

---

## II. SOCIALINIS DARBAS SOCIAL WORK

### APPLYING MONOCAUSAL, BICAUSAL AND PRIMARY THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION MODELS IN THE LITHUANIAN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PROTECTION SYSTEM

#### **Prof. dr. Brigita Kairiene**

Mykolas Romeris University  
Faculty of Human and Social Studies  
Institute of Educational Sciences and Social Work  
Ateities str. 20, LT-08303 Vilnius, Lithuania  
Phone: +370 61268498  
Email: b.kairiene@mruni.eu

#### **Assoc. prof. dr. Jolanta Pivoriene**

Mykolas Romeris University  
Faculty of Human and Social Studies  
Institute of Educational Sciences and Social Work  
Ateities str. 20, LT-08303 Vilnius, Lithuania  
Phone: +370 61268498  
Email: jolantapiv@mruni.eu

#### **Agata Katkoniene**

Mykolas Romeris University  
Faculty of Human and Social Studies  
Institute of Educational Sciences and Social Work  
Ateities str. 20, LT-08303 Vilnius, Lithuania  
Phone: +370 61268498  
Email: agata.katkoniene@mruni.eu

Submitted on 25 September 2022

Accepted on 10 November 2022

DOI: 10.13165/SD-22-20-2-03

## Abstract

*In 1992, Lithuania joined the Convention on the Rights of the Child, thus committing to ensuring children's rights by all possible means. Parents take primary responsibility for the implementation of children's rights, but in cases where a parent uses their authority against the interests of their child, the State has the power to intervene in a family. T. Furniss (1991) distinguished three basic models of intervention: Primary Punitive Intervention (PPI) (the monocausal model); Primary Children Protective Intervention (PCI) (the bicausal model); and Primary Therapeutic Intervention (PTI). The goal of this article is to discuss reforms in the children's rights protection system in Lithuania by applying T. Furniss' theoretical model. For a long time, the monocausal model dominated in the country. In 2017, corporal punishment was prohibited by law, which provided an impetus for the further reorganizational development of the children's rights protection system. In 2018, new interventions and methods of social assistance such as case management and mobile teams were established, and these methods became responsible for the protection of children's rights when a family faces challenges. Thus, the principles of the bicausal model were introduced, and further changes in 2020 added traits of the PTI model.*

**Keywords:** *children's rights, children's rights protection system, intervention models, monocausal model, bicausal model, Primary Therapeutic Intervention model.*

## Introduction

The protection of children's rights in Lithuania is based, first of all, on the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania (1992), which declares that: a person shall be inviolable; the dignity of the human being shall be protected by law; it shall be prohibited to torture or injure a human being, to degrade their dignity, or to subject them to cruel treatment, and respective punishments are established; no human being may be subjected to scientific or medical experimentation without their knowledge and free consent; family, motherhood, fatherhood and childhood shall be under the protection and care of the State; the right and duty of parents is to bring up their children to be honest people and faithful citizens and to support them until they come of age; the State shall take care of families that raise and bring up children at home, and shall render them support according to the procedure established by law; and under-age children shall be protected by law.

The Lithuanian framework on the children's rights protection system builds upon the Convention on the Rights on the Child (1989). In 1992, Lithuania joined the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the ratification procedure ended in 1995. Thus, the State committed to ensuring children's rights by all possible means: legal, administrative, economic, social, educative, etc. The Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child (Lietuvos Respublikos vaiko teisių apsaugos pagrindų įstatymas, 1996) defines the main rights, freedoms and duties of children. It also guarantees the protection of children's rights and defines the duties and responsibilities of children's rights protection institutions, parents, and other entities. The Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child was the first important step in Lithuania in the practical protection of children as independent legal subjects (Stripeikienė, 2003). The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania states that the Seimas (Parliament) and the President define the state policy on children's rights protection, and the Government ensures

the implementation of policy in this regard. The Ministry of Social Security and Labour are responsible for managing the protection of children's rights.

The Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child (1996) remained unchanged for almost 20 years until 2017, despite: the development of society and the changes in attitudes towards children as humans possessing rights; the need to improve the system of children's rights protection because of serious functional problems, such as lack of efficiency and consistency in responding to cases of violations of children's rights (Vitkauskas, 2009); the lack of communication and cooperation between institutions providing family support (Tamošiūnas & Želvytė, 2010); inappropriate responses to threats to children (Petrylienė, 2011; Stripeikienė, 2017); and the lack of a children-oriented approach at all stages necessary for the protection of children, from information to intervention measures, which left children living with long-term harmful experiences (Tamutienė, 2018).

On the 14 February 2017, during a special session devoted to the protection of children's rights, the Lithuanian Seimas banned all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment – also known as the “law against beating children”. Definitions of violence against children involving all forms of violence – physical, psychological, sexual, neglect and corporal punishment – were included, and these alterations provided an impetus for the further reorganizational development of the children's rights protection system. Until the 1 July 2018, the State had transferred the functions of children's rights protection to municipalities (municipal child rights protection divisions). Since the 1 July 2018, the function of the protection of the rights of children has been centralized, with the purpose of creating more effective and uniform State practice. This allows the State to ensure children's rights and the protection of their legitimate interests, to respond to violations of children's rights, and to take decisions quickly through centralized coordination and management. The State Children's Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (henceforth – the Service) became the central institution for the protection and defence of children's rights that implements the Children's Rights Protection Policy in the territories of the municipalities and participates in the process of state policymaking in the field of children's rights protection itself, or through its territorial structural divisions. The reform of children's rights protection aims: to establish a coherent and coordinated system of children's rights protection institutions, ensuring qualified intervention in family life, the protection and representation of children's rights and legitimate interests, and also sustaining parent's rights; to set the limits of responsibility and special qualification requirements for children's rights protection specialists; to strengthen the management and control functions of the children's rights protection system by centralizing the management and coordination of the system; and to develop and improve the system of comprehensive services for children and their families (Vaiko teisių apsaugos sistemos pertvarkos projekto planas, 2018).

From the 1 July 2018, ongoing reform of the protection of children's rights has shown that in the case of serious violations of children's rights within the family, the protection of children was focused only on the removal of the children from the family, and there was no legal possibility of providing family assistance without separating the children from the family. These complex problems have been solved in a very fragmented way, focusing not on the needs of children but on the existing, well-established, stagnant service sector (Vaiko teisių apsaugos kontrolierius, 2020). Legislative changes have been made at the second stage of reform of

children's rights systems, which began on the 1 January 2020. Since then the children's rights protection system mostly focuses on creating a framework for intervention in the family, and assistance and services for the family.

In 2021, violence against children was mainly perpetrated by persons related by consanguinity (1,837 cases, where 1,609 children were potentially affected – i.e., 63% of all cases of possible violence against children). This tendency was particularly pronounced in cases of neglect (855 cases involving 710 children – i.e., 98% of the total number of victims of all cases of possible neglect) and in cases of physical violence (705 cases involving 676 children, representing 44% of all cases of possible physical violence). Sexual violence was the most common type of violence against children (174 cases involving 165 children – i.e., 73% of all cases of possible sexual violence), and may have been perpetrated by persons not related by consanguinity (Valstybės vaiko teisių apsaugos ir įvaikinimo tarnyba, 2022).

Children, as far as possible, have the right to know and be cared for by their parents, and States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child have to ensure that children shall not be separated from their parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child (Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989). Parents take primary responsibility for the implementation of children's rights, but in the case when parents use their authority against the interests of children, the State has the power to intervene in a family. This is regulated by national legislation which encompasses prevention and intervention measures (Lietuvos Respublikos civilinis kodeksas, 2001). The most important and sensitive area of children's rights protection is determining and maintaining a balance between a child's right to be protected and their right to be raised by their parents, i.e., to stay in their family. The possibility to help adjust family relationships and to save a family depends on the family intervention model chosen by the State.

