

The Reform of the Child Welfare Act

- How does the reform aims to improve child participation?

Kristiina Laiho
The Development Programme for Child Welfare
The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
Finland

Current situation

- A programme to reform social services during 2003-2007
- The National Development Programme for Child Welfare
- Ombudsman for Children

The Child Welfare Act

- Existing law is 20 years old, the total reform is now in parliamentary proceedings → New law 2008
- Survey on the child's and her/his family situation
- To map the network of significant persons of a child
- A child's right to information and a possibility to discuss with a social worker.
- Possibility to keep contact with close persons

Restrictive measures

- Restriction of freedom to move
 - Confiscation of objects
 - Restriction of having contact
 - Inspection of mail
 - Holding
- The restrictions to civil rights must be in legislation
- Possible for a child to appeal the decisions on restrictions to the court

Thank you for your
attention