



info

for relatives
of detainees

WHAT DOES PRE-TRIAL DETENTION (U-HAFT) MEAN AND WHY AM I NOT RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION?

Pre-trial detention can be ordered if a person is urgently suspected of a criminal offence and there is a risk that they will flee, destroy evidence, commit further criminal offences or carry out a threatened criminal offence.

The public prosecutor's office is not allowed to give relatives any information about the proceedings. Only the person in custody and their lawyer receive information. The lawyer may pass on certain information if the person in custody authorises it.

What will help me during this difficult time?

- **Keep calm:** Many people feel fear, anger or sadness – this is completely normal.
- **Maintain daily routines:** This helps to find stability in everyday life during this turbulent time.
- **Talking helps:** Talk to a trusted person, contact our counselling services or our discussion group for relatives. Silence often makes it harder.

What do I tell my child?

Your child realises that something is wrong. Try to find an honest and gentle explanation for it. Think about it: What does my child already understand? What information is too difficult? Give them a sense of security and, if possible, stick to your daily routines



I feel helpless – what can I do?

It is normal to feel helpless when someone close to you has been arrested. You want to help, but you can't intervene or make direct contact. Nevertheless, there are things you can do:

- **Write letters:** A letter means a lot to the person in custody. You can also send photos and drawings.
- **Hand over/transfer money:** The imprisoned person can use it to buy things at the prison kiosk.
- **Take over administration:** With a power of attorney of the person in prison, you can take care of important matters such as bills or post.
- **Apply for authorisation to visit:** You need permission from the public prosecutor's office. Make an application for this.

Details on these points follow on the next pages.

CONTACT OPTIONS IN PRISON

Are detainees allowed to make phone calls?

No. Persons in pre-trial detention are not allowed to make telephone calls.

Writing letters

- You may write letters to the person in custody.
- Photos and children's drawings are permitted, but no stickers or labels.
- You are not allowed to write about the criminal proceedings.
- All letters will be read by the public prosecutor's office.
- Send the letter to the responsible public prosecutor or the prison. You can find the address on the prison website.

Important: Write the full name of the detained person in the address. Write your own address on the back of the envelope. This way, the person in custody will have your contact details.

Parcels by post

Parcels may be sent to the prison. There is no limit per month.

Allowed: Only clothes and cigarettes, maximum 5kg

Important: Write the full name of the person in prison in the address and note your own address on the parcel.

Items to bring on visits

Permitted: Clothes, maximum one shopping bag full. Comfortable clothes and underwear make sense. Cigarettes, cash and toiletries.

List of required medication. The detainee can hand these in to the prison health service.

Not allowed: Anything made of leather, such as belts, gloves, clothing. Medication: The health service in the prison organises the medication.

Important: You cannot give the prisoner any gifts directly, but must hand them in at reception.

Delivering food and drinks directly to the prison

Only permitted in certain months:

1 to 28 Feb.	1 to 30 April	1 to 30 June
1 to 31 Aug.	1 to 31 Oct.	1 to 31 Dec.

Detailed information can be found in the house rules of the remand centres. (only in German)

VISITS IN PRISON

Who is allowed to visit?

- Family, relatives, friends, work colleagues who have a visiting licence from the public prosecutor's office.
- As a rule, 1 hour of visits per week per person in prison is permitted.
- Children may visit with an adult.

How do I get a visit licence and where do I register the visit?

Write an e-mail to the responsible public prosecutor's office with the following content:

- Your full name and your relationship to the detained person (attach a photo of your ID)
- Surname, first name and date of birth of the detained person
- The same procedure applies to children, they also need authorisation.



It may take a few days before you receive a reply. Some visits are monitored or recorded. Visits in pre-trial detention usually take place with a separating screen.

If you have a visiting licence, you can arrange an appointment with the prison by telephone.

- You can find the visiting times on the prison website.
- In some prisons, Wednesday afternoons are reserved for visits with children.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Money for an imprisoned person – how does it work?

You can send money to a person in prison in one of two ways:

- **Drop off cash:** Bring the money to the prison during opening hours. You will receive a receipt.
- **Transfer money:** Transfer the money and include the surname, first name and date of birth of the person in prison. Use the prison's bank details. You can find these on the prison website.

Amount of money: 50 to 200 francs per deposit. Maximum of CHF 2,000 per year.

Am I entitled to financial support?

If you are in financial difficulties because of your partner's imprisonment, contact the social services in your municipality. They will check whether you are eligible for social assistance. For short-term support, there are offers from churches, aid organisations or private foundations. In this case, you can also contact us directly.

Who pays rent, bills, health insurance, child alimony for the imprisoned person?

The running costs must continue to be paid. This is a task that can quickly become overwhelming and for which you are dependent on professional support. Please contact us for advice.

What can I do for the person in custody and what do I need to do?

With a power of attorney or general power of attorney, you can take care of administrative matters on behalf of the person in custody. Tip for banking matters: Ask the bank or post office whether they have their own forms for general powers of attorney. Use those.

Information to the employer

The employer will only be informed about the imprisonment if the person in custody so wishes. This is often done by lawyers. However, family members or the prison social services can also take on this task.



BASIC CARE IN PRISON

Prison social services: The social services support prisoners with questions about housing, work, finances or relatives. Important to know: Utilisation of the social services is voluntary in pre-trial detention. Detainees must contact the social services independently.

Medical care: Detainees are entitled to medical care. This must be of the same quality as that of the rest of the population.

Prison chaplaincy: In the prisons of the Canton of Zurich, all detainees have access to pastoral care of various religions.

Catering: Detainees receive a meal three times a day.

Prison kiosk: Inmates can use their money to buy food, snacks, drinks, toiletries, stationery and smokers' items in the kiosk.

Personal hygiene: There are showers and fresh clothes are available if required. You are welcome to bring your own clothes.

Sport: Detainees can exercise in the fitness room.

Television: A television can be rented.

Work: Detainees in pre-trial detention do not have to work. If the prison offers work, they can work and earn some extra money.



RIGHT TO DEFENCE

A person in custody receives a lawyer if he or she has been in custody for more than ten consecutive days, or immediately after arrest in the case of serious offences. The person in custody can choose a lawyer themselves. If they do not know anyone, the state will organise a lawyer.

What is the difference between mandatory and optional defence?

- **Defence lawyers of choice:** The person in custody chooses and pays the lawyer themselves.
- **Public defender:** The state organises the lawyer and pays the costs, but can claim the money back later.

Public defenders are just as good as defence lawyers of choice. Both work independently of the state and only in the interests of the person in custody.

Do you have
any questions?

Do you need
information?

We are there for you!



infoBUS
für Angehörige
von Inhaftierten

Sandra Baur
team72
076 301 40 32
baur@team72.ch



Ivana Mehr
ExtraMural
079 514 01 23
mehr@extramural.ch