T. Furniss (1991) distinguishes three basic models of professional interventions: Primary Punitive Intervention (PPI) (the monocausal model); Primary Child Protective Intervention (PCI) (the bicausal model); and Primary Therapeutic Intervention (PTI). The monocausal (PPI) model helps to resolve the situation by punishing a perpetrator parent. PPI covers the conflict between a perpetrator and a child and addresses the child's feeling of disappointment, making it impossible to deal with positive aspects, such as attachment between a child and a perpetrator, etc. The bicausal (PCI) model is directed against both parents, and includes all forms of intervention to protect a child's wellbeing when the child needs protection, but often leads to the secondary victimization of the child, especially with the removal of the child from the family – in such a situation, children become double victimized. PCI covers marital conflict between parents. The PTI model includes all interventions which aim to treat individual psychological trauma and to change a family relationship. This is not directed in a statutory or legal way against any specific family member, but towards changing family relations. Deciding on PTI does not mean excluding the assistance of social services, police, or courts from the therapeutic process, and allows the temporary separation of family members if necessary.

When the violation of children's rights in the family has been identified, intervention in family life is a very important moment of the family assistance process. Intervention actions determine the further availability of help; therefore, this article focuses on an analysis of family

intervention.

The research object of this article is the range of reforms of the children's rights protection system in Lithuania in the light of intervention models. The goal of the article is to present these reforms in the context of T. Furniss' (1991) theoretical model. Thus, the following research question was formulated: What changes occurred in the Lithuanian child rights protection system in terms of family intervention according to T. Furniss' (1991) three basic models?

## 1. Methodology

In order to meet the goal of this paper and answer the research question, a narrative literature review applying qualitative content analysis principles was performed. This was based on K. A. Neuendorf's (2017) assumption that parts of the text reflect the contexts behind the text – i.e., the text of legislative documents mirrors the conceptual framework of T. Furniss' (1991) theoretical model. Firstly, the meaningful units (key phrases) of the model were defined (for PPI: statutory, punishing a perpetrator, assistance to the victim, etc.; for PCI: legal, intervention to protect a child, secondary victimization, etc.; for PTI: not statutory, intervention to treat, changes of family relations, etc.), and then their manifestations in legislative documents were searched for.

**Eligibility criteria of legislative documents.** Several criteria for the inclusion and exclusion of documents were formulated. All documents meeting the selection criteria were included in the analysis list and analysed, while those not meeting the criteria were rejected and not included in the review. Documents were selected for analysis based on the following selection criteria: 1) related to the child rights protection system; 2) related to family intervention; 3) related to Lithuania; and 4) issued after the reconstitution of Lithuanian independence. In order to ensure the validity of selected documents, the following principles were adhered to (Creswell & Creswell, 2018; McCulloch, 2004): authenticity of sources, which ensures that the source version of the document is the real one, e.g., documents were and/or are in operation and included in official reciprocities; reliability of sources, which defines the importance and/or weight of the document in the context of similar sources, i.e., all of the documents were/are registered and had/have assigned numbers; time period, i.e., only these documents which were issued after the reconstitution of independence; and maximum number of sources, i.e., documents that meet the selection criteria were all included in the analysis list and analysed.

**Search sources and strategies.** A targeted search for documents according to the above criteria was conducted in the e-tar.lt database and the electronic repositories of public institutions from October 2021 to April 2022. The above-mentioned meaningful units (key phrases) from T. Furniss' (1991) theoretical model were used, and 9 documents (laws, procedures, reports, plans) in total were included for the review.

