



3.2.1 Subsidiarity and overall responsibility

Subsidiarity:

- Whatever the individual, the family, or groups and associations can do independently must not be appropriated by a higher authority or by the state.
- The state still has a duty to – if necessary – empower these smaller, private units to act by providing the requisite assistance.
- In the context of child and youth services, subsidiarity refers to conditional priority over the public-sector provider when it comes to providing services (Article 4 [2] Social Code Book 8).

Overall responsibility of public-sector child and youth services:

- Overall responsibility for planning and for fulfilling the tasks of child and youth services under Social Code Book 8 (Article 79 [1]) resides with the public-sector provider of child and youth services.
- It is also the basic responsibility of the public-sector provider to ensure quality, especially with respect to safeguarding the rights of children in facilities and protecting them against violence (Article 79a).