

# THOSE WHO LOVE PROTECT

## Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child (UNICEF):

**Principle II** - Right to special protection for their physical, mental, and social development.

**Principle VI** - The right to love and understanding from parents and society.



CPCJ of Odemira contacts

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# ODEMIRA PROTECTS

COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF ODEMIRA

## When is a child/young person considered to be in danger?

When they are found to be in any one of the following situations:

- They have been abandoned or are living on their own;
- They are a victim of physical, mental or sexual abuse;
- They are not receiving the care or attention appropriate to their age and personal situation;
- They are being forced to engage in activities or work which is deemed to be excessive or inappropriate for their age, dignity or personal situation, or which is detrimental to their education or development;
- They are subjected, either directly or indirectly, to behaviours that seriously compromise their safety or their emotional wellbeing;
- They engage in behaviour, activities or substance use that seriously affects their health, safety, education, upbringing or development.

## Any of the following entities/ persons who are aware of a child/young person that might be at risk should notify the CPCJ:

- Police authorities
- Entities responsible for issues related to children and young people (e.g. schools

and pre-school establishments, health centres)

- Any other person/entity (e.g. parents and relatives, neighbours)
- The Commission itself.

## How can I notify the CPCJ?

- In person, at the offices of the CPCJ of Odemira
- In writing, by sending us a letter or email
- Over the telephone

It is possible to notify us anonymously by telephone.

(Please see the contacts section overleaf).

## How does the CPCJ intervene?

- The Commission can only intervene with consent from the parents, legal representative or de facto custodian of the child/young person.
- The intervention also requires the non-opposition of the child/young person aged 12 years and above.
- If parental consent is not provided or is withdrawn, or if the child/young person objects, the case is referred to court.
- Upon receiving consent/non-opposition, the CPCJ shall gather information, monitor the situation, and may apply a Care and Protection Measure by signing a child/young person protection agreement.

## Examples of measures implemented by the CPCJ:

- Parental support (most commonly used measure)
- Support from another relative
- Entrusting another suitable person (e.g. godmother)
- Foster care
- Residential care

Less widely used



## WHO ARE WE?

The Commission for the Protection of Children and Young People of Odemira (CPCJO) is an official non-judicial institution with functional autonomy, composed of representatives from the following entities:

- »Odemira Town Council
- »Social Welfare Services
- »Ministry of Education
- »Ministry of Health
- »Private Social Welfare Institutions/Non-Governmental Organisations
- »GNR (The National Republican Guard of Portugal)
- »Youth Associations
- »Parents' Associations
- »Cultural, Sporting and Recreational Associations

- »4 elected officials appointed by the Municipal Assembly
- »Volunteers (individuals from different backgrounds with a particular interest in the area of child and youth services).

The CPCJO exercises its authority in the area of the Municipality of Odemira.

## WHAT IS OUR MISSION STATEMENT?

- To promote the rights of children and young people in the Municipality of Odemira
- Prevent or put an end to situations of risk that may affect their safety, health, learning, education or overall development.