**Data analysis and interpretation.** The data analysis included a breakdown of the documents' text according to the above-mentioned research question: What changes occurred in the Lithuanian child rights protection system in terms of family intervention according to T. Furniss' (1991) three basic models? The data obtained from the analysis were interpreted according to T. Furniss' (1991) three basic models of professional family interventions. The internal validity of the qualitative data was ensured by the correspondence of the research outcomes to the actual situation under investigation (Hayashi, Abib & Hoppen, 2019). This

involved asking continuous questions during the research process as to whether an authentic picture of the field under analysis – i.e., changes in the child rights protection system and applied measures – was being depicted, and whether interpretive assumptions were meaningful in reality. The external validity of the qualitative data (Bitinas, Rupšienė & Žydžiūnaitė, 2008) was ensured using the researchers' triangulation method, where each researcher performed their own analysis and then, via the process of joint discussion, interpretations, a cumulative summary and conclusions were formulated.

**Ethical principles of document analysis.** Ethical considerations in selecting the documents were minimal, as widely accessible public records that are available for everyone to examine (Morgan, 2022) were included for the analysis. During the analysis stages, the principle of fairness was followed by presenting and analysing authentic and reliable documents in an undistorted manner (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

The research results are presented in two sections: firstly, the description and analysis of selected documents is presented; secondly, their interpretation in the light of T. Furniss' (1991) models is discussed.

## 2. The system of the protection of children's rights in Lithuania

**Parents' rights and duties.** Parents have priority over other persons for the implementation of children's rights. The father and the mother shall have equal rights and duties with respect to their children. Parents shall have equal rights and duties to their children irrespective of whether the child was born to a married or unmarried couple, after divorce or judicial nullity of the marriage, or after separation. Parents shall be jointly and separately responsible for the care and education of their children. Parental authority may not be used contrary to the interests of children. Failure to exercise parental authority shall be subject to legal responsibility under the law. Where parents (the father or the mother) fail in their duties to bring up their children, abuse their parental authority, treat their children cruelly, produce a harmful effect on their children by their immoral behaviour, or do not care for their children, the court may make a judgment of a temporary or unlimited restriction of parental power (that of the father or the mother) (Lietuvos Respublikos civilinis kodeksas, 2001).

**The involvement of children in the implementation of their rights.** In considering any question related to a child, the child, if capable of formulating their own views, must be heard directly or, where that is impossible, through a representative. Any decisions on such a question must be taken with regard to the child's wishes unless they are contrary to the child's interests. In deciding on the appointment of a child's guardian/curator or a child's adoption, the child's wishes shall be given consideration. If a child considers that their parents abuse their rights, the child shall have a right to apply to a State institution for the protection of the child's rights or, on attaining the age of 14, to bring the matter before the court (Lietuvos Respublikos civilinis kodeksas, 2001).

**The Lithuanian children's rights protection system valid from the 1 July 2018 and (updated new version) the 1 January 2020.** The Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Protection from Domestic Violence regulates protection for everyone – men and women, children, and the elderly (Lietuvos Respublikos apsaugos nuo smurto artimoje aplinkoje įstatymas, 2011). The Law provides both general and specific prevention measures to help protect a person who

has experienced violence or recurrent violence. Article 5 of the Law determines that if domestic violence is established, the court shall, within 48 hours, impose the following protection measures: an obligation for the perpetrator to move temporarily from their place of residence if they live with the victim; and/or an obligation for the perpetrator not to approach the victim, not to communicate, and not to seek contact with them. Although national law provides the possibility of obliging the perpetrator to leave the common home, in some cases this is not sufficient to prevent repeated violence – victims of domestic violence often do not receive help if the perpetrator violates the protection measures (Vaigė, 2016).

**The reason for the State's intervention in a family.** This involves responding to a notice of possible violation of the rights of the child. Under receipt of the notice of the alleged violation of the rights of the child, the Service or its authorized territorial unit assesses the child's situation in the family. There can be three possible processes.

*The conclusion of the assessment of the child's situation in the family.* **First**, if the Service or its authorized territorial unit does not identify violations of the children's rights, the report is closed.

