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*Appendix nr 4*

*to the Standards for the Protection of Minors at the Homo Faber Association*

BLUE CARD – PROCEDURES AND IMPLEMENTATION  
IN HOMO FABER ASSOCIATION

The "Blue Cards" procedure - counteracting domestic violence

1. Domestic violence is a single or repeated intentional act or omission violating the rights or personal rights of family members, as well as other persons living or farming together, in particular endangering these persons to the risk of loss of life or health, violating their dignity, bodily integrity, freedom, including sexual freedom, causing damage to their physical or mental health, as well as causing suffering and moral harm to people affected by violence.
2. From September 28, 2023, the provisions of the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of September 6, 2023 on the "Blue Card" procedure and "Blue Card" form templates apply (Journal of Laws of 2023, item 1870).
3. Types of domestic violence:
  - 1) physical violence;
  - 2) emotional violence;
  - 3) neglect;
  - 4) sexual abuse;
  - 5) a minor witnessing violence
4. The "Blue Cards" procedure imposes specific tasks on the HF Association in the event of a justified suspicion of domestic violence against a minor, if, for example, the minor: has traces of physical violence - traces of blows, burns, bruises, wounds, frequent swellings, fractures, dislocations, etc..
5. Has signs of psychological violence - bedwetting, excessive sweating, pain, speech disorders related to nervous tension, etc., shows difficulties in establishing contact, has low self-esteem, withdrawal, anxiety, depression, tearfulness, destructive behavior, aggression, apathy, distrust, becoming dependent on others, intimidation, avoiding conversations, etc.,
6. His/her clothes are dirty, inappropriate for the season, his/her development, height and weight are inappropriate for his/her age, does not seek medical help despite having a chronic illness, etc. The card is an important element in the fight against domestic violence because it documents the situation of the harmed minor and constitutes evidence in preparatory proceedings and a possible criminal case of domestic violence.
7. Recognizing domestic violence and completing the "Blue Card" is the beginning of the process of supporting a victim of violence.
8. Intervening in a family affected by violence based on the "Blue Cards" procedure does not require the consent of the minor affected by violence.
9. The procedure is initiated at the Association by completing the "Blue Card" form - A in the presence of a minor suspected of being affected by domestic violence. By initiating the procedure, intervention measures are taken to ensure the safety of such a minor.

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## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE „BLUE CARD” PROCEDURE

1. "Blue Cards" are created by an employee who is suspecting that there is a problem of violence in the minor's family (the decision to create the "Blue Cards" should be made after consultations with the intervention team).
2. The procedure is initiated by completing the "Blue Card - A" form in the presence of a minor suspected of being affected by domestic violence.
3. In the event of suspicion of domestic violence against an minor, undertaken action and implemented solutions are carried out in the presence of the parent or legal guardian.
4. If the persons suspected of using domestic violence against a minor are parents, legal or actual guardians, activities involving the minor shall be carried out in the presence of the closest adult person.
5. Activities involving a minor suspected of being affected by domestic violence should, if possible, be conducted in the presence of a psychologist.
6. Additionally, after completing the "Blue Card - A" form, the "Blue Card -B" form is submitted to the minor suspected of being affected by domestic violence,.
7. If domestic violence concerns an underage minor, the "Blue Card - B" form is submitted to the parent, legal or actual guardian or to the person who reported suspicion of domestic violence (the "Blue Card - B" form is not provided to the person , who is suspected of using domestic violence).
8. The completed "Blue Card - A" form is immediately submitted to the interdisciplinary team, no later than within 5 business days from the date of initiation of the procedure.

### "BLUE CARD - B" INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

#### ***WHAT IS THE "BLUE CARD" PROCEDURE?***

It is a series of actions taken when domestic violence is suspected or established under the provisions of the Act on counteracting domestic violence. The purpose of the "Blue Cards" procedure is to stop domestic violence and provide help and support to you and your loved ones. As a result of the initiation of the "Blue Cards" procedure, information about your situation will be forwarded to the diagnostic and support group. You will receive more information on further actions during a meeting with members of this group, to which you will be invited. In the course of the procedure, members of the group will also contact the violent person.

#### ***WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?***

Domestic violence is a single or repeated intentional act or omission, using physical, psychological or economic advantage, violating the rights or personal property of a person suffering domestic violence, in particular:

- a) exposing that person to danger of loss of life, health or property,
- b) violating his dignity, bodily integrity or freedom, including sexual freedom,
- c) causing damage to his physical or mental health, causing suffering or harm to that person,
- d) restricting or depriving that person of access to financial resources or the ability to work or become financially independent,
- e) materially violating the privacy of that person or causing him/her to feel threatened, humiliated or anguished, including those undertaken by means of electronic communication.



