

# **My work in the Unit of Social Work with the Family Courts**



# Unit for Work with Courts

Each social worker in the unit has completed a special training course specifically for this job, (in addition to all regular mandatory training) and has received a government certificate (Ministry of Social Welfare) authorizing him/her to perform this role.

In addition, each social worker has been appointed by the court especially to do the task described in the court order. At times, the order states the social workers name (in cases where he/she has already submitted reports on a certain family).

There are now 9 social workers plus a supervisor in the unit, most are not employed full time

# **All courts have same authority on the family matters**

Civil family court

Rabbinical religious court

Moslem kaddi

# Subjects of court orders

Child custody  
Visiting rights  
Name change  
Early marriage  
Guardianship

Family conflicts  
Alimony  
in unusual cases  
Visiting rights for  
grandparents

Determining whether to permit genetic tests for father's identity

# Role of Social Worker

- Making evaluations of family relations and situation
- Determinating what is the best interests of the child
- Writing and sending recommendations to courts

# Work methods

Process of Evaluation of family consists of a series of meetings in various constellations

- Parents together
- Each parent alone
- Each parent with children
- Children together and sometimes each child alone

Some meetings are held with supervisor who takes part

Meetings are held in office and also home visits are done in each case



Information is gathered from professional sources that know the family

- health agencies
- educational institutions (kindergarten and schools)
- psychologists and psychiatrists who have treated them
- marriage counsellors

The social worker's impressions from the meetings are added to the objective information obtained from above sources

Staff meetings are held from time to time and cases are sometimes shared for the purpose of group consultation and brainstorming.

# **Team work with Unit Head**

Social worker shares dilemmas and impressions with Unit Head

Discussions are held, sometimes shared with staff

# Writing Report with recommendations

Report is submitted to Unit Head  
Corrections and adjustments are  
made

Parents are notified about report  
and are allowed to read it

# Receiving court decision/order

Once the court makes decision (based on recommendations), this is binding for family and for social worker

Social worker may be required to supervise and do follow up on family regarding custody or visiting

# Receiving court decision/order

Social worker may be granted court authority to operate freely and change visiting arrangements according to professional considerations

Parents can appeal court decision if not satisfied