



I WANT TO KNOW

ABOUT BEING YOUNG AND
LIVING WITH PROTECTED
PERSONAL DATA

www.jagvillveta.se



This guide is intended for young people living with protected personal data. It has been produced jointly by Brottsoffermyndigheten (the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority) and Barnombudsmannen (the Ombudsman for Children in Sweden). The information it contains is based on accounts from other young people living with protected personal data. The quotes that appear in this guide have been taken from Barnombudsmannen's Swedish report *Oskyddad* (Unprotected).

At www.jagvillveta.se you can find more information on subjects including crime, reactions, support and protection.

There are more than 4,000 children and young people in Sweden living with protected personal data. A lot of these children and young people are in this situation because they or someone in their family has been mistreated or threatened. It is usually someone in the family

who is a danger, for example, the father, step-father, mother or other relatives.

PROTECTED PERSONAL DATA HELPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE

All children and young people have the right to grow up safe from threats and violence. Protected personal data is intended to help children and young people who have experienced violence to feel safe and to protect them and stop the violence being repeated.

"I FEEL VERY SAFE NOW THAT I HAVE A PROTECTED IDENTITY. I REALLY DO. IT'S SUCH A RELIEF."

Rebecka

SOME CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MUST LEAVE THEIR FAMILIES

Most children and young people who have protected personal data live with at least one parent, but there are also times when they must move away from their entire family. These children and young people will then usually live with another family. This situation is called a family home.

There are three different types of protected personal data

The level of protection provided depends on how dangerous the situation is.

1. Secrecy marking. If you are given this level of protection, your school, health care services, social services and other authorities must take particular care when giving out your address and telephone number. Secrecy marking applies for one year at a time.

2. Address protection. This means that your new address is not included in any registers and records and that it is only Skatteverket (the Swedish Tax Agency) that knows where you actually live. Address protection applies for a maximum of three years at a time.

3. Fictitious personal data. This is when you are given a brand new identity. It means that you are given a new name and a new personal identity number. It is the highest level of protection available in Sweden.



STARTING OVER

Who will be told at your new school?

The headteacher at your new school will always be told that your personal data is protected. You or the person responsible for you and the headteacher will then decide who else at the school should be told. Sometimes only the headteacher and your tutor will know. In other situations, a lot of people at the school will know.

What should you say if someone asks?

Children have the right to know why their personal data is protected and to get help from adults about what they can say and how best to answer when other people ask tricky questions. People may ask tricky questions like where you used to live, why you don't see the parent you

are in hiding from or why you are not included on the class register or in the class photo.

Not everything needs to be a secret

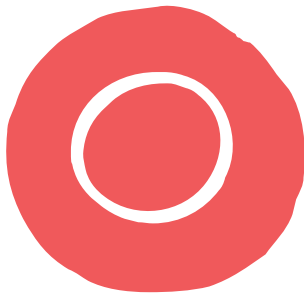
Some things you must keep secret, but don't worry that you can't say anything. Not telling people anything about yourself can make them curious and leads to more questions. For that reason, it may be a good idea to tell people a few things about yourself.

It helps if you can agree with the family that you live with what you should say about your family and where you come from. The risk of exposure is reduced if everyone says the same thing. It is also easier to answer questions if you have thought about the answers in advance.

Having protected personal data is difficult

A lot of normal things become awkward and difficult when your personal data is protected and you cannot tell people your real name or where you live. It can be more difficult, for example, to join a club or play sports, to use social media, to buy things online, to apply for a part-time job or to have a library card. You also have to be careful about appearing in photos and telling people too much about yourself.

A lot of children and young people with protected personal data feel alone. It can feel as though you are deceiving people or lying when you can't tell your friends about where you used to live or what you are really called. When you cannot be honest about yourself, it can also be difficult to make close friends or be in a close relationship.



“I DON'T WANT TO SPEND TIME WITH MY FRIENDS BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. IT IS HAVING A BIG IMPACT ON ME.”

Sofia



Have you grown up with protected personal data?

A lot of children and young people have had protected personal data since they were very young. At that age you don't really know much about why this is necessary. Adults can also find it difficult to understand that when children grow up they need to know more about why their identity is being protected. Often adults do not understand the difficulties you have at school, in your free time or with friends when you have protected personal data.

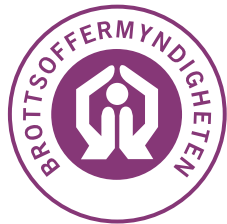
Anyone whose personal data is protected and wants to know why can ask an adult who is familiar with their situation. If the adults you live with are unable to answer your questions, you can get help from other adults. Your school, social services and the police can all help to answer any questions you might have.

Tips from other young people (from the Barnombudsmannen report Oskyddad)

- Don't let your "protected identity" take over your life. You are worth more than that!
- If you have to visit the hospital, for example, always have an adult accompany you. Otherwise, you have to spend hours explaining things to the nurses before they will do anything.
- Plan with your family what you will tell people about yourself before starting at a new school or moving house. Agree on something that the whole family can stick to. Otherwise, sooner or later people will start to notice that something isn't right and ask more questions.
- Try changing your name (...). It will make everything easier.
- Tell somebody! Adults are there to help, not cause problems!

WWW.JAGVILLVETA.SE

Visit www.jagvillveta.se to find out more about different crimes, help and support, and how it feels to have experienced a crime. This website also has stories and tips from other children whose personal data is protected.



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