**Second**, the Service or its authorized territorial unit ascertains the *second danger level* (2018 – 2019) or the *need for child protection* (since 2020). This occurs if the Service identifies a real danger to the child's physical or mental safety, health or life, or a risk that may cause significant harm to the child's health which is related to the child's functioning, social environment risk factors, and risk factors related to the child's parents or other legal representatives.

In the 2018 version of the Law, the child always was taken from the family in this case. In the 2020 version of the Law, the child can be taken from the family or temporary supervision can be established. Temporary child supervision where the child is not taken from the family is a new possibility. The implementation of temporary child supervision is conducted: by relatives or persons closely related to the child and parents (this continues for 30 days and can be extended by 30 days); or by both parents or one of them in a crisis centre (this continues for a period of up to 12 months).

A case manager and a mobile team begin to work with the family and (or) the child. Case management involves the organization and provision of comprehensive assistance to the child and their family, and is coordinated by the case manager. This helps them to overcome difficulties, the successful resolution of which would create preconditions for avoiding violations of the child's rights and help to ensure the child's rights independently. The case manager is subordinate to the municipality (Atvejo vadybos tvarkos aprašas, 2019).

The mobile team is a team of specialists that provides intense assistance to a family and/or a child in a crisis situation, and cooperates with the case manager in cases where the need for child protection is identified. The purpose of the mobile team is to provide operational support to the family in crisis. The mobile team is subordinate to the State. The main causes of violations of children's rights, child abuse, and violence against children in the family are parental addictions and psychological and social factors. Therefore the mobile team consists of three specialists: a social worker, a psychologist, and an addiction specialist. They provide assistance and services for the parents and (or) the child over 30 days, and at the end of this term provide recommendations for the case manager concerning further work with the family. The difference between the activity of the case manager and that of the mobile team is that the case manager works with family



problems in the long-term, whilst the mobile team works with crisis issues. Usually, the mobile team helps the family at their place of residence (Mobiliųjų komandų sudarymo, specialistų atrankos ir jų darbo tvarkos aprašas, 2018).

**Third**, the Service or its authorized territorial unit ascertains the *first danger level* (2018 – 2019) or the *need to help the child and (or) their family* (since 2020). Here, they determine the risk factors of the child's functional and social environment, as well as the risks related to the child's parents or other legal representatives and their relations with the child. They also ascertain whether the child's parents or other legal representatives do not guarantee the rights and legitimate interests of the child. The child stays with the family, and the case manager begins to work with the family and organize services.

### 3. Discussion

As was mentioned, T. Furniss (1991) distinguishes three basic models of professional interventions: Primary Punitive Intervention (PPI) (the monocausal model); Primary Child Protective Intervention (PCI) (the bicausal model); and Primary Therapeutic Intervention (PTI). It could be said that elements of all three models can be found in Lithuania.

PPI (the monocausal model) is very clearly outlined in the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Protection from Domestic Violence. When a case of domestic violence is identified, there are two aims: to punish the perpetrator and to provide assistance to the victim. However, this type of intervention does not value the importance of the interaction between the abuser and the victim, which is particularly relevant in cases where there are close family ties between them, especially when the victim is the child of the abuser. According to T. Furniss (1991), PPI is oriented towards applying sanctions rather than paying attention to the importance of interaction between the people involved in conflict resolution. This makes it impossible for the child, the family and the professional network to deal with the conflict, and for the best interests of the child – to live within their family as the best environment – to be maintained. The family relations between the perpetrator and the victim are important for maintaining a further relationship, i.e., for family reunification. The Law does not regulate the perspectives of the implementation of parental and child rights – including adjusting family relationships, family functioning, and ensuring the child's right to grow up within their parental family.

