

# CASE LAW MOSAIC

QUARTERLY INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN HUNGARY, 2021/2

Taking into account the vulnerable situation of the complainant's family, especially the best interests of the children, and the contents of the petition, the Minority Ombudsman contacted the head of the Family and Child Welfare Centre of the complainant's place of residence, the mayor of the municipality and the president of the Roma nationality self-government.

In his reply letter, the mayor indicated that the petitioner had also applied for a municipal rental apartment in 2019, but that the apartment was allocated to an applicant more in need in social terms. The mayor also pointed out that the municipality will continue to invite applications for social rented housing in 2021, which will be published in accordance with the local decree.

The information revealed that the complainant had submitted several applications to the municipality in 2020, after which he was granted extraordinary municipal assistance, and that regular child protection benefits were also granted to his two minor children. In November 2020, the complainant's family also benefited from the firewood allowance provided by the municipality.

According to the president of the self-government, in the epidemic situation, the Roma self-government was unable to provide assistance to Roma residents in need, and therefore requested the help of the mayor, who provided food packages and disinfectants to the families in need.

The professional manager of the Family and Child Welfare Centre wrote that they had been in contact with the family for years, and that they had carried out several environmental assessments, which showed that their housing conditions were adequate and that the family relations of the people living in the same household were good. The Centre's staff suggested that the petitioner use their services to resolve their housing situation.

The powers of the Minority Ombudsman do not allow her to provide direct financial assistance to resolve the complainant's housing problem. However, she reminded the petitioner to cooperate with the competent authorities and institutions in order to change their living conditions and to resolve their housing situation in the longer term, and to seek assistance as necessary to resolve their difficulties.