



Raad voor de Kinderbescherming
Ministerie van Veiligheid en Justitie

Approach to unallowed absence from school

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Protection Board

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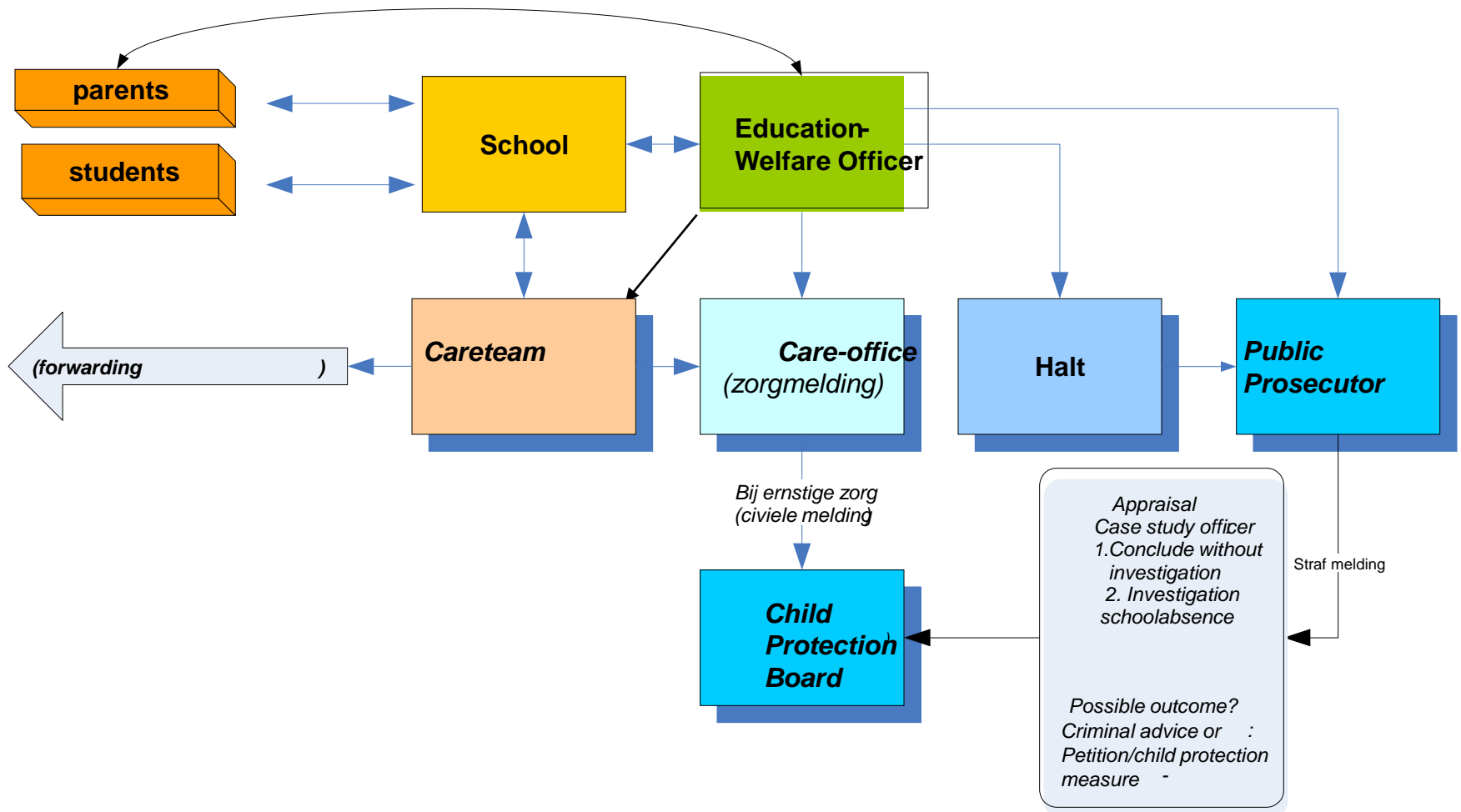
Child Protection Board

When the right of a child to a sound and stable development is jeopardized, the Child Protection Board has the task to assure this right

(problems in upbringing, juvenile criminal cases)



Chain of partners in the approach of non-attendance to school





Non / irregular attendance to school is an indictable offence

Non / irregular school-attendance (of more than 16 hours) by:

- children < 12 years of age: parents can be charged with a criminal offence
- children from 12 to 18 years: children themselves can be charged with a criminal offence:
The official of the local government mentions the absence from school to the public prosecutor and to the Child Protection Board
- This presentation focusses on the youngsters from 12 to 18 years



The role of the Child Protection Board

- Inquiry:
 - an interview with the youngster and separately the parents
 - an interview with the school and the education welfare officer

The goal of the inquiry is to get information about the problems that caused the non attendance at school.

- *Sentencing advice to the public prosecutor and the judge: punishment and professional help, if applicable.*

The goal is to advice what fits best for this youngster and his family to solve the problems and contributes to the main purpose : to go back to school.



