

Investigations

Despite many disparate investigatory mechanisms, no centralized system for investigation of complaints has been set up. Each ministry and government agency (MoI, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health Care, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, SAR and the State Agency for Child Protection) has its own complaints follow-up system, including for investigation of alleged acts of torture by o

notification of custody (and, in the case of foreign nationals, to contact a consular office).¹⁴ The detainee must also list names and phone numbers of persons he/she wishes to contact. The form must be signed in four copies, as stated on the form itself.

Medical Assistance

Bulgaria adopted laws that provide access to an independent doctor from the very outset of detention.¹⁵ Medical examinations upon arrival of a detainee are not mandatory, although some detention facilities established a practice of examining all detainees upon arrival.¹⁶ An

at his/her expense. A copy of the medical certificate, drawn up after each examination, is to be given to the detainee or his/her lawyer. Further, the results of the examination and any prescriptions should be entered in a special register, and signed by the doctor. The presence of a

Medical staff performing the examination of newly arrived detainees draw up a certificate which specifies in detail the characteristics, position and size of each injury, the statements made by the detainee, and the medical conclusion.¹⁷ In instances where bodily injury is identified, the case should be immediately reported to the management, who should inform the supervising