

Intercountry adoptions of Polish children. Activity of the *Central Data Bank on children waiting for adoption*

Summary

Adoption is one of the ways to ensure that a child deprived of their biological families is brought up in a family environment. It is regulated by many legal acts, including international ones. On the basis of these, procedures and institutional solutions are created to regulate activities related to the organization of adoptions, which protecting children and candidates for adoption.

The aim of the conducted research was to describe the procedure for the intercountry adoption of Polish children in the context of the organization of this process by the adoption center maintaining a central data bank on children waiting for adoption (CBD). This bank has been functioning continuously since 1994, therefore the subject of the research is the procedure for finding families for children reported for international adoption in Poland in the years 1994-2023. Due to the size of the sample - the number of children entered into the bank's registers in the examined period, 3 years were selected for detailed analysis: 1994, 2012 and 2017, it concerned 2189 children's document. This selection was purposeful, justified by legal changes in the field of intercountry adoption in Poland.

The dissertation consists of four main chapters: theoretical, methodological, research and recommendations. The first one contains a discussion of the legal solutions concerning adoption in Poland, presenting the characteristics of the adoption triangle from an institutional perspective and an introduction to the topic of intercountry adoption, with particular reference to aspects related to the issue in our country.

The second chapter presents the methodological assumptions of the dissertation, including the aim and subject of the research as well as research questions, research methods and a description of conducting the research. The third chapter presents an analysis of the author's own research, describing the activities of the central data bank on children waiting for adoption, children's description and includes a discussion of the obtained results. The conducted research allowed for the formulation of recommendations presented in fourth chapter.

The obtained results indicate that introducing changes in social and family policy, and above all, in legal acts regarding adoption, affects the number of children entered into the CBD registers. Reporting a child to an adoption center in order to look for a foreign adoptive family

results in finding a family only in a small number of cases, and the so-called the reunification of siblings is carried out to a very limited extent. Most of the children had siblings from whom they had been separated before the search for an adoptive family began. In each of the years covered by the study, children with health and development problems are a large part of all respondents, and their biological families were multi-problem families. Post-adoption reporting on intercountry adoptions was not conducted in a reliable and thorough manner. Moreover, the research revealed various shortcomings in the documents, which should be critically assessed.

Keywords: adoption, intercountry adoption, central data bank on children waiting for adoption, adoption triangle, adoption center

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