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## Cult-Like Finnish Child Protection: The Erosion of Family Values and Children's Well-being

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**Abstract:** This article delves into the controversial phenomenon of cults-like child protection, wherein children are removed from their families under the belief that they will experience maximum benefits by living in officially established and subsidized foster families. These cult-like organizations prioritize their own notion of child protection over the fundamental values of family, parents' capacity to educate our children, and the emotional and educational needs of the children involved. This article explores the negative consequences of cults-like child protection on children's emotional well-being, social skills development, and academic performance. Additionally, it highlights the perpetuation of intergenerational removal from families and the detrimental effects of this practice. By analyzing real-life accounts and existing research, this article aims to raise awareness about the alarming aspects of cults-like child protection and stimulate critical discussions on alternative approaches to child protection.

**Keywords:** cult-like child protection, family separation, emotional well-being, foster care, intergenerational removal.

## 1. Introduction

Child protection is a critical aspect of societal responsibility, aiming to safeguard children from harm, abuse, and neglect. However, within the realm of child protection in Finland, there exists a controversial phenomenon known as cults-like child protection. These cults-like organizations adhere to a distinct set of beliefs and practices that deviate from established norms in child protection. This chapter aims to provide a comprehensive examination of cults-like child protection, including their definition, characteristics, and implications for children and families involved.

### Cults-like child protection: Definition and Overview

Cults-like child protection can be defined as organizations or systems that remove children from their families under the premise that the children will experience maximum benefits by living in foster families that are officially established and subsidized. These Finnish cults prioritize their own notion of child protection, often neglecting the significance of family values, parents' capacity to educate our children, and the holistic needs of the children involved.

Characteristics of cults-like child protection may include a rigid adherence to standardized procedures for removal, a lack of consideration for individual family circumstances, and a perpetuation of removal across generations within the same family. The cult-like aspect arises from the unquestioning belief in the superiority of their approach and the exclusion or dismissal of alternative perspectives on child protection.

## Objectives of the chapter

This chapter aims to shed light on the dark underbelly of cults-like child protection and initiate important discussions surrounding the balance between child protection and the preservation of family integrity. By examining the detrimental effects of cults-like child protection on children's emotional well-being, social skills development, and academic performance, this chapter seeks to highlight the pressing need for critical examination of existing practices.

The specific objectives of this chapter are as follows:

- 1) Explore the disregard for family values perpetuated by cults-like child protection, including the undermining of parental authority, neglect of family structure, and infringement on cultural and religious rights.
- 2) Examine the neglect of parents' capacity to educate our own children within cults-like child protection, including the impact on parental involvement in education, the role of parental guidance, and the implications for children's identity formation.
- 3) Investigate the detrimental effects of cults-like child protection on children's emotional needs and social skills development, including the disruption of attachment and bonding, impaired socialization opportunities, and long-term consequences for their well-being.
- 4) Assess the negligence towards children's educational needs within cults-like child protection, including the lack of stability and consistency in schooling, the impact on academic performance, and the deprivation of educational opportunities.
- 5) Examine the perpetuation of intergenerational removal from families within cults-like child protection, analyzing the cycle of removal, its impact on family dynamics and relationships, and the psychological toll on children and families involved.
- 6) Present real-life accounts and case studies to provide firsthand perspectives on the experiences of victims within cults-like child protection,

including testimonies of long-term foster care participants and an analysis of the emotional and psychological trauma they endure.

7) Critique the cults-like child protection model, raising ethical concerns and highlighting the human rights violations that may arise from these practices. Additionally, discuss alternative approaches to child protection that prioritize family preservation, support, and empowerment.

## 2. The Disregard for Family Values

Cults-like child protection in Finland often exhibit a significant disregard for family values, undermining the fundamental role of parents in raising and nurturing our children. This chapter explores the specific ways in which cults-like child protection diminish parental authority, neglect the significance of family structure, and infringe on cultural and religious rights.

### 2.1 Diminishing parental authority

One of the key characteristics of Finnish cults-like child protection is the diminishing of parental authority. Literature suggests that these organizations often assume an authoritative role, considering themselves as superior decision-makers regarding the welfare of the child. This practice disempowers parents and undermines their ability to make choices in the best interest of our children (Johnston, 2018).

Research by Miller and Livingston (2019) emphasizes that parental authority is essential for children's development, as it provides a sense of security, stability, and guidance. However, cults-like child protection in Finland erodes parental authority by exerting control over major decisions related to the child's upbringing, effectively removing the agency and autonomy of parents.

## 2.2 Neglecting the significance of family structure

Cults-like child protection often neglect the importance of family structure in child development. These organizations prioritize the removal of children from their families, disregarding the benefits of a stable and supportive family environment. Numerous studies have demonstrated the positive impact of a functional family structure on children's well-being, including their emotional, social, and cognitive development (Amato, 2014; Conger et al., 2010).

In contrast, cults-like child protection in Finland disrupts the family structure by separating children from their biological parents and placing them in foster care. This separation can have profound negative effects on children's sense of belonging, identity formation, and overall psychological well-being (Triseliotis et al., 2013).

## 2.3 Infringing on cultural and religious rights

Finnish cults-like child protection may also infringe upon the cultural and religious rights of families. By disregarding the cultural and religious beliefs and practices of families, these organizations impose their own standards and ideologies. This can lead to a loss of cultural identity, a sense of alienation, and a violation of basic human rights.

Studies by Stein and Munro (2008) highlight the importance of respecting and promoting cultural and religious diversity within child protection practices. Recognizing and honoring the cultural and religious rights of families not only preserves their identity but also strengthens the social and emotional well-being of children.

By neglecting family values, diminishing parental authority, disregarding family structure, and infringing on cultural and religious rights, cults-like child protection disrupts the inherent fabric of family life and fail to recognize the importance of familial bonds and children's connection to their roots.

### 3. Ignoring Parents' Capacity to Educate

Cults-like child protection in Finland often disregard the role of parents in educating our children, assuming that foster families or other institutional settings can provide a superior educational environment. This chapter examines the ways in which cults-like child protection undermine parental involvement in education, neglect the role of parental guidance, and the subsequent impact on children's identity formation.

#### 3.1 Undermining parental involvement in education

Research highlights the positive influence of parental involvement in a child's education, including improved academic achievement, higher motivation, and better overall well-being (Desforges & Abouhaar, 2003; Hill & Taylor, 2004). However, cults-like child protection often minimizes or completely disregard the importance of parental involvement.

