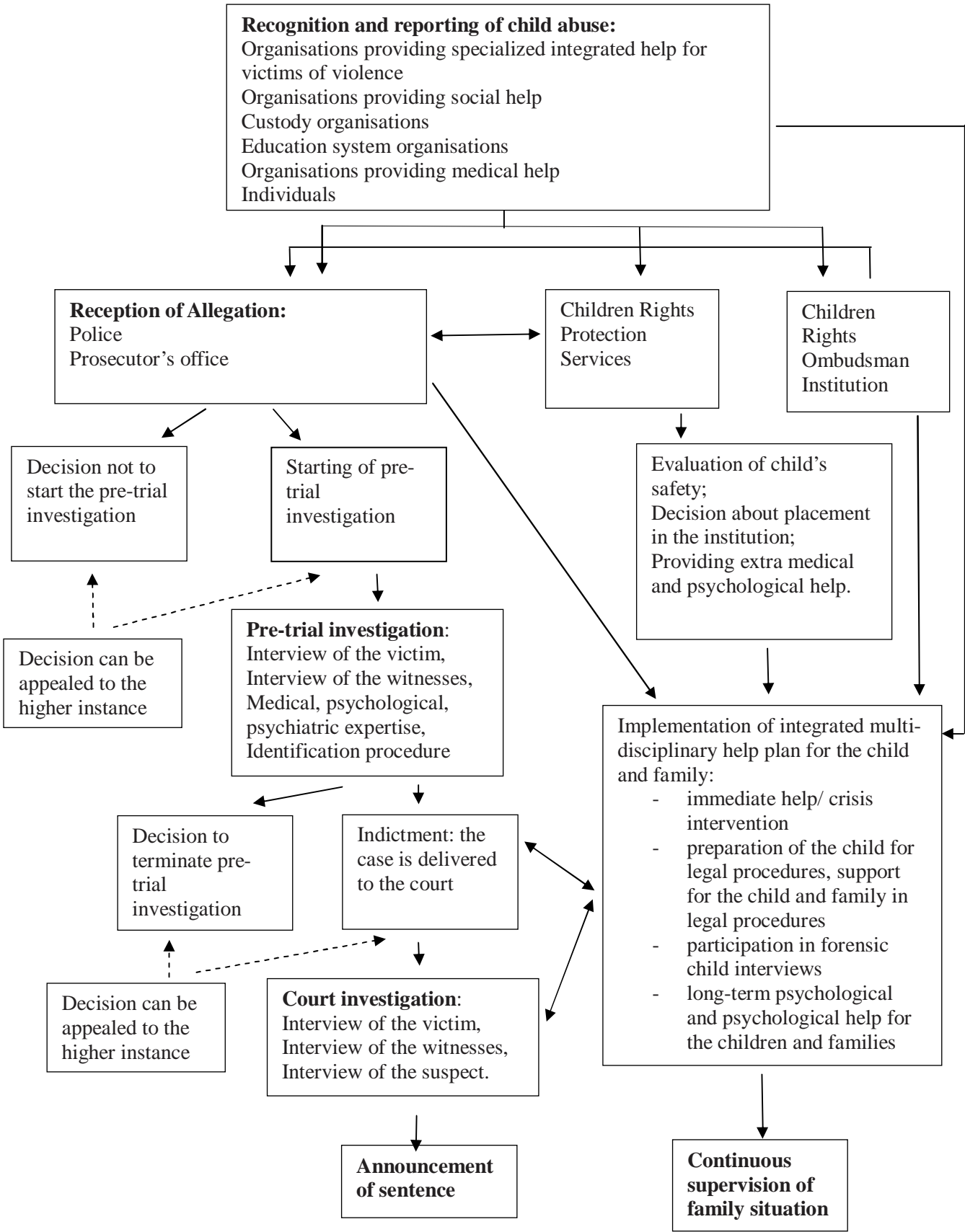


LITHUANIA



The flow chart shows how institutions from different fields intervene in the cases of child abuse and cooperate in solving the case.

- Organisations providing specialised integrated (psychological, psychiatric, social, legal) help for the victims of violence,
- Organisations providing social help (day centres, family help centres, social support centres),
- Custody organisations (foster homes, socialization Centres, boarding schools, other),
- Educational institutions (kindergartens, schools, after-school education organisations),
- Organisations providing medical help (polyclinics, hospitals, medical centres).

Individual children and adults also participate in the system as reporters of abuse and possible sources of support for the child.

According to the Law on Fundamental Protection of the Rights of Children, specialists working with children have to inform the children rights protection services or police after they come to know about abuse against a child.

Children rights protection services are responsible for collecting information about the cases of child abuse, evaluation of child's situation and safety, decision to place the child in the custody, coordination of help plan for the child and family.

In the case of violations of child's rights and interests, made by people or institutions/organisations, specialists and individual people can appeal to Children Rights Ombudsman Institution: institution evaluates the situation and decides on a solution (presents recommendations, warnings, addresses to the respective institutions/organisations, other).

Every submitted allegation about child abuse to the police/prosecutor's office is analysed. Prosecutor and/or police investigator makes a decision whether to start a pre-trial investigation. If the information about occurrence of sexual abuse is received not from the children rights protection services, the police/prosecutor's office should inform these services. After pre-trial investigation, the case goes to the court.

To avoid the secondary traumatization of the child it is very important that legal institutions collaborate with children rights protection services and organisations providing support for victims in order to ensure the security of a child, provide necessary help, implement the legal interview according to the child needs and with the help of trained specialists.