criminal acts, the police will conduct a facilitated investigative interview.

By particularly vulnerable adults, we mean any person with a mental impairment or disability that necessitates a facilitated investigative interview.

Facilitated interviews are conducted at Statens barnehus, which is a place where children and particularly vulnerable adults can provide their deposition in a safe environment that can be tailored to the individual's needs.



## Legal basis

Section 239 of the Criminal Procedure Act regulates how facilitated interviews are conducted. The starting point for an interview is reporting an incident to the police. As a part of an investigation, the police will interview the child or the particularly vulnerable adult who may have witnessed or been the victim of a serious incident.

Witnesses who explain themselves at Statens barnehus have the same obligation to testify to the police as they do to the court. The interviews are led by a police prosecutor, who ensures that the rules are followed.

Pursuant to section 239 of the Criminal procedure Act, the police must conduct the first facilitated interview without notifying the suspect. In cases where the police suspect that one or both parents are guilty of criminal acts, the child will be interviewed without notifying either parent.



## **Guardian and counsel for the aggrieved party**

For the duration of the case, the child or the particularly vulnerable adult is often appointed a temporary guardian or a counsel to safeguard their rights. The public pays for this.



## **Facilitated interview**

The interview is conducted at Statens barnehus. This is to ensure that the child or the particularly vulnerable adult receives the best possible care. The interview is tailored to the individual's needs and can be adjusted if necessary. Employees working at Statens barnehus are police specialising in these types of cases. The police are not in uniform, and Statens barnehus does not look like a police station. During the interview, there will be breaks, and food and drinks will be served. Interpreters are provided if required.



## **Video recording**

The interview is conducted in a room equipped with a microphone and a camera. Sound and footage from the interview are transmitted to a separate room, where police, attorneys, and other personnel from Statens barnehus are present. A police prosecutor leads the interview. The Child Welfare Service is often present and may also follow the case. Recordings are made to be played in the event of a trial. This is done to ensure that the child or the particularly vulnerable adult won't have to appear in court.



## **Forensic examinations with a doctor or dentist**

As part of the police investigation, the child or the particularly vulnerable adult will, in some cases, be examined by a doctor or a dentist. The examinations take place at Statens barnehus.



## **Who accompanies the interviewee to Statens barnehus?**

The police make sure that the interviewee is accompanied to Statens barnehus by a trustworthy adult or a guardian. This is usually a professional they know from school, kindergarten, etc. The person who accompanies the child or vulnerable adult to Statens barnehus is given information about the case but is not informed of the details or the content of the deposition.



## **The Child Welfare Service**

When the police investigate cases where parents are parties to the case, the Child Welfare Service is notified. Representatives from the Child Welfare Service are often present when interviews are conducted at Statens barnehus. They don't always meet the child, but they follow the interview from a separate room. After the interview, The Child Welfare Service will contact the family.

## **After the interview**

Many interviewees are tired after an interview. The police and Statens barnehus recommend that the child or the particularly vulnerable adult are not questioned about what they talked about in the interview, as this can take a toll on the person in question. If the subject decides to talk of their own volition, you can listen.

Questions about the day of the interview and the police investigation of the case cannot be answered by The Child Welfare Service or the person who accompanied the interviewee to Statens barnehus. Any questions can be directed to the police.

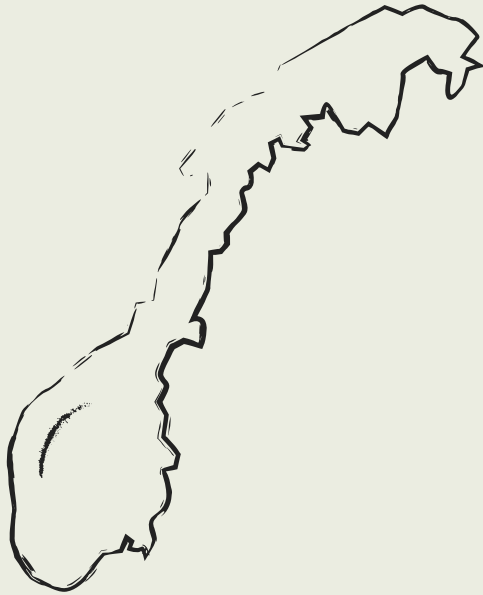
## **Follow-up at Statens barnehus**

After the interview, there will be a brief assessment of the subject's need for follow-up services. Statens barnehus can help assess mental health issues and arrange support conversations or therapy connected to experiences with sexual assault and violence. Statens barnehus can provide referrals to other local follow-up services.

These services are free.

## Where are we located?

Statens barnehus has local facilities in 11 Norwegian cities. We have facilities in **Bergen, Bodø, Hamar, Kristiansand, Moss, Oslo, Sandefjord, Stavanger, Trondheim, Tromsø, and Ålesund**. Some Barnehus also have branches in other cities.





**POLITIET**



**STATENS BARNEHUS**  
Et tverrfaglig kompetansehus