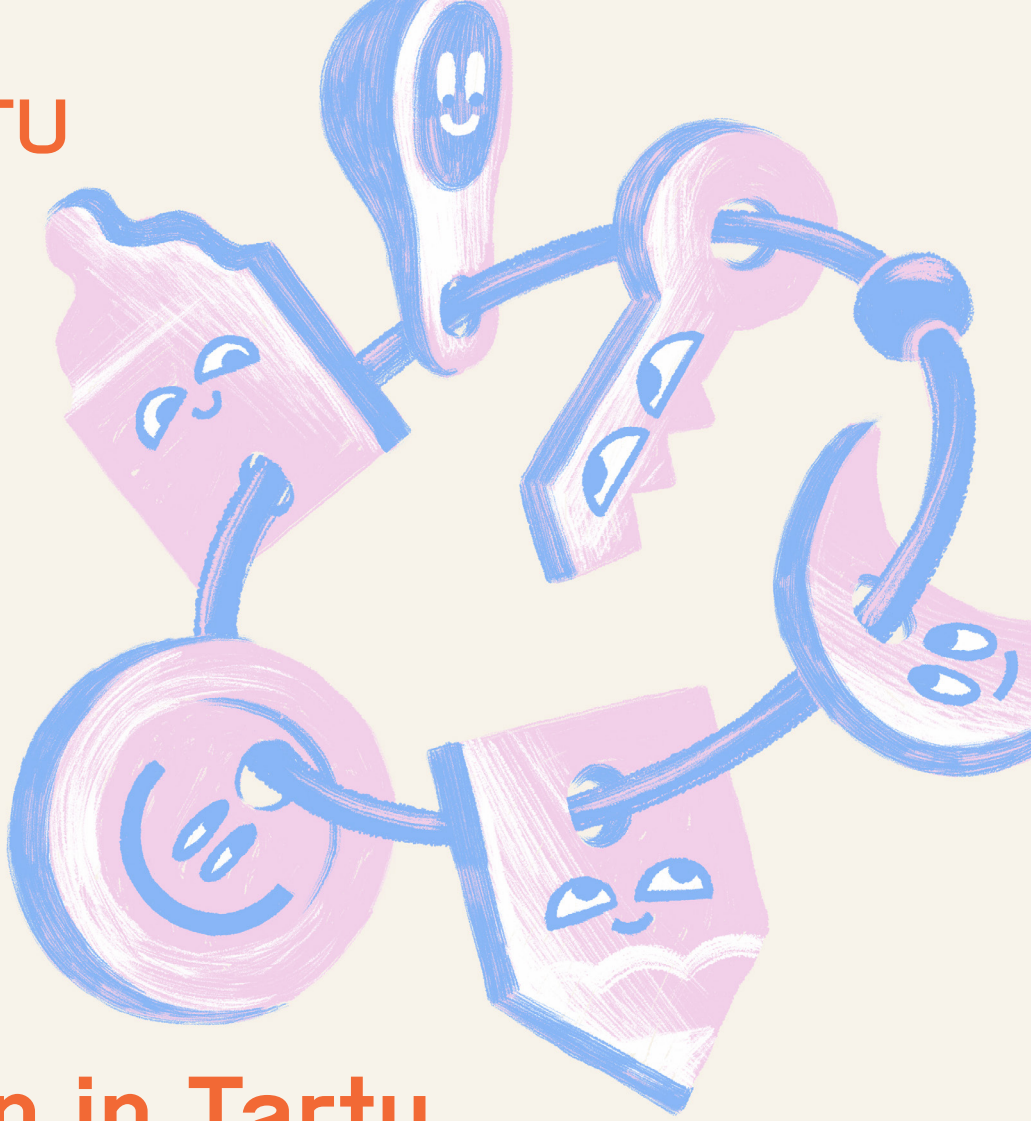
TARTU



# Born in Tartu

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# First Proceedings

The first proceedings are the **registration of the birth of a child and naming the child.** The birth needs to be registered during the first month of life of the child in any vital statistics office in Estonia. In Tartu, this can be done in the Tartu City Government Department of Population Facts (Tiigi 12, phone 742 0960, email pere@tartu.ee, **tartu.ee/en/birth-child**).