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***WHO CAN BE A PERSON EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?***

- a) the spouse, including when the marriage has ceased or been annulled, and their ascendants (e.g. parents, grandparents, great-grandparents), descendants (e.g. children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren), siblings and their spouses,
- (b) ascendants and descendants and their spouses,
- c) siblings and their ascendants, descendants and their spouses,
- d) a person in an adoption relationship and their spouse and their ascendants, descendants, siblings and their spouses,
- e) a person currently or formerly in cohabitation and their ascendants, descendants, siblings and their spouses,
- (f) a person living and farming together and his ascendants, descendants, siblings and their spouses,
- (g) a person who is currently or has been in a lasting emotional or physical relationship regardless of cohabitation and housekeeping,
- h) minors.

***THE MOST COMMON FORMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:***

**Physical violence:** hitting, jerking, kicking, choking, pushing, overpowering and others.

**Psychological violence:** isolating, name-calling, ridiculing, threatening, criticizing, humiliating and others.

**Sexual violence:** forcing sexual intercourse, other sexual acts, and others.

**Economic violence:** failing to pay for the maintenance of those to whom there is an obligation, failing to meet material needs, destroying personal belongings, vandalizing the apartment, carrying away household goods and selling them, and others.

**Violence by means of electronic communication:** calling, threatening, humiliating a person on the Internet or using a phone, taking a picture of him or recording videos without his consent, publishing on the Internet or sending out by phone pictures, videos or texts that insult or ridicule him, and others.

**Other types of behavior:** neglect, failing to meet basic biological, psychological and other needs, destroying personal belongings, vandalizing an apartment, carrying away household items and selling them, leaving unattended a person who cannot meet his or her needs independently due to illness, disability or age, forcing him or her to drink alcohol, forcing him or her to take intoxicants, psychotropic substances or drugs, and others.

***IMPORTANT***

The law prohibits violence and harming your loved ones. If you or someone close to you is a victim of domestic violence, don't be ashamed to ask for help. Call the police by dialing the emergency number 112 - the law is on your side!

You have the right to report a domestic violence crime to the Prosecutor's Office, the Police or the Military Police.

You can also turn to entities and organizations that implement domestic violence prevention activities for help. They will help you:

- **Social welfare centers** - for social, living and legal matters.
- **Poviat family assistance centers** - in the legal, social, therapeutic fields, or will provide information on institutions locally working in this field in your locality.
- **Crisis Intervention Centers and Support Centers** - providing shelter for you and your loved ones when you experience domestic violence, will give you help and support to overcome the crisis situation, and will develop a plan to help you.



- **Specialized support centers for people experiencing domestic violence** - providing free 24-hour shelter for you and your loved ones when you are experiencing domestic violence, and will provide comprehensive, specialized assistance with intervention, therapeutic and supportive services and living needs.
- **District centers and local points operating within the Crime Victims Assistance Network** - providing professional, comprehensive and free legal, psychological, psychotherapeutic and material assistance.
- **Family courts** - in guardianship and child support cases.
- **Medical facilities** – for example, to obtain a medical certificate for injuries sustained.
- **Committees for solving alcohol problems** - taking action against the alcohol abuser.
- **Free legal advice centers** – providing legal support

***A LIST OF FACILITIES OPERATING IN YOUR AREA THAT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO PEOPLE EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE***

Note: (data is entered by the intervention team):

<b>Nr.</b>	<b>Name of institution/organisation</b>	<b>Address of the institution/organization</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail address</b>

**YOU CAN CALL:**

- **National Emergency Service for Victims of Family Violence "Blue Line" tel. 800 12 00 02** (24-hour and toll-free line), on Mondays from 1800-2200 you can speak to a consultant in English, and on Tuesdays from 1800-2200 in Russian.
- **Legal duty tel: (22) 666 28 50** (toll-free line, open Monday and Tuesday from 1700-2100) and tel: 800 12 00 02 (toll-free line, open Wednesday from 1800-2200).
- **E-mail counseling service:** [niebieskalinia@niebieskalinia.info](mailto:niebieskalinia@niebieskalinia.info). Members of families with violence and alcohol problems can also consult via **SKYPE: ambulance.blue.line** with a specialist in domestic violence prevention - consultants use sign language.
- **The 24-hour National Help Line for Victims tel. +48 222 309 900** provides anonymous information about the possibility of obtaining help, quick psychological and legal advice, as well as arranging a meeting with specialists anywhere in Poland. Consultations in foreign languages and sign language are possible.
- **Police Helpline for People Experiencing Domestic Violence tel. 800 120 226** (toll-free line when called from landlines, open daily from 930 to 1530, from 1530 to 930 the payphone is on).