

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The central area is white, providing a clean space for the text.

Iceland

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Children rights - Icelandic laws

- ▶ Short version - my interpretation:

- ▶ Child's rights: I.A- article 1. : A child should be able to live safe and be cared for..., „it's forbidden to use any kind of violence or other disrespectful behavior on a child.“ The priority must be on the child's best interest... A child has the right to express its views in all matters that concern itself and it's views shall be duly taken into account in accordance with its age and maturity...
- ▶ The aim of the Child protection laws - Chapter 1, article 1:... „Children have the right to be protected and cared for. “ ...They should be respected and cared for and it's completely forbidden to use violence against them or harm them in any way... and take care of their well being in all respects.

Childrens rights - Icelandic laws

- ▶ Short version:
- ▶ Chapter 1. A - article 1 a: A child has the right to know both parents.
- ▶ Article 46: The child has the right to see/visit/live with/be around both parents... on regular basis
- ▶ The parent that the child does not live with is **responsible** to fulfill the obligation to see/meet/be around the child on regular basis

Paradoxes

- ▶ In domestic violence cases: we know that children are direct or indirect victims always
- ▶ The laws amplify the child safety
 - ▶ Is it safe/good for children to be live with/visiting a violent parent/person?
 - ▶ Is it right to force children that don't want to see/visit/live with a violent parent?
 - ▶ The parent victim of violence who wants to fulfill one article of the law by keeping the child safe and keep the child away from the violent person has to break another article of the law saying that the child has the right to be around both parents
 - ▶ The rights of the parents seems to weight heavier than the right of the child to be safe.

Children - domestic violence cases

- ▶ Children are victims
- ▶ Their voices are often not heard (after 12 - they have a hearing, but words against words - difficult cases)
- ▶ Very difficult for children to talk about what happened
- ▶ Strain to talk to many systems - they don't understand this long and complicated process - takes toll of them
- ▶ Expectations broken (if you talk - things will change - but do they?)
- ▶ Visiting rights cases take a long time (up to 3 months) meanwhile visiting rights are open

Domestic violence cases - services

- ▶ A child has the right to:
- ▶ Services from Barnahús
- ▶ Intervention of the Child Protection
- ▶ Counselling/work with a specialist (if 50% or more custody the violent parent has to agree to this treatment)

Last years victories

- Changed procedure of the Police in domestic violence cases (social worker and Child Protection involved from the beginning if children involved)
- Barnahús – serious domestic violence cases taken to Barnahús (judge, police, child protection, defender and the lawyer of the accused)
- Changed procedure at the Deputy's office – f.ex. they talk with children directly,
- More and better communication between systems involved and the Women's Shelter
- Focus on the children/better services – the Women's Shelter

The focus on children - Women's Shelter

- ▶ Children are always victims
- ▶ They are seen and they have a voice in the Shelter
- ▶ We listen to them
- ▶ Their trauma taken into consideration and taken care of as possible
- ▶ Emphasis on the children - put pressure on the system

Challenges

- ▶ The paradoxes... I have mentioned earlier
- ▶ That children rights come first ...
 - ▶ more important than the violent parent´s right to see/visit/live his/her child
 - ▶ That the child has the right **to not** see/visit/live with a violent parent
 - ▶ Their rights to be safe and exist without violence
 - ▶ Is a violent person a caring and good parent? (knowlegde of domestic violence)
 - ▶ The victim parent does not to have to break one law to respect another law - that the system takes the responsibility from the victim parent of keeping a child safe
 - ▶ Children do not have to see/visit/ or live with the violent parent especially when they do not want to (at least till the case is closed)