PCI (the bicausal model) occurs when the *second danger level* (2018–2019) or the *need for children protection* (since 2020) is identified, and when the child is taken from the family for temporary guardianship (curatorship). In such a case, help and services are provided to the parents. Temporary child guardianship (curatorship) cannot last more than twelve months, and entails the care and upbringing of a child that is temporarily deprived of parental care and the representation and protection of the child's legitimate interests in the family, social family, or institution. The purpose of temporary child guardianship (curatorship) is to return the child to their natural family. Temporary child guardianship (curatorship) can end when the child: is returned to their family; attains majority or emancipation; has permanent guardianship/curatorship established; is adopted; or enters into a marriage. The separation of the child from their parents is based on the protection of the child's rights and is an act that proceeds in the best interests of the child, but there are negative aspects of this action. First, separating a child from their parents always has a traumatic effect. The development of children is very intense,



so long-term separation from parents harms the child's psychosocial development. Second, working with parents separately will never be as effective as working with the whole family, and thus affecting the relationships of all family members. When the child is taken away from the family, parents are mutually opposed to their child. According to T. Furniss (1991), social services "employ their power to act as 'better parents' for the children in competition with actual parents as 'worse parents', and PCI is based on the implicit or explicit attribution of failure to both parents in their parenting role [...]" (pp. 61–62). Therefore, the separation of a child from their parents can be treated as a sanction or a punishment for parents, without trying to help them. A sanction used by the State against a person usually provokes a reaction of hostility, which makes it difficult for them to accept assistance. Therefore, these services have the additional task of helping parents to acknowledge problems and accept help. However, we cannot deny that the separation of a child might be also recognised as a punishment for the child. In this way, although parental authority has been used contrary to the child's interests, the child experiences secondary victimization. Therefore, temporary guardians are concerned with helping the child to cope with the consequences of victimization, but also explaining to the child why they have been separated from their parents. The question then becomes how to do this.

Since the 1 January 2020, a new intervention measure – temporary child supervision – has appeared in the Lithuanian children's rights protection system. This has made it possible to assist a child and their family without removing the child from their close environment, hoping that the family will solve problems and restore proper functioning corresponding to conditions that ensure the child's welfare. Such an intervention with the family relates to the PTI model described by T. Furniss (1991), which focuses on the relationships of family members, the aspects of and reasons for these relationships, and finding the main sources of a family crisis. The application of this type of intervention has several positive aspects. First, the State has a very minimal impact on family life through family intervention by introducing an additional participant which implements temporary child supervision: relatives or people in close relation to the child and the parents, or an institution which the child attends with one of their parents. Secondly, there are no direct and drastic sanctions on either the parents or the child – the child is not excluded from the family, which increases the likelihood that the assistance provided will be effective. Third, the family receives services from three professionals (a mobile team) at home, where there is an opportunity to see the interaction between both parents and the child and to track changes in their relationships, which also brings closer the goal of maintaining the family and helping to solve problems.

## Conclusions

In Lithuania, the development of the system of the protection of children's rights began in 2017, and its implementation began in 2018. The second change to this system was made on the 1 January 2020. If the need for child protection is identified, there are two possible family interventions: taking the child out of the family (the Primary Child Protective Intervention model); or implementing temporary child supervision, where the child stays within the family (the Primary Therapeutic Intervention model). The latter method of intervention constitutes the best opportunity to help the family. Family life is a protected value, and is a priority for a child as the best environment in which to grow – regardless of possible short-term or long-term problems.

If a problem relating to the protection of a child's rights can be addressed through family support, priority must be given to preserving the child's right to family ties without removing them from their family.

The document analysis method was applied in this study, focusing on reforms to the child protection system and how they are presented in the legal documents, e.g., texts. Future research could be extended to the analysis of how these reforms are implemented in reality, and how T. Furniss' models of intervention are reflected in everyday child protection practices.