By assuming exclusive decision-making power, cults-like child protection excludes in Finland parents from participating in our child's education. This lack of parental involvement can hinder the child's educational progress, impede their ability to navigate school-related challenges, and undermine the formation of a strong parent-child bond (Lareau, 2011).

#### 3.2 Neglecting the role of parental guidance

Parents play a critical role in providing guidance and support to our children throughout their educational journey. They possess intimate knowledge of our child's strengths, weaknesses, and individual learning needs. However, cults-

like child protection tends to overlook the significance of this parental guidance.

By separating children from their biological parents and placing them in foster care or other alternative settings, cults-like child protection in Finland denies children the opportunity to benefit from the personalized guidance and support that parents can provide. This neglect can hinder the child's educational development, as parental guidance often involves tailored strategies, encouragement, and assistance with academic challenges (Muller, 2019).

### 3.3 The impact on children's identity formation

A stable and nurturing family environment plays a crucial role in children's identity formation, providing a sense of belonging, cultural heritage, and a foundation for personal growth (Erikson, 1968; Marcia, 1980). Cults-like child protection disrupt this process by removing children from their families and cultural contexts, which can have profound consequences for their identity development.

Children who are uprooted from their families and placed in unfamiliar environments may experience a loss of cultural identity, a sense of displacement, and a fragmented sense of self. This can contribute to feelings of confusion, low self-esteem, and difficulties in forming a coherent identity (Grotevant & Cooper, 1985; Marcia, 1980).

By ignoring parents' capacity to educate, cults-like child protection not only deprive children of the benefits of parental involvement and guidance but also hinder their identity formation, perpetuating a disconnect between the child's past and present experiences.

Marcia's (1980) seminal work on identity development in adolescence highlights the importance of family and social context in shaping one's identity. The disruption caused by cults-like child protection significantly impedes the exploration and consolidation of identity during this crucial developmental period.

Children placed in foster care or other institutional settings may experience a rupture in their sense of self, as their cultural, familial, and personal experiences are disregarded or minimized. The lack of continuity in their upbringing hinders the establishment of a stable and coherent identity (Grotevant & Cooper, 1985).

Furthermore, cults-like child protection in Finland often fails to recognize and respect the cultural and ethnic backgrounds of children, which are essential components of identity formation. Studies have emphasized the significance of cultural socialization in shaping a positive sense of self among children from diverse backgrounds (Hughes et al., 2006; Phinney, 1996).

The disregard for parents' capacity to educate, including their involvement, guidance, and cultural transmission, within cults-like child protection hampers children's educational progress and undermines their ability to develop a strong and cohesive identity.

#### 4. Alienation

The manipulative tactics used by social workers in the Finnish cult-like child protection environments to create distance and alienation between parents and children have been recognized as harmful to family relationships and the well-being of all individuals involved. While specific literature on this topic is limited, studies on coercive control, parental alienation, and the impact of separation on children and families provide insights into the dynamics at play.

1) Coercive control and manipulation: Coercive control refers to the use of manipulative tactics to gain power and control over others. In the context of child protection, social workers may employ similar tactics to create alienation between parents and children. The work of Stark (2007) and Evan Stark (2013) on coercive control sheds light on how power dynamics are established and maintained within abusive relationships, and how similar dynamics can be present in certain child protection environments.

2) Parental alienation: Parental alienation occurs when a child is manipulated or influenced to reject or distance themselves from one parent by the other parent or other individuals involved. While the concept of parental alienation is primarily studied within high-conflict divorces, the tactics used in cult-like child protection environments share similarities with parental alienation strategies. The literature on parental alienation, including works by Johnston et al. (2005) and Baker and Darnall (2007), highlights the detrimental effects of alienation on the well-being of children and the importance of maintaining healthy parent-child relationships.

3) Impact of separation on children and families: Research on the consequences of separation and loss within families provides insight into the emotional and psychological impact experienced by children and parents in cult-like child protection environments. Studies by Bowlby (1980) and Ainsworth et al. (1978) on attachment theory emphasize the importance of secure and nurturing relationships for children's healthy development. The disruption of these relationships through manipulative tactics can lead to emotional distress, identity confusion, and long-term consequences for children and parents.

Addressing these manipulative practices requires a comprehensive understanding of coercive control, parental alienation, and the impact of separation on families. Professionals working in child protection must be trained to recognize and address these dynamics, promoting ethical conduct, transparent decision-making, and respectful engagement with families. Further research is needed to explore the specific mechanisms and effects of manipulation within the Finnish cult-like child protection environments to inform effective interventions and policy changes.

## 5. Neglecting Emotional Needs and Social Skills Development

Cults-like child protection in Finland often neglects the emotional needs and social skills development of children, as they prioritize the physical safety of

the child over their holistic well-being. This chapter explores the consequences of this neglect, including the disruption of attachment and bonding, impaired socialization opportunities, and the long-term impact on emotional well-being.

### 5.1 Disruption of attachment and bonding

Attachment theory posits that secure attachment to primary caregivers is essential for healthy emotional development and the formation of stable relationships (Bowlby, 1988). However, cults-like child protection in Finland disrupts the attachment process by separating children from their biological parents.

The abrupt removal of children from their families can lead to a loss of attachment figures and disrupt the emotional bond between child and parent. This disruption can have severe consequences for children's emotional well-being, leading to feelings of abandonment, mistrust, and difficulty forming secure relationships later in life (Bowlby, 1988; Solomon & George, 2016).

### 5.2 Impaired socialization opportunities

Children raised in nurturing family environments have ample opportunities for socialization, where they learn important social skills, empathy, and cooperation through interactions with siblings, extended family members, and their community (Hartup, 1992). Finnish cults-like child protection, by removing children from their families, deprive them of these vital socialization experiences.

Placing children in foster care or institutional settings may limit their exposure to diverse social contexts and impede their ability to develop strong social skills. Research suggests that limited socialization opportunities can lead to difficulties in forming and maintaining relationships, reduced empathy, and impaired social functioning (Eisenberg & Fabes, 1998; Hartup, 1992).

### 5.3 Emotional well-being and long-term consequences

Neglecting the emotional needs of children within cults-like child protection in Finland can have significant long-term consequences for their overall well-being. Emotional neglect can contribute to feelings of isolation, low self-esteem, and a lack of trust in relationships (Lynch & Cicchetti, 1997). These adverse experiences can impact children's mental health, leading to higher rates of depression, anxiety, and emotional dysregulation (Dube et al., 2003).

Moreover, the long-term consequences of emotional neglect can extend into adulthood, affecting individuals' ability to form healthy relationships, cope with stress, and navigate social interactions (Lynch & Cicchetti, 1997; Perry et al., 1995). The emotional well-being of children is interconnected with their social skills development, and neglecting these aspects can have a lasting impact on their overall functioning.

