

Abstract

This thesis focuses on the child's rights to participate in the custody proceedings – a highly relevant topic that has become very visible among the professionals in the field. They are exerting pressure on its wider application while also recognizing potential pitfalls. The aim of this research is to find out how Prague social workers from the Social and Legal Protection of Children handle the child's participation in custody proceedings in concerns of care for minors related to their parents' divorce. The data was gathered through semi-structured interviews with seven social workers – guardians from different workplaces of the above-named body. The data was analysed using open coding, typical for grounded theory. The results suggested that guardians agree on the procedures by which they fulfil the child's right to participate. First, they decide whether the child's participation is appropriate or not, but they recognize that they always try to mediate the child's participation in the proceedings if they will not suffer greater harm. The way how they include them depends on the circumstances of the given case and according to their value system.