

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF ASSISTANCE IN THE DIACONIA WORK OF LUTHERAN PARISH IN JOROINEN

Responsibility for the basic income of Finnish citizens belongs to society by law. The Constitution (chapter 2 § 19) stipulates that the public authority must secure, as defined in more detail in the law, adequate social and health services for everyone. Income support is a subjective right.

The parish and its members must practice diaconia, the purpose of which is to give help based on christian love, especially to those who are in the greatest need and who cannot be helped in any other way. (church order 3 chapter 24 §) Diaconia is a holistic meeting of a person - mental, spiritual, social and physical - financial assistance is part of other meeting and support.

Receiving financial help from the church is not a subjective right, but each situation must be evaluated as unique. You do not need to be a member of the lutheran church to receive help. Diaconal assistance is secondary to society's support. Elucidating the customer's financial situation requires the customer to show the employee all the documents necessary to make a grant decision, the customer's account of his own situation alone is not sufficient.

The customer must give permission for cooperation work (sharing information related to the customer's financial distress with other assisting parties for example Kela, social services), for the use of the customer register, and for the storage of decisions for the period required by the archive rule. The information in diaconia customer register is used by those who have the right to access it based on the register statement. The register is created when the notes are compiled into a file from which information can be searched based on a name or other search. The customer register statement is public and can be viewed at a pre-arranged location. (Personal Data Act 1999, § 10–13)

Principles of financial assistance:

- assistance is one-time
- the financial aid of the diaconia is always the last option
- grants are intended primarily for people living in Joroinen municipality
- assistance is not given if, based on the analysis of the financial situation, the person is not in need of financial assistance
- the customer must have an income support decision or proof of income and expenses when applying for financial support
- in an acute situation, assistance can be granted without a decision on income support on the basis of other documents

- if the customer does not give permission to contact the cooperation network to clarify the financial situation, the granting of the aid will be considered on a case-by-case basis
- the grant is always personal, you cannot apply for grant to someone else
- purchase vouchers are primarily issued and, if necessary, bills related to basic income are paid, cash is not given

Objectives of financial assistance:

- aim for a confidential customer relationship with the customer
- the aim is to prevent / break the cycle of indebtedness, e.g. by referring the customer to a debt counselor
- the client is supported comprehensively (taking into account physical, psychological, social, mental and spiritual well-being) → conveying the church connection, mental and spiritual support)
- the customer is supported in comprehensive management of his own life

Assisting policies:

- the diaconia worker decides independently on the form of assistance
- diaconia grants are generally granted by a diaconia worker. When she is prevented, diaconate grants are granted by the vicar or chaplain
- financial assistance is provided by issuing a purchase receipt to the grocery store or by paying the invoice addressed to the customer using original receipts directly to the sender of the invoice
- a diaconia worker or vicar can independently decide on a subsidy of up to 200€
- the diaconia team, which meets once a month, can grant assistance of up to 800€ in a disaster or similar situation
- when applying for larger grants, the matter is taken to the church council
- the diaconia worker can also apply for larger grants from external funds with the client
- the aid decision is made in writing to the customer register
- the customer receives the grant decision in writing and instructions for the claim for correction. Since the assistance activity is discretionary, the person does not have a legal right to receive assistance, in practice a correction can only be required regarding the procedure

- the diaconia worker makes a written summary of the diaconia grants granted to the parish council every 4 months

Assistance is not given:

- to an intoxicated or aggressive person
- if it appears that the customer is attempting fraud
- in a situation where the need for help is continuous or repeated
- if the customer does not provide documents about his financial situation
- without consulting with the guardian about the situation of the client under guardianship
- for rent arrears, fines or other costs caused by a crime (e.g. compensation), short term quickie-loans, deposit or as a loan

The practices and principles of assistance in diaconal work are updated if necessary with the vicar and given to the church council.

Approved by the church council on 19.4.2022, Joroinen parish council § 56

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