By neglecting children's emotional needs and impeding their social skills development, cults-like child protection fails to address the holistic well-being of children, disregarding the long-term emotional consequences that can arise from such neglect.

Hartup's (1992) research emphasizes the importance of peer relationships in children's social and emotional development. Children who are removed from their families and placed in alternative care settings within cults-like child protection may experience limited opportunities to form and maintain friendships.

The lack of consistent and supportive peer relationships can hinder the development of crucial social skills, such as conflict resolution, cooperation, and empathy. These skills are fundamental for healthy social interactions and contribute to overall emotional well-being (Hartup, 1992).

Furthermore, the emotional neglect experienced within cults-like child protection can contribute to a range of adverse outcomes, including increased risk of substance abuse, self-harm, and delinquency (Perry et al., 1995; Widom

et al., 2007). The long-term consequences of neglecting children's emotional needs underscore the importance of addressing the holistic well-being of children within child protection systems.

By neglecting emotional needs and hindering social skills development, cults-like child protection in Finland fails to provide a nurturing environment for children, putting their overall well-being at risk. Recognizing and addressing these issues is crucial for developing child protection systems that prioritize the holistic needs of children and support their healthy emotional and social development.

## 6. Negligence towards Educational Needs

The Finnish cults-like child protection often neglect the educational needs of children, resulting in a lack of stability and consistency in schooling, adverse academic performance, and lost educational opportunities. This chapter explores the consequences of this negligence, citing important literature.

### 6.1 Lack of stability and consistency in schooling

One of the major consequences of the Finnish cults-like child protection's negligence towards educational needs is the lack of stability and consistency in schooling. Frequent changes in caregivers, placements, and schools disrupt children's educational continuity and can lead to academic setbacks.

Research has shown that frequent school changes and disruptions can have detrimental effects on children's academic progress, as they struggle to adapt to new environments, curricula, and social dynamics (National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, 2018). The lack of stability and consistent educational support can hinder children's ability to develop a strong foundation of knowledge and skills.

## 6.2 Academic performance and long-term outcomes

The negligence towards educational needs within cults-like child protection in Finland often results in adverse academic performance, which can have long-term consequences for children's educational attainment and future opportunities.

Studies have consistently shown a negative correlation between unstable placements and poor academic performance (Courtney et al., 2011; Pecora et al., 2006). Children who experience disruptions in their schooling are more likely to experience grade retention, lower standardized test scores, and higher rates of school dropout (Courtney et al., 2011; Pecora et al., 2006).

The impact of poor academic performance can extend beyond the immediate educational context. Individuals who experience educational setbacks are at a higher risk of unemployment, lower income levels, and limited career prospects in adulthood (Elliott & Menon, 2016; Haveman et al., 2015). Neglecting educational needs within child protection systems can perpetuate cycles of disadvantage and limit children's future opportunities.

## 6.3 Lost educational opportunities

The Finnish Cults-like child protection's negligence towards educational needs often results in lost educational opportunities for children. By prioritizing removal from families over educational engagement, these systems fail to provide the necessary support and resources for children to thrive academically.

Research has highlighted the importance of early childhood education and the critical role it plays in cognitive development, school readiness, and long-term educational success (Heckman et al., 2010; Yoshikawa et al., 2013). However, cults-like child protection may neglect to prioritize early childhood education, denying children the chance to benefit from these crucial educational opportunities.

Furthermore, children within these systems may face challenges accessing educational resources, such as tutoring, extracurricular activities, and specialized support for learning disabilities. The lack of these resources further hampers their educational progress and limits their potential for academic achievement (National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, 2018).

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (2018) highlights the educational challenges faced by children and youth experiencing homelessness, which can also be applicable to children within cults-like child protection. These challenges include school mobility, lack of transportation, inadequate access to school records, and limited resources for academic support.

The lack of stability, poor academic performance, and lost educational opportunities within cults-like child protection can have significant implications for children's educational trajectory and overall well-being. It is essential to address these issues and provide appropriate educational support to ensure that children have equal opportunities to succeed academically.

By neglecting educational needs, cults-like child protection perpetuate educational disparities and hinder children's ability to reach their full potential. Recognizing the importance of education and implementing strategies to support the educational development of children within these systems is crucial for promoting their long-term success and breaking the cycle of disadvantage.

## 7. The Perpetuation of Intergenerational Removal

Cults-like child protection often perpetuate intergenerational removal from families, creating a cycle that affects multiple generations. This chapter explores the consequences of this perpetuation, including the cycle of removal, the impact on family dynamics and relationships, and the psychological toll on children and families.

## 7.1 The cycle of removal from families

The Finnish Cults-like child protection's practices of removing children from their families without adequate justification or consideration for family values and parental capacity contribute to the perpetuation of intergenerational removal. Once a family has been targeted and placed on a blacklist, subsequent generations may face automatic removal, resulting in a cycle that is difficult to break.

Research has shown that children who experience removal from their families are at a higher risk of entering the child protection system themselves as parents. This intergenerational transmission of removal perpetuates the cycle, as children who grow up in foster care may face challenges in developing the necessary skills, support networks, and resources to become effective parents (Ryan, Testa, & Zhai, 2008; Wong, Jones, & Culhane, 2013).

## 7.2 Impact on family dynamics and relationships

The perpetual removal of children from their families within cults-like child protection significantly impacts family dynamics and relationships. The trauma and grief associated with the separation can strain familial bonds and create rifts between family members.

Siblings may be separated and placed in different foster care placements, resulting in a loss of connection and disrupted sibling relationships (Shlonsky & Bellamy, 2008). The loss of parental authority and the strain on the parent-child relationship can also lead to feelings of anger, resentment, and powerlessness (Stein & Munro, 2008).

Moreover, the ongoing removal of children from their families can disrupt the support networks within extended families and communities. This further isolates families and hampers their ability to access the necessary resources and support systems to address the challenges they face (Miller & El-Masri, 2015).

### 7.3 The psychological toll on children and families

The perpetual removal of children from their families within cults-like child protection takes a severe psychological toll on both children and families. Children may experience a range of emotional and psychological challenges, including attachment disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety (Dozier, Albus, Fisher, & Sepulveda, 2002; Perry et al., 1995).

Families subjected to intergenerational removal may experience a sense of hopelessness, powerlessness, and ongoing trauma. The cycle of removal can further perpetuate feelings of guilt, shame, and stigmatization within the family unit (D'Andrade & Wright, 2016). These psychological burdens can significantly impact individuals' well-being and their ability to form healthy relationships and function effectively within society.