All parents are issued a birth certificate, either on paper or electronically, as desired. The digital certificate is available in the population register for 30 days starting from the registration of birth. The birth certificate on paper can be collected from the Department of Population Facts at Tiigi 12 during 14 days after registering the birth.

What is needed for registering a birth:

→ to submit an application;
→ the personal ID-s of applicants;
→ marriage certificate (if an entry hasn't been made to the population register);
→ a written consent of the other parent in terms of the name given to the child (if only one of the married parents comes to register the birth);
→ In case the parents are not married, an application of the acknowledgement of paternity needs to be submitted.

The parents of the child can submit an application for registering the birth of their child in the **e-population register** available at **rahvastikuregister.ee**. This applies for parents who are married and parents who are not married, as well as single parents in case the healthcare service provider (hospital) has forwarded the medical birth certificate information to the population register.

It is not possible for a **parent who is a minor** themselves to submit an application for registering the birth of their child. If the child's mother is a minor and her active legal capacity hasn't been extended regarding registration of a child's birth, the legal representative of the registration of birth of the child whose birth is being registered, is the local government. If the child's father is an adult but isn't married to the child's mother, then he becomes the child's legal representative after acknowledgement of paternity.

All declarations of will and consents by a minor (e.g. assigning of name, consent for acknowledgement of paternity, etc) regarding registration of birth must be given agreement to by their legal representative (in general their parents).

When registering birth, the information about **parental custody** is entered to the population register, as only a parent entitled to custody can be the legal representative of a child. Parents married to each other share joint custody over their child. Parents who are not married to each other may choose joint custody or leave custody to one of the parents upon registering the birth (**tartu.ee/en/birth-child#custody**).

The same **place of residence of the newborn** is entered to the population register as is their mother's at the moment of the birth of the child. In case the child is desired to be registered at the father's address, it is necessary to refer to the current residence's local government of the father. In Tartu city, this place is the Tartu City Government Department of Population Facts (Küüni 5, phone 736 1140, **tartu.ee/en/place-residence**).

When choosing a **name**, it needs to be considered that according to the Names Act a child can be given a name that consists of not more than three separately written names, or two names connected with a hyphen. Without a good reason, it is not allowed to assign an unusual given name that is not appropriate to be used as a given name due to its complex spelling, pronunciation or meaning and that is not compliant with the general use of language. It is also not allowed to give a name that is not compliant with the gender of the person. The name suitability can be checked via the name suitability query in the population register. Enter the name you wish to give and you will receive a positive or justified negative response from the vital statistics office clerk.

The parent chooses a family doctor for their child. Contact information of Tartu city family doctors can be found on the Estonian Health Insurance Fund's website available at **tervisekassa.ee/en/people/health-care-services/primary-health-care/all-family-physicians-working-list-estonia**. All children have health insurance until they turn 19 years old. There is no need to register your child in the Estonian Health Insurance Fund as this is done by them according to the information in the population register.

**A silver spoon illustrated with the coat of arms of Tartu** and the child's name, as well as a beautiful greeting card are given to new citizens of Tartu whose place of residence is marked as Tartu city **six months** after the child's birth in the Estonian population register. A reception for presenting the silver spoons is organized once a month, usually in the auditorium of the Department of Population Facts. The invitation to the event is sent to the child's address present in the population register. If it is not possible to attend the event, the gift may be collected from the City Hall Information Centre within a year from the date of the reception (phone 736 1343, email **infokeskus@tartu.ee**). The photo taken of the family who attended the reception may be collected from the same place free of charge. More information is available on the website **tartu.ee/en/tartlaste-meelespidamine**.

# Tartu City aid

Tartu city supports the members of families who live in Tartu city according to the population register.

