

The Accelerated Family Proceeding

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judicial procedure concerning family affairs

- lasts too long
- focuses on who is the better parent
- professionals have no understanding of one another
- lets parental conflicts escalate
- endangers children of being alienated from their parents
- produces winners and losers

Making an idea work!

- roots trace back to Cochem
- law reform in 2009
- implementing reliable structures
- joint approach
- based on a common attitude
- within a metropolitan area

changing the judicial procedure in family affairs

- common understanding on new goal
 - strengthening parental responsibility
- common position
- uniform message
- new procedural approach

Starting point

- children need stable and good relationships with both parents.
- relationships and their quality cannot be imposed by court rulings.
- parents going through separation can learn to foster good relationships between their children and the other parent

Goal Definition

Only a solution that

both parents

- have jointly achieved by resolving differences
- jointly support

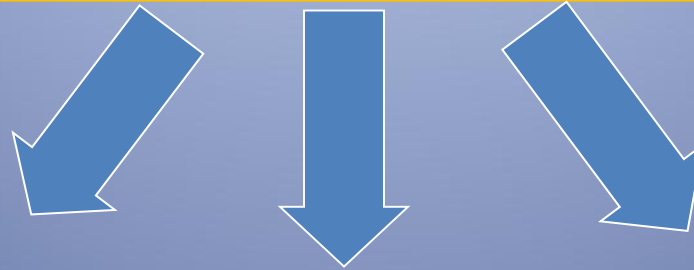
can endure and

continue to be in the child's best interest.

Process of and Search for Rearrangemant

- with the support of family court proceedings
- by all professions working together

Three Pillars of the Accelerated Family Proceedings



**particular
procedure**

**interdisciplinary
working teams**

**common
attitude**

The Berlin working teams

WG 8
Reinickendorf

WG 2
Pankow

WG 3
Charlottenburg -Wilmersdorf
and Spandau

WG 9
Mitte

WG 5
Lichtenberg

WG 4
Steglitz-Zehlendorf,
Tempelhof-Schöneberg,

WG 1
Friedrichshain-
Kreuzberg,
Neukölln.

WG 6
Marzahn-Hellersdorf

WG 7
Treptow-Köpenick



Uniform Message

All professionals

- remind the parents
- of their joint parental responsibility
- offer support
- communicate faith in the ability of parents to figure out

Court

- restrains from impositions
- offers (compelling) framework
- intervenes earlier and quicker
- focuses on oral discussion
- stresses necessity of communication
- structures the proceedings
- expresses expectations
- assigns tasks (“homework”)
- reformulates issues at stake.

Attorneys

- prepare parents
- coach parents
- take a hands-off approach
- ensure rules are followed
- "interpret" between court and parents

Youth Welfare Department/Counselors

- intervenes at an early stage
- prepares and strengthens parents
- offers help and counselling
- sounds out parents' resources
- suggests change of parents' perspectives
- develops options and visions

Rapid intervention by all professions with the aim

- to remind parents of their joint parental responsibility,
- to enabling parents to identify and meet the needs of their children in the future
- jointly and independently = without outside help

Advantages

- 70 % consensual settlements
- avoids escalation
- avoids child-parent alienation
- spares nuisance follow-up proceedings
- focuses counselling and mediation
- growing mutual understanding among professionals
- transparency
- beneficial even to professionals
- reduces workload of attorneys

The Accomplishment

- uniform approach and united message
- within a metropolis with
- 3.4 Mio inhabitants
- 100 family judges
- 13.800 attorneys
- 12 youth welfare departments, 600 social workers
- psychological experts, mediators etc.
- communication among professionals

This Reform

- effectively changes the life of children
- effectively changes society's view
- strengthens court efficiency
- efficiently assigns resources
- does not require human /financial resources
- is internationally applicable
- requires a great enthusiasm
- is built upon the will to overcome resistance

Good bye
and
hope to see you soon in the
interdisciplinary
cooperation!
on an European level...