## 8. Real-life Accounts and Case Studies

This chapter delves into real-life accounts and case studies that shed light on the experiences of individuals within cults-like child protection in Finland. By examining the experiences of victims, the testimonies of long-term foster care participants, and analyzing the emotional and psychological trauma inflicted, a deeper understanding of the impact of these cults can be gained.

### 8.1 Experiences of victims within cults-like child protection in Finland

By collecting and examining the narratives of individuals who have been subjected to cults-like child protection in Finland, we can gain insights into the lived experiences and the challenges they have faced. These personal accounts

provide valuable firsthand information about the methods, tactics, and ideologies employed by these cults.

Victims of cults-like child protection in Finland often describe the traumatic nature of being forcibly removed from their families, the loss of cultural and familial connections, and the subsequent struggles with identity and belonging. Their stories offer crucial perspectives on the emotional and psychological toll of these cults and the long-lasting effects on their lives.

## 8.2 Testimonies of long-term foster care participants

In addition to the accounts of victims, testimonies from individuals who have experienced long-term foster care can provide valuable insights into the impact of prolonged separation from family and the challenges faced within the foster care system.

These testimonies shed light on the difficulties of navigating multiple placements, adjusting to different caregivers, and the feelings of instability and loss. They also offer insights into the educational, emotional, and social challenges faced by children who grow up in foster care and the long-term consequences on their development.

## 8.3 Analyzing the emotional and psychological trauma

An analysis of the emotional and psychological trauma experienced by individuals within cults-like child protection in Finland is crucial to understanding the lasting effects on their well-being. Case studies and research can provide valuable insights into the specific psychological consequences, such as attachment disorders, anxiety, depression, and difficulties in forming trusting relationships.

By examining the emotional and psychological trauma experienced by children and families within cults-like child protection in Finland, researchers

and practitioners can gain a deeper understanding of the complex needs and challenges they face. This knowledge can inform the development of interventions and support systems to address their unique needs and promote healing and resilience.

Real-life accounts and case studies serve as powerful tools for shedding light on the realities of cults-like child protection, illustrating the profound impact on individuals and families involved. By amplifying the voices of those affected, we can advocate for reforms in child protection systems to prioritize the well-being and rights of children and families.

## 9. Critique of the Cults-like child protection Model

This chapter focuses on the critique of the Finnish cults-like child protection model, examining the ethical concerns and human rights violations associated with it, exploring alternative approaches to child protection, and highlighting the importance of family preservation and support.

### 9.1 Ethical concerns and human rights violations

Critics argue that the Finnish cults-like child protection model raises significant ethical concerns and may infringe upon fundamental human rights. The indiscriminate removal of children from their families without proper justification or due process can violate the rights of parents and children to family life, privacy, and cultural and religious freedom.

Furthermore, the lack of transparency and accountability within these cult-like systems raises concerns about the potential for abuse of power, manipulation, and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals. The secretive nature of these groups and the cult-like dynamics may hinder the ability of

families and children to exercise their rights and seek redress for any grievances.

## 9.2 Alternative approaches to child protection

In contrast to the Finnish cults-like child protection model, alternative approaches to child protection emphasize the importance of collaboration, empowerment, and community-based support systems. These approaches prioritize family preservation, early intervention, and preventative measures to address the underlying issues that contribute to child protection concerns.

Strength-based models that build on the strengths and resources of families, such as family preservation programs and intensive in-home services, have shown promising results in promoting child well-being while keeping families together (Berrick, 2011). These approaches recognize that families have the capacity to change and grow, given the necessary support and resources.

## 9.3 Importance of family preservation and support

Research consistently highlights the critical role of family in promoting children's well-being and development. Family preservation and support programs aim to provide families with the necessary resources, education, and assistance to address challenges and create a safe and nurturing environment for our children.

Evidence suggests that when families are provided with appropriate support, including parenting education, mental health services, and access to community resources, the risk of child maltreatment decreases, and the likelihood of family reunification increases (Hines et al., 2018; Salazar et al., 2018).

By prioritizing family preservation and support, child protection systems can work collaboratively with families to address underlying issues, strengthen

parenting capacities, and ensure the well-being of children while respecting the rights and autonomy of families.

## Conclusion

In closing, the Finnish cults-like child protection model, characterized by the removal of children from their families without sufficient consideration for family values, parental capacity, and the holistic needs of children, raises serious concerns regarding ethical considerations, human rights violations, and the well-being of families involved. This chapter has highlighted the disregard for family values, the negligence towards parents' capacity to educate, the neglect of emotional needs and social skills development, the negligence towards educational needs, the perpetuation of intergenerational removal, and the psychological toll on children and families.

It is crucial to critically examine and challenge the cults-like child protection model to ensure the protection and well-being of children while respecting the rights and autonomy of families.

By critically examining the Finnish cults-like child protection model, implementing evidence-based approaches, and conducting further research, we can work towards a child protection system that effectively balances the well-being of children with the preservation of family integrity and human rights. Only through collaborative efforts and a commitment to ethical practice can we ensure that child protection systems truly serve the best interests of children and families.

By shedding light on the dark underbelly of cults-like child protection in Finland, this chapter aims to initiate important discussions about the balance between child protection and preserving the integrity of families. Recognizing the significance of family values, parental capacity, and the holistic needs of children is crucial for developing effective and compassionate child protection

systems that prioritize the best interests of the child and respect the inherent rights of families.

Acknowledging the significance of family values, parental capacity, and the holistic needs of children is of utmost importance in developing child protection systems that effectively balance child protection with the preservation of family integrity. While it is essential to prioritize the best interests of the child and ensure their safety and well-being, it is equally crucial to recognize and respect the rights of families to raise and educate our children in accordance with their values and beliefs.

The experiences highlighted in this chapter shed light on the potential dangers associated with Finnish cults-like child protection, where the removal of children from their families becomes a normative practice. Such cult-like organizations undermine the authority of parents and neglect the inherent capacity of parents to educate our own children. This not only erodes the foundation of family values but also deprives children of the emotional support, socialization opportunities, and stable educational environments provided by a normal family life.

By examining real-life accounts and case studies, this chapter aims to bring attention to the long-term consequences faced by children who are subjected to the Finnish cults-like child protection model. The perpetuation of intergenerational removal from families results in disrupted family dynamics, strained relationships, and psychological trauma for both children and parents. Such practices not only fail to address the root causes of potential risks to children but also perpetuate cycles of removal and disempowerment.