## CHILDBIRTH ALLOWANCE

In addition to the state childbirth allowance, an additional childbirth allowance of 512 euros is paid by Tartu city and 640 euros starting from the third child. **The allowance is paid in three parts**: after the child's birth, when the child turns one year of age and when the child turns two years of age. The first part of the allowance is 64 euros, the second part is 128 euros, and the third part is 320 euros. Starting from the family's third child, these figures are 112, 176 and 352 accordingly. The childbirth allowance is paid to the parent of the child or the person raising the child who receives child allowance according to the Family Benefits Act and whose registered place of residence is **Tartu city** at least **six months** before the according dates arrive. The application to receive the first, second and third part of the allowance may be submitted within six months after the according date. The application for childbirth allowance can be submitted via the e-environment in the city portal (application form is available at **tartu.ee/en/additional-child-allowance-tartu-city**) or by sending the application via email **sto@tartu.ee**.

## SCHOOL ALLOWANCE

School allowance of the sum of 50 euros is paid to children starting the first, second and third grade. School allowance can be applied for by the parent or the person raising the child who receives state family allowances for the child. Both the parent's and the child's place of residence must be Tartu City according to the population register. **The time for submitting the applications is 1st–15th September** and the allowance is transferred to the applicant's bank account by 1st October. The application to receive the school allowance needs to be submitted to the city government in the e-environment ARNO (**arno.tartu.ee**) or at the child's school office.

## AID FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

It is possible for a parent in whose family a child with higher maintenance requirements is raised and in case the parent can't work due to taking care of the child, to apply for **the child's caretaker allowance**. The amount of the allowance in Tartu city is 100 euros per month (**tartu.ee/et/hooldajatoetus-puudega-lapse-hooldajale**).

The following services are provided for families with children with special needs:

- → Support person service, supporting the child's development in cooperation with the person raising the child.
- → Childcare service, in order to support the coping of the person raising a child with increased maintenance requirements or special needs, or to decrease the maintenance load resulting from the child's special need.
- → Social transport service for a child, whose disability prevents the person from using public transport, to use a vehicle suitable for their needs to go to an educational institution or for using public services.

In order to receive this service, please refer to the child protection specialist at your regional centre of the Department of Social Welfare and Health Care. Additional information is available at **tartu.ee/et/ToetusedTeenused#lastega-perele**.

## OTHER DISCOUNTS

- → **Support for Childcare Facility Fee and Food Expense** - applicable for families whose monthly net income after the deduction of estimated housing costs is 300 euros or less. The application can be submitted to the social work specialist at your regional centre of the Department of Social Welfare and Health Care.
- → Underprivileged families can apply for **need-based allowances** to pay for necessary expenses regarding children.
- → Families with four or more children up to 18 years of age can **ride for free on the public transport buses**. Please refer to the Department of Communal Services (Raekoja plats 3) with regard to the discount.
- → The carriers of domestic lines (incl. commercial lines) in railway, highway and water traffic are obliged to provide free rides for preschoolers and children with disabilities, but Tartu city also provides free transport in Tartu city public transport buses for the citizens of Tartu who accompany children with disabilities.

In case a parent has two or more children who go to a childcare or a preschool childcare institution, they must pay a fee as follows: 1) 100% for the youngest child; 2) 50% for the child next in age; 3) no fee for the third or any following child.

The fee discount is usually an automatic action in the **ARNO environment** (**arno.tartu.ee**) and the requirement for receiving it is that at least one parent and the children live at the same address according to the population register.

# State Financial Support for Families with Children

## FAMILY BENEFITS

Family benefits paid once are childbirth allowance and adoption allowance, each 320 euros.

Family benefits that are paid monthly are:

- → **child allowance** (from the birth of a child until they are 16 years of age or until 19 years of age if they are enrolled in school) is 80 euros for the first and second child in the family and 100 euros for every subsequent child,
- → **single parent's child allowance** (80 euros),
- → **guardianship allowance** (240 euros),
- → **conscript's child allowance** (900 euros per month for each child until the end of the parent's service in the Defence Forces),
- → **allowance for families with many children**, in case there are three to six children in the family (450 euros) or more than seven children (650 euros).

