



Horizon 4

Information Bulletin for Migrants in Geneva

Health insurance

As of January 2013, the subsidy for children remains 100.- and no longer covers the entire monthly health insurance premium. For example, for those with a contract with Helsana, you will now have to pay 4.35 francs per month and per child for basic health insurance. You will get bills that you will have to pay, even if you have the cantonal subsidy.

It often happens that insurance brokers imply that complementary insurances are essential to your child's wellbeing. However, the cantonal subsidy does not cover the costs of such insurances. Especially if your income is modest or irregular, it can be risky to sign up for such insurances. Please don't hesitate to ask about this during your appointment at CCSI.

Domestic violence

On 15 June 2012, the federal Parliament adopted a new law against forced marriages, that should come into force in the course of this year. The new law also changed article 50 of the law on foreigners (LEtr), an article concerning the prolonging of a residence permit obtained through marriage, even when the marriage lasted less than three years. According to the new

wording, women who are victims of domestic violence and have left their husband have a right to prolong their permit, without needing to prove that reintegration in their home country would be difficult.

Indeed, once this new article comes into force, if the domestic violence can be proven (police report, certificate from a victims' help centre), the permit will be renewed even if the marriage lasted less than three years, with no other condition.

The CCSI fought long and hard for this change in legislation and will remain vigilant as to how the administration and the courts will, in practice, enforce the new article 50 LEtr.

Our opening hours

The opening hours of CCSI (telephone and reception) are as follows:

- Monday: 1.30-4.30 pm
- Tuesday, Wednesday: 8.30-11.30 am and 1.30-4.30 pm
- Thursday, Friday: 8.30-11.30 am.

If you have an appointment with one of the consultations outside of these hours, please wait in the hall by the elevators. Someone will come to fetch you.

Important!

Please note that CCSI is not able to assist you in finding work or housing in Geneva.

Domestic workers: national campaign

On 13 March 2013, the national campaign « No domestic worker is illegal » starts in Bern, and will last one year. There will be a press conference, and a petition will be launched. The goal is to raise awareness about and give more value to the work done by migrants in private homes (cleaning, caring for children, seniors or dependent persons). We demand a residence permit for all workers and wish to start a national debate about Switzerland's migration policy. Moreover, we seek better working conditions and access to real social protection throughout the country.

During this campaign, different activities will take place, such as the creation of a brochure for employers, or a poster competition. In several cantons, various events will be organized over the next few months (round-table debates, performances, etc...).

You can find information on the dates of these events on our website or on the national website for undocumented workers: www.ccsi.ch or www.sans-papiers.ch.

If you want to join the regional campaign group, please mention it to the reception at CCSI or write us at admin@ccsi.ch! You are most welcome!

Primary school: registration

Any child living in Geneva, regardless of their legal status, has the right and the obligation to go to school. Children born before 01.08.2009 start school on 26 August 2013.

To be accepted in school, your child must have health insurance. For children without a residence permit, CCSI is in charge of the affiliation with the child's legal guardian. Make an appointment or come directly to the reception with ID for the child and the legal guardian(s). Your child will be able to start school as soon as you have come by the CCSI.

Health insurance: caution!

Do not sign any documents related to your health insurance (basic or complementary) with an insurance broker who has come to your home! The pressure might be strong, but it is dangerous to sign such documents. Contact us before making any changes regarding your (or your children's) health insurance.

Income certificate

For parents who cannot obtain a salary certificate to prove their income, CCSI can provide you with an income certificate (attestation de revenus). The certificate is needed for the dental clinic, and school support classes given by ARA. Please make an appointment!

School restaurants

Several school restaurants are currently overcrowded, and requests are therefore sometimes rejected, or the institution might demand a work certificate to accept your child. If you experience such difficulties,

please tell CCSI about it rapidly, as we can try to intervene with the school restaurants.

Daycare

Once your child has been pre-registered for a place in daycare, CCSI can write a letter to support your request. For that, you must make an appointment in February or March, in preparation for August, with the Permanence Petite enfance at CCSI. But beware, this letter is by no means a guarantee to find a place in daycare.

Meet & play for pre-schoolers

For children in pre-school age, Geneva offers several meeting and playing places (open to all and free) for parents and their children, so as to meet other parents, other children, and childcare professionals. Here are a few addresses in Geneva city:

- Le Cerf-Volant, Bd. Carl-Vogt 82, 1205 Geneva (Monday-Friday 2.30-6.30 pm, Tuesday and Thursday morning 9am-noon, Saturday 2-6 pm).
- Espace parents-enfants, rue du Temple 10, 1201 Geneva (Monday and Thursday 10 am - 1.30 pm, Tuesday 5.30-8.30 pm, Wednesday 10 am - 4.30 pm).
- UPA, ch. Surinam 7, 1203 Geneva (Monday and Thursday 9-11.30 am).

Problems at school: who can I talk to?

Whether you've just arrived, or been in Geneva for a long time, your child's integration in school might not be easy. If your child is mistreated physically or verbally by other children, if he/she doesn't feel good in class, no longer wants to go to school,

or becomes sad or aggressive, talk to the teacher, the director, the school nurse or the social counselor. All these people want each and every child to blossom and be able to learn in the best possible conditions – they can help you. The language should not be an obstacle (translators are available).

Do not let the situation get worse, your child's wellbeing is worth defending. Both your child and you as a parent, with or without legal status have the same rights as any other pupil or parent. If the school cannot help you or if the situation doesn't get better, please talk to CCSI and together we will try to find a solution.

Your contribution

As of 1 January 2012, we kindly ask you for an **annual financial contribution of 50 francs per case** (the amount can of course be negotiated if you have financial difficulties).

This decision was taken by the CCSI committee. In order to continue to assist you as adequately as possible, we need more resources. Over the last few years, CCSI has made considerable efforts to increase its income. Today we are asking you to contribute to these efforts, and **thank all those who paid their contribution in 2012!**

If you have any questions about this decision, please feel free to ask!