## References

- Atvejo vadybos tvarkos aprašas [Description of the case management procedure]. (2019). TAR, 2019-12-30, No. 21668 (current version from 2020-01-01).
- Bitinas, B., Rupšienė, L., & Žydžiūnaitė, V. (2008). *Kokybinių tyrimų metodologija*. Klaipėda: S. Jokužio leidykla.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child. (1989). UN General Assembly resolution 44/25. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>
- Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (5th ed). SAGE publications.
- Furniss, T. (1991). *The Multiprofessional Handbook of Child Sexual Abuse: Integrated Management, Therapy, and Legal Intervention*. London: Routledge.
- Hayashi, P., Abib, G., & Hoppen, N. (2019). Validity in Qualitative Research: A Processual Approach. *The Qualitative Report*, 24(1), 98–112.
- Lietuvos Respublikos apsaugos nuo smurto artimoje aplinkoje įstatymas [Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Protection from Domestic Violence]. (2011). *Valstybės žinios*, 2011-06-14, No. 72-3475 (current version from 2021-01-01 to 2023-06-30).
- Lietuvos Respublikos civilinis kodeksas [Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania]. (2001). *Valstybės žinios*, 2000-09-06, No. 74-2262 (current version from 2022-09-01 to 2022-10-31).
- Lietuvos Respublikos Konstitucija [Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania]. (1992). *Valstybės žinios*, 1992, No. 33-1014.
- Lietuvos Respublikos vaiko teisių apsaugos kontrolierius. (2020). *Vaiko teisių apsaugos kontrolieriaus 2019 metų veiklos ataskaita* [Activity Report of the Ombudsman for the Protection of the Rights of the Child for 2019]. <http://vtaki.lt/lt/administracine-informacija/veiklos-ataskaitos>
- Lietuvos Respublikos vaiko teisių apsaugos pagrindų įstatymas [Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child]. (1996). *Valstybės žinios*, 1996-04-12, No. 33-807 (current version from 2022-07-01 to 2022-12-31).
- McCulloch, G. (2004). *Documentary research: In education, history and the social sciences*. Routledge.
- Mobiliųjų komandų sudarymo, specialistų atrankos ir jų darbo tvarkos aprašas [Description of mobile team formation, selection of specialists and their work procedure]. (2018). TAR, 2018-06-29, Nr. 10785 (current version from 2021-07-14).
- Morgan, H. (2022). Conducting a Qualitative Document Analysis. *The Qualitative Report*, 27(1), 64–77. doi: 10.46743/2160-3715/2022.5044
- Neuendorf, K. A. (2017). *The content analysis guidebook*. SAGE publications.
- Petrylienė, V. (2011). Vaiko teisių apsaugos sistemos tobulinimo gairės: Šiaulių rajono atvejis. *Ekonomikos ir vadybos aktua-*

- lijos, pp. 668–677.
- Stripeikienė, J. (2003). Vaiko, kaip savarankiško teisės subjekto, problema. *Jurisprudencija*, 42(34), pp. 12–17.
- Stripeikienė, J. (2017). Vaiko teisė į pagarbą. *Jurisprudencija*, 24(2), 293–310. doi: 10.13165/JUR-17-24-2-05.
- Tamošiūnas, T., & Želvytė, V. (2010). Vaiko teisių apsaugos sistemos valdymo prioritetai: teisinės bazės ir savivaldybių ekspertų nuostatų analizė. *Ekonomika ir vadyba: aktualijos ir perspektyvos*, 4(20), pp. 154–168.
- Tamutienė, I. (2018). Vaiko apsaugos veiksmingumo problemos Lietuvoje. *Viešoji politika ir administravimas*, 17(1), pp. 24–37. doi: 10.5755/j01.ppaa.17.1.20605.
- Vaigė, L. (2016). Smurto prieš moteris prevencija: nacionalinės teisės spragos. *Jurisprudencija*, 23(1), 89–107. doi: 10.13165/JUR-16-23-1-06.
- Vaiko teisių apsaugos sistemos pertvarkos projekto planas [Plan of the child rights protection system reform project]. (2018). <https://socmin.lrv.lt/uploads/socmin/documents/files/veiklos-sritys/seima/VTAS-centralizacija/20%20Projekto%20versija%202018-02-12.pdf>
- Valstybės vaiko teisių apsaugos ir įvaikinimo tarnyba prie Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerijos. (2022). *2021 metų veiklos ataskaita* [Activity Report of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour for 2021] (2022). <https://vaikoteises.lt/media/file/ataskaitos/2021%20m.%20veiklos%20ataskaita%20.pdf>
- Vitkauskas, K. (2009). Vaiko teisių apsaugos politikos įgyvendinimas Lietuvos savivaldybėse. *Viešoji politika ir administravimas*, 29, 82–90.