In case of the birth of a **child with a disability**, monthly aid is paid until the child turns 16 years of age. The amount of the aid dependent on the severity of a disability is 138.08 (moderate), 161.09 (severe) or 241.64 (profound) euros. In case the parent is with a disability, they have a right to receive a monthly parent with disability allowance of 19.18 euros.

More information and explanations regarding family benefits can be received by calling **612 1360**. To apply for the benefits, it is necessary to refer to the customer service of the Social Insurance Board (Pepleri 35). Applications can also be submitted electronically via the state portal **eesti.ee/eraisik/et/avaleht**. More information is available at **sotsiaalkindlustusamet.ee/en/family-benefits-and-allowances/family-allowances**.

## MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE FOR THE CHILD

Maintenance allowance is money paid for taking care of a child. If a parent does not pay maintenance allowance voluntarily, it is necessary to turn to court. The state pays **maintenance allowance** to the parent who is raising the child and who requests from a court ordering payment of maintenance and for whose benefit the court decision on proposal for payment is applied. This is paid for up to 150 days and the amount of maintenance allowance is 200 euros per month. Once the court decision enters into force, the state charges the other parent for the amount paid for maintenance allowance. In case the obligor lives in an EU member state and the ruling can't be commenced in Estonia, then the application must be sent to **central.authority@just.ee** (additional information phone number 620 8183).

# Time For the Child

A working parent raising a child up to 18 months old is entitled to **additional nursing breaks** every three hours for at least 30 minutes each break. If you have two or more children up to one and a half years old, the extra break for nursing the children must be at least one hour. Additional breaks are included in your working hours.

- → The father is entitled to 30 days of **paternity leave** which can be used 30 days before the expected date of birth until the child turns 3 years old.
- → The mother or father is entitled to parental leave until the child turns 3 years old. This can be used as a whole or be divided into parts at any time.
- → Each parent has the right for up to ten **child leave days** for each child up to 14 years old and younger for the whole period (20 days for two parents together).
- → The mother or father of a child with a disability is entitled to one **extra child leave** day per month until the child turns 18 years old.
- → When a child has become an adult and they have a profound disability, the parent is entitled to five paid working days of **care leave** per year.
- → The mother or father raising a child up to 14 years old or an up to 18-year-old child with a disability, is entitled to a maximum of ten **unpaid working days of child leave** per calendar year.
- → The adoptive parent of a child up to 18 years old is entitled to **adoption leave** for which parental allowance is paid for 70 days by the Estonian

Health Insurance Fund on the basis of the adoption leave certificate. The adoption leave certificate is issued by your family doctor.

→ The right to demand annual leave at a suitable time is ensured for:
  1) a woman immediately before and after maternity leave or immediately after childcare leave;
  2) a man immediately after childcare leave or during maternity leave of a woman;
  3) a parent raising a child of up to seven years of age;
  4) a parent raising a child of seven to ten years of age – during the child's school holidays.

# Benefits and Protection of Employee Rights

→ **Social tax** for the parental benefit or foster care allowance of a parent raising a child up to three years old is covered by the state. This means the parent is guaranteed pension and health insurance.

→ An employed mother has the right to **parental benefit** before the birth of the child. An employed mother's maternity benefit is always accompanied by maternity leave. An unemployed mother is entitled to parental benefits starting from the birth date of the child. The Social Insurance Board sends maternity benefitõ and the accompanying maternity leave offers to the future mother.

- → Fathers are entitled to a **benefit** of 30 calendar days which can be used up to 30 calendar days before the estimated date of birth of the child until the child turns three years of age.
- → **Shared parental benefit** is a right shared between the parents, i.e., it is up to the parents to decide who will start receiving the benefit. The shared parental benefit can be used by parents generally from when the child is 31 days old until the child is 3 years old and can be planned by days (**sotsiaalkindlustusamet.ee/en**).
- → The Estonian Health Insurance Fund pays **care allowance,** which forms 80% of the average calendar day income during 14 calendar days starting from the first day of the leave of absence, to an insured person for nursing a child under 12 years of age in hospital or at home on the basis of a care leave certificate. Based on first-time care leave certificates that are started from 15 May 2024 onwards, the allowance is paid for up to 60 consecutive days.
- → **Care allowance** is paid to an insured person when caring for a child under 3 years of age or a disabled child under 16 years of age, if the person caring for the child is themselves ill or receiving obstetrical care on the basis of care leave certificate in the amount of 80% of the calendar day average income up to 10 calendar days starting from the first day of absence from work.
- → All women who are pregnant or mothers of children under one year of age are eligible for **dental care benefit** of up to 105 euros per year, with the patient paying at least 12.5% of the treatment invoice.
- → When returning to work after maternity leave, women have the right to improved work conditions for which she would have had the right while being absent.