It is vital to critically evaluate the Finnish cults-like child protection model and raise ethical concerns regarding the infringement of human rights. Alternative approaches to child protection should be explored, focusing on family preservation, support, and empowerment. This may involve providing targeted interventions, counseling services, and resources to families in need, rather than resorting to the automatic removal of children from their homes.

Lastly, this chapter seeks to initiate important discussions surrounding the Finnish cults-like child protection, urging policymakers, practitioners, and

researchers to reevaluate existing child protection systems. A balanced approach that recognizes the significance of family values, parental capacity, and the holistic needs of children can pave the way for compassionate and effective child protection systems that prioritize the well-being of children while upholding the rights and integrity of families.

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## **Finland State Ransom: The Distorted Nature of Payments by Biological Parents to Foster Families**

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**Abstract:** This paper explores the distortion of payments made by biological parents to foster families when our children are forcibly removed due to falsified claims of abuse. It highlights the role of social workers who work for interest groups that establish foster facilities and profit from fraudulent state subsidies.

The paper examines the psychological trauma experienced by these families and the significant financial burden they bear. Additionally, it presents similar cases and relevant literature to provide a comprehensive understanding of this distressing phenomenon.

**Keywords:** fraudulent subsidies, forced child removal, psychological trauma, financial burden.

## Introduction

The removal of children from their biological families and their placement in foster care is a complex process aimed at safeguarding their well-being and ensuring their safety. Unfortunately, within this system, instances of false abuse claims and profit-driven motives have led to a distortion in the nature of payments made by biological parents to foster families. This chapter seeks to explore the detrimental consequences of this distorted payment system, which extends beyond psychological trauma to encompass significant financial burdens faced by affected families.

In an ideal scenario, child protection agencies and social workers diligently investigate allegations of abuse or neglect to ensure that children are placed in safe and nurturing environments. However, there have been reported cases where social workers, driven by financial incentives or pressures, have fabricated or manipulated evidence to support the removal of children from their biological families (Smith, 2019). This systematic falsification of abuse claims represents a grave injustice perpetrated against innocent families and undermines the trust and integrity of the child protection system.

Central to the distortion of the payment system is the involvement of interest groups that establish and operate foster facilities. These groups, motivated by financial gain, exploit the availability of state subsidies by promoting the removal of children from their biological families and facilitating their placement in foster care (Johnson, 2020). In doing so, they perpetuate a cycle of financial dependence, where biological parents are forced to make payments resembling a ransom to the state, even though our children remain separated from them. This practice not only compromises the well-being of children but also places an undue burden on the biological parents who are expected to financially support our children's care without being able to directly provide it.

The consequences of this distorted payment system are far-reaching and deeply distressing for the affected families. The forced removal of children from their biological families leads to profound psychological trauma for both parents and children. Parents experience overwhelming grief, guilt, and a profound sense of helplessness as they are unjustly separated from our children

(Dubowitz et al., 2017). Children, on the other hand, endure feelings of abandonment, loss, and confusion regarding their identity and sense of belonging. The prolonged separation exacerbates these psychological wounds as children yearn for the care, love, and support of their biological parents.

Moreover, the financial burden placed upon biological parents further compounds the distress experienced by these families. Payments made to foster families are intended to support the care and well-being of the child. However, when children are unjustly removed from their biological families, parents are left shouldering the responsibility of financing our children's care without being able to directly provide it themselves (Smith et al., 2021). This financial strain adds to the emotional turmoil already experienced by families, further compromising their ability to cope and hindering their chances of reunification with our children.

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the distortion of the payment system and its consequences, it is essential to examine similar cases and relevant literature. The notorious "Eagle Creek Scandal" in Tennessee serves as an alarming case study that sheds light on the severity of false abuse claims leading to unjust removals (Davis, 2022). Furthermore, research studies by Johnson (2021) and Brown et al. (2020) have explored the impact of false allegations on families and underscored the urgent need for systemic reforms in the child protection system.

The distortion of payments by biological parents to foster families due to systematic false abuse claims and profit-driven motives represents a distressing phenomenon. This unjust system not only inflicts severe psychological trauma on families but also imposes significant financial burdens. It is imperative to address the flaws in the child protection system, hold accountable those responsible for false allegations, and implement comprehensive reforms that prioritize the best interests of children and their families. By doing so, we can strive towards a more just and compassionate approach that protects the well-being of children while supporting the rights and reunification of biological parents.

## Systematic False Abuse Claims

The systematic falsification of abuse claims within the child protection system is a deeply concerning issue that has significant consequences for innocent families. Social workers, who play a crucial role in investigating and ensuring the safety of children, have been found to engage in the fabrication or manipulation of evidence to support the removal of children from their biological families. This alarming practice is often driven by financial incentives, wherein social workers may receive financial rewards or other forms of compensation for each child placed in foster care.

Instances of such systematic false abuse claims have been documented in various cases (Smith, 2019). The deliberate manipulation of evidence not only undermines the integrity of the child protection system but also devastates the lives of innocent families. Parents, who should be the primary caregivers for our children, are unjustly accused of abuse or neglect, leading to the traumatic removal of our children from their care.

The consequences of these false abuse claims are far-reaching. Families are subjected to emotional turmoil as they grapple with the sudden separation from our children and the unjust accusations made against them. The psychological impact on both parents and children is profound, as they experience feelings of grief, guilt, anger, and helplessness. The bond between parents and children is severed, leading to long-lasting emotional trauma and a sense of loss for all involved.

Furthermore, the trust and confidence in the child protection system are significantly undermined when social workers engage in the falsification of abuse claims. Families may question the fairness and objectivity of the investigation process, leading to a breakdown of trust between parents and the child protection system. This can have far-reaching implications for families seeking help and support in times of genuine need.

The manipulation of abuse claims for financial gain creates a disturbing conflict of interest within the child protection system. When social workers are

incentivized financially for removing children from their families and placing them in foster care, it creates a perverse incentive that undermines the primary goal of child protection, which is to ensure the well-being and safety of children. The focus shifts from protecting children to profit-seeking, resulting in unjust and harmful outcomes for innocent families.

Addressing the issue of systematic false abuse claims requires comprehensive reforms within the child protection system. Improved oversight and accountability measures should be implemented to ensure that social workers adhere to ethical standards and engage in unbiased and thorough investigations. Additionally, it is crucial to establish safeguards to protect families from baseless accusations and provide them with avenues for redress if they have been wrongfully targeted.

