

Abstract:

The diploma thesis deals with assisted contacts of parents and children in the Czech Republic. A functioning family is essential for a child's successful development and future life. Today, many families live where stability and well-functioning family relationships are not a matter of course. Family breakdowns are becoming a more common reality that not only adults but also children have to deal with and learn to live with. In today's world we can find many forms of family. A situation where a child grows up with only one parent may in some cases be more convenient than living in a dysfunctional conflicting family that does not provide the child with enough love. Nevertheless, the child is affected by this fact. The parents' attitude in how they deal with divorce or separation represents an important factor for successful development of a child.. If the parents manage to explain the situation clearly and appropriately, given the age to the child, or whether the parents manipulate the child and draw them into their problems, the child perceives it all. This manipulation can take place in the form of so-called child programming. The way parents appear in front of their children, how they communicate with each other and whether they vent their problems in front of their children will fundamentally affect the child's development. In disintegrating families, a common phenomenon called the parental alienation syndrome can occur. The child is under constant pressure to stand by one parent, or even to oppose the other parent. There are a number of reasons for which assisted contacts are chosen or for which such contacts are enacted by court. Various scenarios take place in families, when it is safer for the child to have a third person present during the contact with his or her parent, who can monitor the situation, sensitively intervene, and reflect on the meeting if necessary. The child gets used to the parents, the parent learns to communicate with the child, etc. This assistance in the meeting of parents and children is ordered mainly by the court, for example in situations where disputes between parents dominate their relationship, mutual resistance prevails and when, for example, the child is being manipulated. Another important participant, on the basis of whose recommendations the assisted meetings take place, is OSPOD. Some parents seek help not only from experts, but also within web groups, where they feel a sense of belonging and find the answers they were looking for. In some cases, however, it is a better solution to turn to mediators or other experts who can help calm the family situation. As part of the process of assisted contacts, parents meet with experts such as psychologists, lawyers, therapists, etc. Assisted contacts are not legally uniformly enshrined, which is reflected in practice. As shown in the practical part of this thesis, inconsistency in the provision of assisted meetings affects the settings of individual facilities. For the practical part

of the diploma thesis, I chose a qualitative research consisting of a questionnaire with mostly open questions (see Annex I.). Among the providers of assisted contacts, I then looked for what they agreed on and how they differed from others. As part of my diploma thesis, I also included a list of facilities which I addressed for the practical part (see Annex II.).