GGD Gelderland-Zuid

After a report to Veilig Thuis

Everyone has the right to a safe home, but not everyone has one. In that case, help is needed to make the home safe again. People close to you, such as your family, neighbours, GP, police or teacher may be concerned about what is happening in your home, and can then contact Veilig Thuis. You have received this leaflet because someone made a report about you.

What is Veilig Thuis?

Veilig Thuis–which means a Safe Home–provides advice and help on matters concerning domestic violence and child abuse. Both social workers and citizens can turn to Veilig Thuis if they are looking for help or are worried about others dealing with some form of domestic violence or child abuse.

Veilig Thuis:

- works with all those directly involved (i.e. the people who are part of your network/family/household);
- works together with involved care providers;
- activates care providers;
- urges action when necessary.

If advice or support is not enough for you to restore safety, a report can be made to Veilig Thuis. This can also be done anonymously.

A report has been made about me

Someone is worried about your home situation and has reported a suspicion of domestic violence or child abuse to Veilig Thuis. Anyone can make a report; most reports come from the police, but teachers, care providers, nurses, doctors, family members, neighbours or friends, for example, can also make a report.

What happens after a report has been made?

If Veilig Thuis receives a report, it has a legal obligation to assess it.
Veilig Thuis checks:

- Whether the home is unsafe due to domestic violence or child abuse;
- What is needed to address the issue;
- Who can best deal with the report: the local field, care providers already involved, you or Veilig Thuis.

If the situation calls for it, Veilig Thuis will take immediate action.

Veilig Thuis

If serious concerns have been reported about the safety of children or adults, Veilig Thuis may impose conditions to create a safe situation for all those directly involved. Veilig Thuis may first conduct an investigation.

Conditions & Continuation

If the report shows that it is unsafe in your home, Veilig Thuis will want to talk to you and the other people directly involved in the situation. You and an employee will draw up a number of conditions, and agree on what is needed in the future for everyone involved to feel safe again. Veilig Thuis calls these safety conditions.
Once immediate safety has been restored, Veilig Thuis will hand over the conditions to the appropriate care provider or, in some cases, to you. The care provider will focus on long-term safety and recovery from the previous unsafe situation.

Investigation

Sometimes, the problems at home may not be immediately obvious to you or us. In that case, Veilig Thuis must first find out whether domestic violence or child abuse is happening, and will conduct an investigation. An employee will talk to you and all the other important people involved. Veilig Thuis will also ask your GP, the consultation clinic or school what they think of the reported concerns. Veilig Thuis tries to get the best possible picture of the situation. If the investigation shows that the home situation is not safe, Veilig Thuis will make agreements with you. We call these safety conditions. They are agreements to achieve a safe situation. If no domestic violence or child abuse is happening, you will be informed of that too.

Safety now and in the future: monitoring after Conditions & Follow-up or an investigation

To ensure that your home remains safe even after our involvement, Veilig Thuis will continue to monitor your situation by keeping in touch with you and any care providers involved. Veilig Thuis may continue to assess whether things are improving up to eighteen months after their involvement. This is called monitoring.

Veilig Thuis monitors:

- whether the safety conditions are being met;
- whether the agreements ensure a safe situation, both now and later;
- whether work is also being done on recovery.

How often, with whom and when Veilig Thuis will be in contact about the agreements, is decided in consultation with all those involved. If your home has been safe for more than six months, Veilig Thuis will close the file. This only happens if the domestic violence or child abuse has stopped, and everyone feels safe.

Local field

If it turns out that it is necessary to organise help for you, Veilig Thuis will transfer your report to the care providers of the municipality where you are registered; this will end the involvement of Veilig Thuis. The local field will contact you to discuss the report. What is the situation? What is needed to solve the problems? You and the local care providers will discuss the home situation; what is going well, and what would you like to achieve. If help is needed, the local field will take care of it.

Reference index

If you are younger than 23, Veilig Thuis will check the Reference Index to see whether you are already known to Veilig Thuis, the police or care providers. Veilig Thuis only does this in the case of the Conditions and Follow-up and investigation services.

The reference index is a national system for those who work with young people, for example, teachers, general practitioners and care providers, in which they indicate that they offer help to or have concerns about a young person. The reference index does not state what the concerns or reports are about. It only contains the young person’s name, date of birth, address and civilian service number (BSN). It ensures that care providers can find each other quickly.