



## **Association of Educationists and for Women's and Children's Rights Protection LIL**

### **Custody as a pre-condition to obtain health insurance**

The 53-year-old D.M. has two grandchildren, aged 15 and 16, from her daughter. The children were assigned to the mother after the divorce between her son-in-law and her daughter. At the present moment, the children cannot obtain health insurance because of their mother's absence who has been abroad for almost 2 years. The grandmother visited the Custody Department in the Center for Social Works and asked for her to be appointed a guardian. But, she was refused with the explanation that firstly her daughter has to relinquish her parental rights, so she could be appointed a guardian. One of their greatest problems is not having their own home. They live in a home i.e. a house given by their close relatives. This woman was moving from one settlement to another and lived under rent until a year ago. When she was asked if her grandchildren and she have chosen practitioners, she replied "Thanks to the Lord, I haven't had health problems until now. But, due to the severe economic condition, I'm not thinking of seeing a doctor because you need money for everything. The girl had a toothache two weeks ago and we saw a dentist in private, I paid for the medicines in private and she still receives a therapy. If I had a healthcare booklet, things would be better. Please Lord, save us from bad, help us to be sound and health, and afterwards the rest." Will the Lord, the Social Center and HIF provide this family with health and access to health services – it remains to be seen!

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