HAMBOORG.CITY

Free platform for foreigners in Germany

✓ 24/7 Assistant in Your Language
✓ Official Document Scanner
✓ Deadline Reminders
✓ Benefit Calculators

hamboorg.city — is and will be FREE

Understanding Official Mail — Bescheid, Deadlines, Objections

How to read official letters correctly: What do Bescheid, Anhörung, and Rechtsmittelbelehrung mean?

Deutsche Begriffe: Bescheid | Anhörung | Widerspruch | Frist | Rechtsmittelbelehrung | Zustellung

---

Why is Official Mail So Important?

In Germany, you regularly receive official letters from government agencies. These letters often contain **deadlines** that you must meet — otherwise you face consequences (fines, rejection, loss of appeal rights).

The Most Important Types of Letters

1. Bescheid (Administrative Decision)

A **Bescheid** is an official decision by a government agency — for example:

- Approval or denial of child benefit
- Residence permit
- Tax assessment
- Citizen's allowance decision

Important: At the end is the **Rechtsmittelbelehrung** — it explains how and by when you can file an objection.

2. Anhörung (Hearing Notice)

Before an agency makes a negative decision, it must give you the opportunity to **submit a statement**. **Always** respond to hearing notices!

3. Reminder / Payment Demand

Outstanding amounts (broadcast license fee, fines, taxes) are collected via reminder. Respond quickly to avoid **late payment surcharges**.

Deadlines — The Essential Information

Deadline	Meaning
1 month	Objection period for most Bescheide
2 weeks	Deadline for responding to Anhörung (may vary)
14 days	Residence registration deadline after moving

The deadline begins the day after delivery (date on letter + 3 days for postal service).

Filing an Objection

If you disagree with a Bescheid:

1. Check the deadline — usually 1 month from delivery

2. File objection in writing (letter, fax, or online portal)

3. Include reasoning (why you disagree, with evidence)

4. Use registered mail (proof of timely delivery)

Costs

• Objection to social benefit decisions: **free**

• Objection to other decisions: fee may apply (refunded if successful)

Tips

• **Open EVERY official letter immediately** — ignoring causes problems

• If you have difficulty understanding, **seek help** (advice center, social worker, hamboorg.city Asystent)

• **Keep copies** — of every letter and response

• For language barriers: you have the right to **translation** in important administrative proceedings