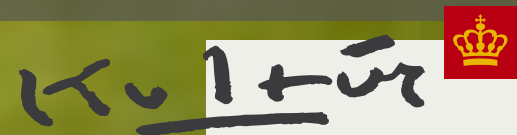




# Safe sport: End game for abusers? Children's certificates – does it work?

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# Children's certificates – the scheme in Denmark

- First Child Certificate Act was adopted by Parliament in 2005. Applies to different fields, not limited to sport.
- A tool to prevent sexual abuse of children under the age of 15 years.
- Obtaining a children's certificate is a prerequisite for employment in jobs involving contact with children under the age of 15 years.
- The obligation to obtain a certificate applies to both paid employees and volunteers.
- A mandatory scheme.

# The legal framework

- The Ministry of Culture is responsible for the Child Certificate Act.
- Underlying legal regulations have been issued covering different fields such as education, day-care, health care etc.
- The different regulations state the categories of jobs subject to the obligation to obtain a child certificate.
- The scheme can be expanded continuously if other relevant fields are identified.

## Who is covered by the scheme?

- Persons who apply for a job where the employee is:
  - A) in a position where he or she has direct contact with children under the age of 15
  - or*
  - B) in a position to get in direct contact with children under the age of 15.
- A person already employed is not obliged to obtain a children's certificate.

# The content of children's certificates

- Children's certificates only contain information about sexual offenses committed against children.
- Unlike traditional criminal records, the information in question appears much longer than is the case for other offenses.
- The specific timeperiod depends on the type of violation and sanction.

# The effect of a “positive” children's certificate

- The purpose of the children's certificates legislation is to criminalize the failure to obtain a certificate.
- The Children’s Certificate legislation does not regulate whether a person with a "positive" children’s certificate can obtain employment or the task as volunteer.
- It is up to the individual authority, company or association etc. to decide whom they want to hire.
- Intentional violation of the obligation to obtain a certificate is punished by a fine.

## Some statistics about Denmark

- In **2018** a total of 345.350 children's certificates were obtained
- 117 certificates were positive
- 15 certificates of the 117 were in connection to sports organizations
  
- In **2017** a total of 336.103 children's certificates were obtained
- 112 certificates were positive
- 12 certificates of the 112 were in connection to sports organizations

## Does it work?

- Children's certificates cannot stand alone.
- A presumption that the children's certificate scheme has a preventive effect
- No guarantee that a person has not committed or will not commit sexual offenses against children
- A negative children's certificate is not a definitive proof
- Children's certificates only provide an informed basis for decision-making for the employing authority
- A child certificate must always be accompanied by a specific assessment of the person concerned