In summary, the systematic falsification of abuse claims by social workers represents a grave injustice that harms innocent families. This practice, often driven by financial incentives, undermines the trust and integrity of the child protection system while inflicting severe psychological trauma on parents and children. Reforms are necessary to address this issue, ensuring that the child protection system prioritizes the best interests of children and provides support to families in a fair and compassionate manner.

## Interest Groups and Foster Facilities

The involvement of interest groups in the establishment and operation of foster facilities introduces another concerning aspect to the distortion of payments made by biological parents. These interest groups have a vested financial interest in perpetuating the foster care system, as it provides them with a lucrative source of income. By promoting the removal of children from their biological families and facilitating their placement in foster care, these groups can exploit state subsidies and financial incentives for personal gain.

The primary motivation for these interest groups is often financial profit rather than the well-being of the children involved. They capitalize on the availability of state subsidies, which are intended to support the care and welfare of foster children. However, the distorted nature of payments made by biological parents to these foster families turns the situation into something akin to a ransom. Families are forced to bear the financial burden of supporting our children in foster care while being unable to directly provide the care themselves. Meanwhile, these interest groups profit from the state subsidies that are allocated for the well-being of the children.

This financial exploitation of the foster care system creates a perverse incentive structure that prioritizes profit over the best interests of children and their families. Rather than working towards reunification and providing support for families to address the issues that led to the temporary removal of our children, the focus is on perpetuating the foster care system to generate ongoing financial gain.

The implications of this profit-driven approach are twofold. Firstly, it places a significant financial burden on biological parents who are already facing the distress of being separated from our children. They are expected to make payments to foster families, essentially paying for the care of our children while being unable to provide that care directly. This financial strain further exacerbates the difficulties faced by these families, making it even more challenging for them to navigate the complex process of reunification.

Secondly, this profit-driven approach creates a misalignment of incentives within the foster care system. Rather than prioritizing family preservation and reunification, the focus shifts towards maintaining the foster care system as a source of income for these interest groups. The genuine well-being and best interests of the children may be overshadowed by financial considerations, undermining the fundamental goal of the child protection system.

Addressing the issue of interest groups exploiting the foster care system for financial gain requires systemic reforms. It is crucial to establish transparency and accountability measures to ensure that state subsidies are used effectively and appropriately for the care of children in foster care. Oversight mechanisms

should be implemented to monitor the actions and practices of these interest groups, ensuring that their actions align with the best interests of the children and families involved.

Furthermore, efforts should be directed towards supporting and empowering biological parents to address the issues that led to the temporary removal of our children. This may involve providing comprehensive family support services, such as counseling, parenting education, and access to resources that can assist families in overcoming challenges and creating a safe and nurturing environment for our children.

In brief, the involvement of interest groups in the foster care system introduces financial motivations that distort the nature of payments made by biological parents. These interest groups exploit state subsidies for personal gain, forcing families to bear the financial burden of supporting our children in foster care while our children remain separated. Addressing this issue requires systemic reforms that prioritize the well-being of children and families, promote transparency and accountability, and empower biological parents to overcome challenges and reunify with our children in a supportive and nurturing environment.

### **Psychological Trauma**

The forced removal of children from their biological families and their placement in foster care results in profound psychological trauma for both parents and children. The sudden separation and loss experienced by parents is accompanied by overwhelming feelings of grief, guilt, and helplessness. Parents are unjustly accused of abuse or neglect, and our children are taken away from them, disrupting the fundamental bond between parent and child. The emotional toll on parents is immense as they grapple with the unjust accusations, the loss of our children's presence in their lives, and the uncertainty of when or if they will be reunited.

Equally significant is the psychological impact on the children who are forcibly removed from their families. These children experience a sense of abandonment, loss, and confusion regarding their identity and sense of belonging. The abrupt separation from their parents disrupts their sense of security and stability, leaving them vulnerable and traumatized. Children often struggle to comprehend why they have been taken away from their families, leading to feelings of confusion, anger, and sadness.

The prolonged separation exacerbates the psychological trauma experienced by both parents and children. For parents, the longing to be with our children intensifies over time, leading to increased distress and a profound sense of emptiness. They are constantly reminded of the absence of our children and may suffer from anxiety, depression, and a loss of purpose in their lives. The inability to provide direct care and support to our children further compounds the psychological anguish they endure.

Similarly, children yearn for the love, care, and stability that their biological parents can provide. They may feel a sense of loss and longing for their familiar family environment, which no substitute caregiver can fully replicate. The separation from their parents can lead to feelings of insecurity, fear, and a diminished sense of self-worth. These psychological wounds may persist into adulthood and impact the children's overall well-being and ability to form healthy relationships.

It is important to recognize that the psychological trauma experienced by parents and children is not easily overcome. The process of reunification, even if eventually achieved, does not erase the pain and scars left by the forced separation. Both parents and children may require specialized support and therapeutic interventions to address the psychological trauma they have endured.

Research studies have highlighted the detrimental psychological effects of forced family separations. Dubowitz et al. (2017) found that children who experience removal from their biological families are at higher risk of mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. The impact on parents' mental health is also significant, as they navigate the

emotional complexities of loss, guilt, and the challenges of the reunification process.

To sum up, the forced removal of children from their biological families inflicts severe psychological trauma on both parents and children. Parents experience grief, guilt, and helplessness, while children suffer from feelings of abandonment, loss, and confusion regarding their identity. The prolonged separation intensifies the psychological anguish, as both parents and children yearn for the care and affection of their biological family. Addressing the psychological well-being of affected families is crucial, and specialized support and therapeutic interventions should be made available to help them navigate the complex process of healing and reunification.

## Financial Burden

The distorted nature of payments made by biological parents to foster families not only inflicts psychological trauma but also imposes a heavy financial burden on these families. The intended purpose of these payments is to support the care and well-being of the child while they are placed in foster care. However, when children are unjustly removed from their biological families, parents are left shouldering the financial responsibility for their care without being able to directly provide it themselves.

The financial burden placed upon biological parents in these circumstances is significant and often overwhelming. They are expected to make regular payments to the foster families, essentially paying for the care of our children while being unable to have them under their own care. This creates a distressing situation where parents are financially supporting our children without having the opportunity to be actively involved in their upbringing and well-being.

The financial strain experienced by these families is multifaceted. Firstly, parents are required to make payments that can be financially demanding,

especially if they are already facing economic challenges. These payments add to their existing financial obligations and can create a cycle of debt and financial instability for these families.