- → A pregnant woman and a parent who is raising a child under the age of three or a child with a disability may be sent on a business trip only with the employee's consent.
- → An employer may not cancel an **employment contract** on the ground that the employee is pregnant, has the right to maternity leave or the employee performs important family obligations.
- → An employer may not cancel an employment contract with a pregnant woman or a woman who has the right to maternity leave, or a person who is on childcare leave or adoptive parent leave due to **lay-off**.
- → Upon cancellation of an employment contract due to lay-off, an employee (both mother and father) who is raising a child under three years of age has the preferential right of keeping their job.
- → In pre contractual negotiations, an employer may not ask the person applying for employment for any data with regard to which the employer does not have any legitimate interest. This is presumed first of all in the case of questions which concern the private life of the person applying for employment (e.g. whether they have children or plan to have any).
- → Questions about employment contracts, working and rest time, wages and holidays can be asked from the lawyers of the Labour Inspectorate by calling **640 6000** Mon–Fri 9–15. In Tartu the Labour Inspectorate's office is located at Riia 142 (**ti.ee/en**).

# Useful Information

**Pregnancy crisis counselling** is offered by SA Väärtustades Elu. Counselling is available for both women and men and for their loved ones about questions concerning miscarriage, abortion, pregnancy, childbirth, motherhood and becoming a parent. Web consultations take place through the website **rasedus.ee**. In Tartu, counselling is offered by the Tartu University Hospital specialists (pre-register by calling 731 9100) and Kaisa Aardevälja (phone 503 9630, **kaisa@rasedus.ee**). Counselling is free of charge and is offered on the basis of referral.

- → **Women's Support and Information Center** (phone 5594 9496, info@naistetugi.ee, **naistetugi.ee**) is aimed to help battered women. The center welcomes people in need 24/7. If need be, a woman can bring children with them to the center.
- → **Tähtvere Women's Center** (phone 515 8093, naistekeskus@gmail.com, The Women's Center's **Facebook** page) offers counselling and shelter to women and their children who are victims of family violence.
- → **Victim Support Crisis helpline** 116 006 offers support and being heard if you have experienced violence, loss, found yourself in a traumatic situation or it has happened to a loved one or acquaintance. You can call 24/7 **sotsiaalkindlustusamet.ee/en/victim-support**.
- → **Family Doctor's Advice Line 1220** or **634 6630** offers help 24/7 concerning simple health issues. Mon–Fri between 8–22 and 24/7 on weekends you can ask for personalized counselling. Counselling is offered in English

every day between 9–17. Calling from a landline phone is free of charge. When calling from your mobile phone, the caller will pay on the basis of the telephone operator's price list. When calling from abroad you need to dial +372 634 6630. **1220.ee/about-the-advice-line**.

→ **Paediatric helpline 1599** is a Tallinn Children's Hospital's support fund's helpline where experienced healthcare specialists give advice. The phone number can be reached 24/7 calling from a landline or a mobile phone. Call charge is 1 euro per minute **toetusfond.ee/lastearst-kuuleb**.

→ **The Child helpline 116 111** can be reached 24/7 to notify of children who need help. Call **116 000** to notify of children who have gone missing. The same numbers free of charge are used in many European countries. The integrated system comes in handy in case a child goes missing when travelling in Europe **lasteabi.ee/en**.

→ **Poison Information Line 16662** offers information 24/7 concerning serious poisoning. Dial +372 794 3794 when calling from abroad **16662.ee**.

→ A car transporting a child with a disability is provided first priority transport on the **ferry routes**.