

**Presentation made at the:
Council of Europe mid-term evaluation
of the Strategy for the Rights
of the Child (2016-2021)**

**High level conference
Strasbourg 13-14 November 2019**

RESPECTING CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS IN DIVORCE AND SEPARATION

Judge Lana Petö Kujundžić, PhD
President of the Juvenile Department
County Court Zagreb, Croatia

Application of national law, European and international standards



The Convention on the Rights of the Child



Directive 2012/29/ EU



Council of Europe guidelines on a child-friendly justice



Criminal Procedure Act



Law on Juvenile Courts



Family law

The best interests of the child

- To have two parents
- Child with the child expert
- Child-friendly environment
- Decision of the court





Opportunity
for
improvement

To learn what is the manipulation
of one parent

Recognizing special needs of the
child

Emotional abuse or protection

Multidisciplinary approach

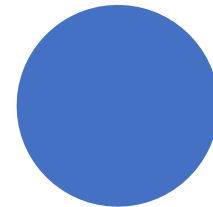
Children between hate of parents

- Needs Assessment of alienation
- Protect the child
- Speedy procedure
- Special lawyer for children



- Social welfare does not recognize alienation
 - The procedure on the court is too long
 - Special lawyer is not prepared
 - Expert on the court is not specialized
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Obstacles for obtaining
children's rights



Advantages of specialized family courts

Educated judges

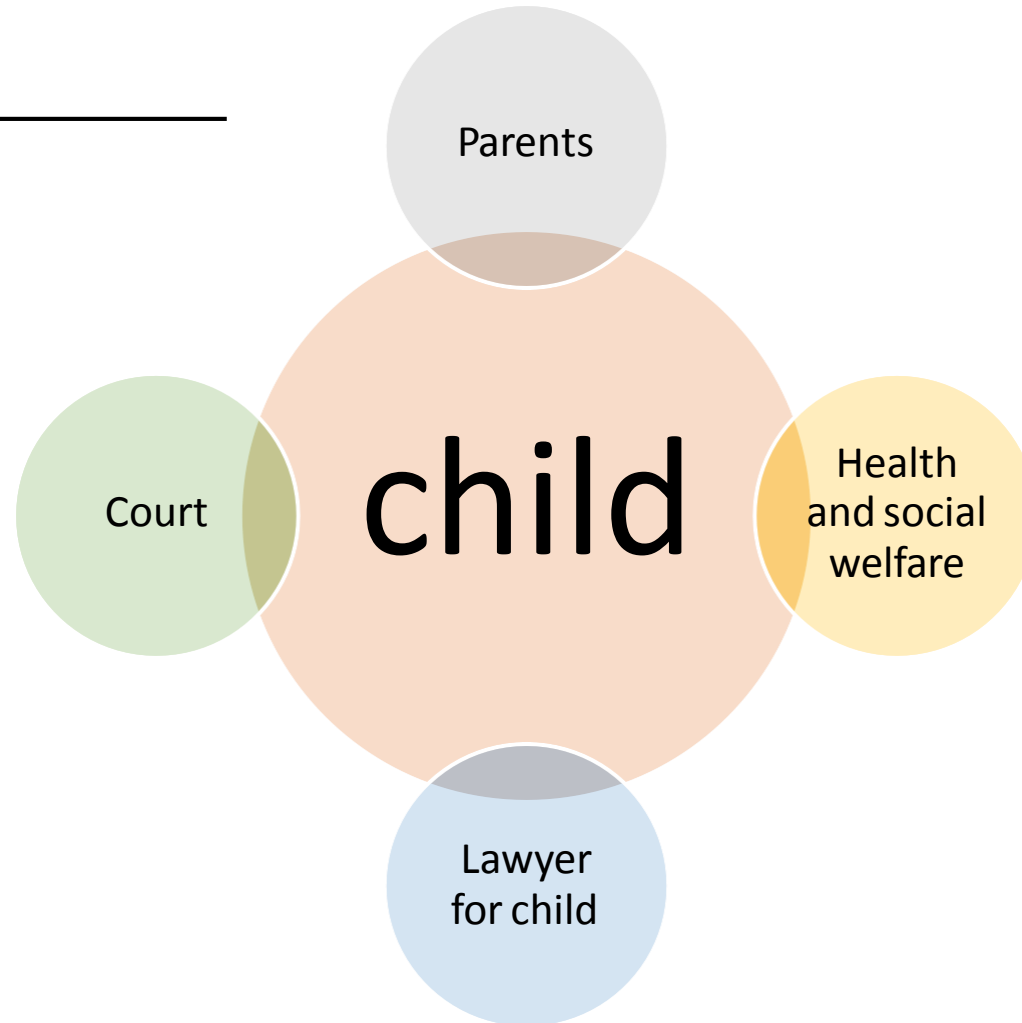
Experts for children

Multidisciplinary approach

Specialized hospitals

NGOs that assist child

network





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