# APPLYING MONOCAUSAL, BICAUSAL AND PRIMARY THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION MODELS IN THE LITHUANIAN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PROTECTION SYSTEM

Prof. dr. Brigita Kairiene  
Assoc. prof. dr. Jolanta Pivoriene  
Agata Katkoniene  
Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania

## Summary

*The protection of children's rights is primarily based on the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania. The Lithuanian system for the protection of the rights of the child is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Lithuania acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992 and the ratification procedure was completed in 1995. In 1996, the Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child was adopted, which was the first important step in Lithuania's practical protection of the child as an independent legal subject. The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, in a special session on the protection of children's rights, banned all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment. Until 1 July 2018, the State had transferred the protection of children's rights to municipalities.*

*The child rights protection system focuses on building a system of family intervention, support and services for families. The most important and sensitive area of child rights protection is identifying and maintaining a balance between the child's right to protection and their right to be raised by their parents.*

*T. Furniss (1991) identifies three main models of professional intervention: the monocausal model (PPI) helps to resolve the situation by punishing the offending parent; the bicausal or two-way custody model (PCI) is for both parents, and includes all forms of intervention to safeguard the child's well-being when the child is in need of protection; the Primary Therapeutic Intervention (PTI) model includes all interventions aimed at treating individual psychological trauma and changing family relationships.*

*The goal of the article is to describe reforms of the child rights protection system in Lithuania by applying T. Furniss' theoretical model.*

*Parents have priority over other persons in the exercise of their children's rights. Parental authority must not be used contrary to the best interests of the child. Failure to exercise parental authority is punishable by law. The Law on Protection from Domestic Violence of the Republic of Lithuania regulates the protection of everyone. The Law provides for both general and specific preventive measures to protect the victim from repeated violence.*

*Primary punitive intervention (PPI) (the monocausal model) is very clearly defined in the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence of the Republic of Lithuania when a case of domestic violence is established. This type of intervention underestimates the importance of the interaction between perpetrator and victim. Primary Child Protective Intervention (PCI) (the bicausal model)*

*occurs when a secondary level of risk or the need for child protection is identified, and the child may be removed from the family. From 2020, a new intervention method has been introduced in the Lithuanian child protection system: temporary guardianship of the child, which is designed to help the child and the family without removing the child from their immediate environment, in the hope that the family will resolve their problems and restore the child's well-being. This intervention for the family is based on the PTI model.*

*The latter type of intervention offers the greatest opportunity to help the family. Family life is a protected value and a priority for the child, as it is the best environment for development, regardless of possible short- and long-term problems.*

**Keywords:** *children's rights, children's rights protection system, intervention models, monocausal model, bicausal model, Primary Therapeutic Intervention model.*

---

**Brigita Kairiene**, Doctor of Social Sciences (Education), professor at the Institute of Educational Sciences and Social Work at the Faculty of Human and Social Studies at Mykolas Romeris University. Research areas: children's rights implementation, protection, prevention of violence against children, children's education in the family.

**Jolanta Pivoriene**, Doctor of Social Sciences (Sociology), associate professor at the Institute of Educational Sciences and Social Work at the Faculty of Human and Social Studies at Mykolas Romeris University. Research areas: social changes, sustainable development.

**Agata Katkoniene**, M.A. in Education (Social pedagogy branch), lecturer at the Institute of Educational Sciences and Social Work at the Faculty of Human and Social Studies at Mykolas Romeris University. Research areas: social work with family; quality management of social services.