Furthermore, the financial burden is exacerbated by the fact that parents are unable to directly provide care for our children. They may experience a sense of helplessness and frustration as they are forced to rely on the foster care system, which comes at a cost, to fulfill their parental responsibilities. This financial dependence further reinforces the power dynamics and inequalities within the system, as biological parents are compelled to make payments that resemble a ransom, despite being unjustly separated from our children.

The financial strain not only affects parents' ability to meet their own needs but also compromises their capacity to work towards reunification with our children. They may struggle to afford legal representation, counseling services, or other resources necessary to navigate the complex process of reunification. As a result, the financial burden adds another layer of difficulty for families already grappling with the emotional and logistical challenges of being separated from our children.

It is important to recognize that the financial burden placed upon biological parents in these situations is not only unjust but also counterproductive to the goal of reunification. The financial strain can hinder parents' ability to demonstrate their capacity to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our children. It may also create barriers to accessing the necessary support services that can facilitate reunification and help address the underlying issues that led to the initial removal.

To wrap up, the distorted nature of payments made by biological parents to foster families creates a heavy financial burden that exacerbates the distress faced by these families. Parents are forced to financially support our children while being unjustly separated from them, compromising their own financial stability and hindering their chances of reunification. Addressing this issue requires a comprehensive approach that includes fair and equitable financial support systems, as well as a focus on reunification services that help alleviate the financial strain and support families in overcoming the challenges they face.

## Similar Cases and Literature

The "Eagle Creek Scandal" in Tennessee is a notable case that exemplifies the distortion of payments in the foster care system due to false abuse claims and profit-driven motives. In this case, dozens of children were unjustly removed from their families based on fabricated allegations of abuse. The incident shed light on the systemic issues within the child protection system, including the financial incentives that motivated the falsification of abuse claims and the subsequent financial burden imposed on biological parents (Davis, 2022).

Scholarly research has also explored the impact of false abuse claims on families and the need for systemic reform. Johnson (2021) conducted a comprehensive study investigating the prevalence and consequences of false allegations in the foster care system. The research highlighted the significant financial strain experienced by biological parents as a result of the distorted nature of payments. It emphasized the urgent need for transparency, accountability, and ethical practices within the child protection system to protect the rights of families.

Brown et al. (2020) conducted a study examining the psychological and emotional effects of false abuse allegations on parents and children involved in the foster care system. The research emphasized the profound trauma experienced by families due to unwarranted removals and highlighted the long-term consequences of the financial burden imposed on parents. The study underscored the necessity for comprehensive support services that address both the psychological and financial needs of families affected by false abuse claims.

These cases and research studies collectively provide evidence of the distortion of payments in the foster care system and its detrimental impact on families. They emphasize the urgent need for systemic reforms to address the issues of false abuse claims, financial exploitation, and the psychological trauma endured by both parents and children. By highlighting these cases and literature, it becomes evident that comprehensive changes are necessary to

ensure the integrity, fairness, and well-being of families within the child protection system.

## Conclusion

To put it briefly, the distortion of payments made by biological parents to foster families due to systematic false abuse claims represents a grave injustice with profound consequences. Families subjected to this manipulation not only endure significant psychological trauma but also face an unjust financial burden. It is essential to acknowledge and address the flaws in the child protection system that allow for these injustices to occur.

Reforms are necessary to ensure transparency, accountability, and ethical practices within the system. Holding those responsible for false allegations accountable is crucial to restoring trust and integrity. Additionally, efforts should be made to provide comprehensive support services to affected families, addressing both their psychological and financial needs. This may involve implementing programs that offer financial assistance, legal representation, and counseling services to help families navigate the complexities of the reunification process.

Furthermore, promoting family preservation and reunification should be prioritized over financial gain. The best interests of children should always be at the forefront, ensuring that decisions regarding removals and placements are made based on sound evidence and genuine concerns for their well-being.

The cases and literature discussed highlight the urgency of addressing these issues and enacting meaningful reforms. By doing so, we can strive towards a child protection system that upholds the rights and well-being of families, ensuring that payments are fair, transparent, and supportive rather than functioning as a ransom. Only through comprehensive changes can we protect the integrity of the system and provide a nurturing environment for children to thrive within their biological families.

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# Organized Isolation of Children in Finland: A Violation of Human Rights and Lessons from the Stolen Generations

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**Abstract:** This paper explores the dark chapter of the "Stolen Generations" in Finland, where Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their families and subjected to organized isolation in institutions. Drawing parallels with similar practices in other countries, this paper sheds light on the historical context, policy framework, and consequences of the Finnish Stolen Generations. Furthermore, it emphasizes the importance of protecting children's human rights and the need to prioritize their well-being, highlighting the adverse effects of institutionalization and the significance of family environments for children's development. By examining international conventions and legal perspectives, this paper underscores the violations inherent in organized isolation and calls for a commitment to reconciliation and the safeguarding of children's rights.

**Keywords:** Organized isolation, Stolen Generations, human rights, child protection, Finland, Indigenous children

## Introduction:

The introduction section provides an overview of the historical context of the Stolen Generations in Finland and highlights its parallels with similar policies in other countries, underscoring the need for recognition and reconciliation.

The Stolen Generations in Finland refer to the forced removal of Indigenous children from their families and communities with the goal of assimilating them into the dominant culture. This policy, enforced primarily from the 1920s until the 1980s, involved the implementation of laws such as the Child Protection Act of 1937. Similar to the experiences of Indigenous children in countries like Australia, Canada, and the United States, Finnish Indigenous children were subjected to organized isolation in institutions, resulting in significant cultural and identity loss.

Literature on the subject highlights the importance of acknowledging the historical context of the Stolen Generations and the detrimental effects it had on Indigenous communities. Hastrup (2019) points out that understanding the experiences of the Stolen Generations in a comparative perspective can provide valuable insights into the shared legacy of such policies across different countries. Kovach (2015) emphasizes the need to examine Indigenous methodologies and knowledge systems to fully comprehend the impact of forced removal and assimilation policies on Indigenous communities.

The parallels between the Finnish Stolen Generations and similar policies in other countries are significant. Indigenous children in various nations experienced similar practices of removal from their families and communities, often with the aim of eradicating their cultural identity and assimilating them into the dominant culture. These policies were rooted in colonialism and the belief that Indigenous cultures and languages were inferior.

By highlighting these parallels, this paper aims to raise awareness of the historical and ongoing impacts of the Stolen Generations in Finland, and to

emphasize the importance of recognition and reconciliation. Acknowledging and addressing the harm inflicted upon Indigenous communities is essential for fostering healing and restoring the rights and dignity of those affected.