View of the Child Protection Board on school-absence

- *Non-/irregular attendance at school is a threat for the development of a child:*
 - *for the schoolcareer and the chance to get a qualification/diploma;*
 - *for the social development (the contact with peers);*
 - *higher risk for behavior of troublesome and criminal behavior.*
- *School-non-attendance deserves an adequate and effective approach*
- *If the absence from school signals personal or family-problems: professional help is preferred to bringing the youngster to penal law.*



An effective approach

- *The inquiry by the Board is to detect: What is necessary for this child to be able to go back to school? What is the best advice?*
 1. *The Board advises a punishment that is best suited for the child in pedagogical terms:
a fine, a community service-order or a training order, juvenile probation;*
 2. *If applicable: treatment depending on the kind of personal or family problems that caused the non-attendance, for instance:*
 - *a child with social fear > treatment by a psychologist*
 - *family-problems > treatment for the family*
 - *the child/ the parents have problems with the school >mediation*



Child protection-order

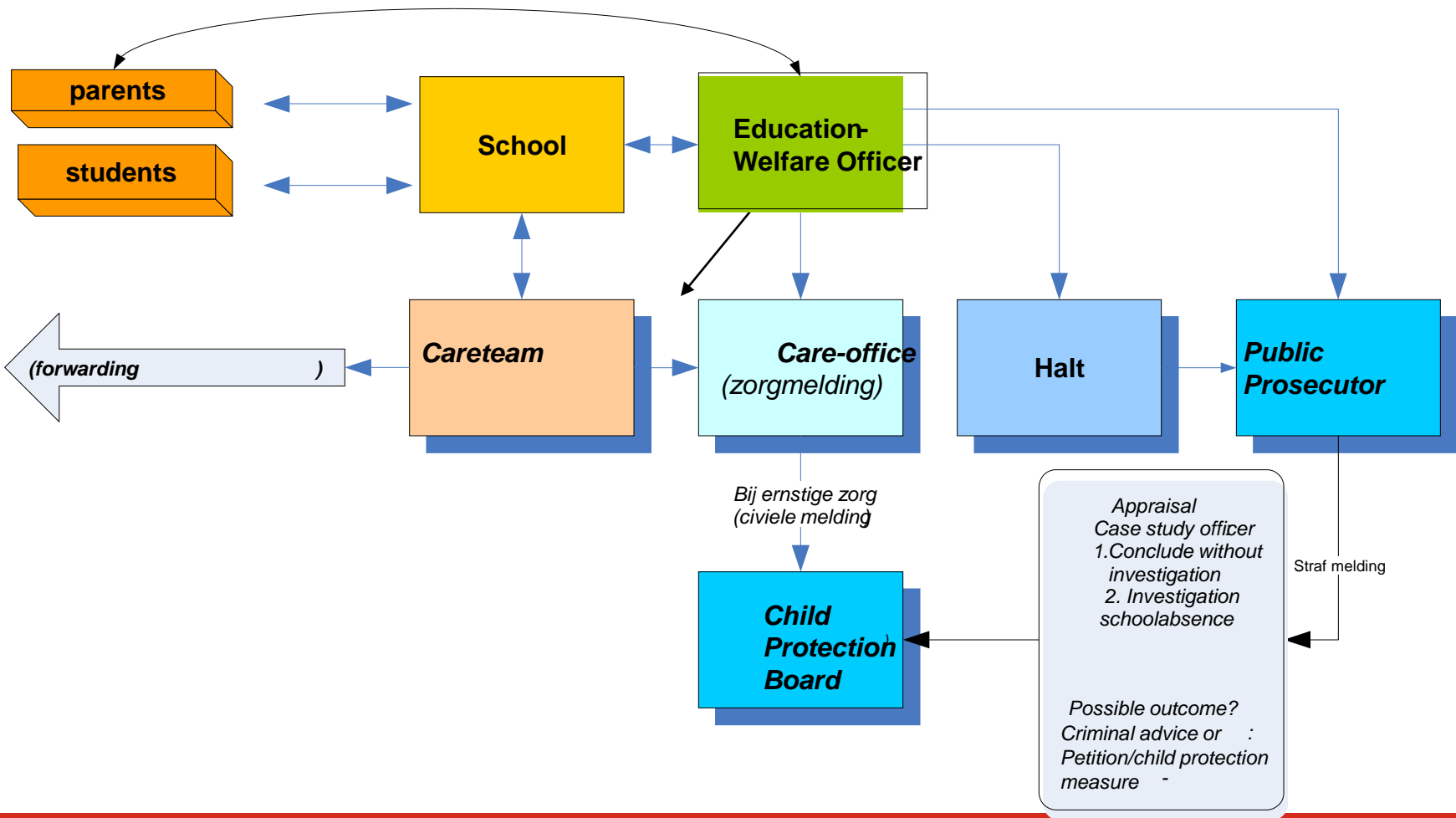
The inquiry of the Board in cases of non attendance to school may show:

- serious upbringing problems in which the parents are not capable of voluntary coping with things, not willing or capable to coöperate with professional help, and the development of the child is gravely jeopardized by the situation.

3. The Board can petition the court to order a child-protection measure, like Custodial Control of the child : professional help for the upbringing of the child in a framework that is compulsory. The judge decides.



Chain coöperation non-attendance to school





Chain coöperation

- Good coöperation between the involved organisations is necessary
- A joint belief that school-attendance is important for every child
- Necessity for a quick solution of the problems
- A quick return to school is important, because:

the longer the non-attendance lasts > the more difficult the return to school is for the child



Questions?

Thank you for your attention!

More information:
www.kinderbescherming.nl