International legal assistance in civil matters

Purpose and legal basis of the processing of personal data

Personal data are processed for transmitting requests for legal assistance to courts of law and other competent authorities in Finland and abroad by virtue of relevant international instruments. The processing is necessary to fulfil the statutory obligations of the Ministry of Justice as a central authority.


Considered categories of matters and related types of personal data

Requests for international legal assistance in civil matters concern service of documents and obtaining of evidence.

The types of processed personal data may include, for instance, a person’s name, date of birth, address and civil status, in child custody cases the child’s circumstances, and in child maintenance cases the child’s and the family’s financial situation.

Collection of data

As a rule, data are received from the Finnish court of law or foreign central authority or other competent authority requesting international legal assistance. Data may also be received from, for example, the parties to a matter under consideration, law offices, embassies of foreign states or the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Moreover, data concerning matters under consideration may be searched in the Population Information System.

Disclosure of data

The Ministry of Justice may disclose data being processed by it to the parties to a matter, to the competent authorities of a state requesting international legal assistance or receiving such a request, or to central authorities.

Transfer of data outside the European Economic Area

Data concerning matters under consideration may be transferred outside the European Economic Area by virtue of applicable international treaties.