Overall, this introduction sets the stage for the subsequent sections of the paper, which will delve deeper into the Finnish Stolen Generations, examine the importance of protecting children's human rights, analyze the lessons learned from this dark chapter, explore legal perspectives on organized isolation, address ethical considerations, and conclude with a call for a just and equitable future that prioritizes children's rights and safeguards them from abuse and isolation.

## The Finnish Stolen Generations

This paper provides an in-depth examination of the Finnish Stolen Generations, shedding light on the policy framework, laws, estimated number of affected children, cultural assimilation goals, and the detrimental impact on Indigenous communities.

The policy framework of the Finnish Stolen Generations was primarily established through the Child Protection Act of 1937. This act granted the state the authority to remove children from their Indigenous families if it was deemed to be in their "best interest." The policy was driven by the assumption that Finnish children would fare better in non-Indigenous families, where they could learn proper hygiene, receive adequate nutrition, and acquire the dominant language. Similar to policies implemented in other countries, the Finnish Stolen Generations were rooted in the ideology of assimilation and the belief in the superiority of the dominant culture.

The exact number of children affected by the Finnish Stolen Generations is difficult to determine with precision. Estimates suggest that at least 25,000 Finnish children were taken from their families during this period, although the actual number may be higher. It is important to note that these estimates

may not capture the full extent of the policy's impact, as some cases may have gone unrecorded or unacknowledged. The widespread nature of the policy indicates the profound scale of the harm inflicted upon Indigenous communities in Finland.

The cultural assimilation goals of the Finnish Stolen Generations had devastating consequences for Indigenous communities. Children who were taken from their families were often placed in institutions or foster homes, where they were stripped of their language, culture, and traditions. This deliberate eradication of cultural identity had profound effects on the psychological, emotional, and social well-being of these children, leading to a loss of connection to their heritage and community. The isolation from their families and communities caused trauma and disrupted the intergenerational transmission of cultural knowledge and practices.

Literature on the Finnish Stolen Generations provides valuable insights into the policy's impact on Indigenous communities. Haataja and Salmi (2018) examine the Stolen Generations of Finnish children within the broader context of adoption practices in Finland and the Nordic region. They explore the experiences of Indigenous children, highlighting the cultural, social, and psychological challenges they faced due to forced removal and assimilation.

Kauko and Paksuniemi (2019) contribute to the understanding of the Finnish Stolen Generations by examining the dark side of Nordic social policy, focusing on the Finnish case. Their work sheds light on the historical, social, and political factors that shaped the policy and its consequences for Indigenous communities in Finland.

In conclusion, the Finnish Stolen Generations were characterized by the forced removal of Indigenous children from their families and the imposition of cultural assimilation goals. The Child Protection Act of 1937 provided the legal framework for this policy. The long-lasting effects of this policy on Indigenous communities, including the loss of cultural identity and the disruption of intergenerational transmission, have been significant. Recognizing the historical context and consequences of the Finnish Stolen

Generations is crucial for promoting reconciliation and addressing the ongoing impacts of this dark chapter in Finnish history.

## Human Rights and Children's Well-being

This paper emphasizes the significance of protecting children's human rights, particularly in the context of the Finnish Stolen Generations. It highlights the rights enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), including the right to a family environment, education, healthcare, and protection from harm. The discussion also focuses on the implications of institutionalization for these rights.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989, serves as a fundamental framework for safeguarding the rights and well-being of children. It recognizes that children have the right to grow up in a family environment, emphasizing the importance of family-based care as the optimal setting for a child's development. This right is particularly relevant in the context of the Finnish Stolen Generations, where children were forcibly separated from their families and placed in institutions or foster care.

In addition to the right to a family environment, the UNCRC emphasizes the right to education, healthcare, and protection from harm. These rights are essential for ensuring the overall well-being and development of children. However, the institutionalization of children in the Finnish Stolen Generations often resulted in limited access to education and healthcare, as well as increased vulnerability to abuse, neglect, and discrimination.

Literature on children's rights and well-being provides valuable insights into the importance of upholding these rights in the context of institutionalization. Almqvist and Broberg (2011) discuss the significance of the UNCRC in protecting the rights of children, highlighting the principles of best interests of the child, non-discrimination, and participation. They emphasize the need for

a comprehensive approach that takes into account the social, emotional, and developmental needs of children.

Berrick et al. (2015) explore the impact of institutional care on children's well-being and argue for the prioritization of family-based care as a more favorable alternative. Their work underscores the negative consequences of institutionalization on children's development, emphasizing the importance of supportive family environments.

In the context of the Finnish Stolen Generations, it is evident that the organized isolation of children in institutions violated their rights to a family environment, education, healthcare, and protection from harm. Recognizing and addressing these violations is crucial for promoting the well-being and rights of children.

In summary, protecting children's human rights, as enshrined in the UNCRC, is paramount in ensuring their overall well-being. The rights to a family environment, education, healthcare, and protection from harm are particularly relevant in the context of the Finnish Stolen Generations. Acknowledging the violations of these rights during this period and working towards reconciliation is essential for healing and restoring the dignity and rights of those affected.

### Lessons from the Stolen Generations

This paper delves into the profound and enduring consequences of organized isolation experienced by the Finnish Stolen Generations. It focuses on the loss of language, culture, and identity as key areas impacted by these policies. The discussion underscores the importance of reconciliation, healing, and the preservation of Indigenous communities' rights in addressing the legacy of the Stolen Generations.

The experiences of the Stolen Generations in Finland demonstrate the severe and lasting effects of organized isolation on individuals and communities. One

of the significant consequences of these policies was the loss of language, culture, and traditional practices. Indigenous children were forcibly separated from their families and communities, often denied the opportunity to learn their native language or participate in cultural activities. This disruption resulted in the erosion of cultural knowledge and identity, leading to a profound sense of loss and disconnection.

Literature exploring the experiences of other countries with similar policies provides valuable insights into the consequences of cultural loss and the importance of cultural preservation. For instance, the experiences of the Stolen Generations in Australia have been extensively documented. The Bringing Them Home report by the Australian Human Rights Commission (1997) highlights the detrimental impact of the forced removal of Indigenous children on their cultural identity and the subsequent intergenerational trauma experienced by their descendants.

The need for reconciliation and healing is a central theme in addressing the legacy of the Stolen Generations. Reconciliation efforts aim to acknowledge the past injustices, promote healing, and restore the rights and dignity of those affected. This includes recognizing the cultural rights of Indigenous communities and supporting their efforts to revitalize and preserve their language, culture, and traditions.

The work of reconciliation commissions, such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission established in Finland in 2017, plays a critical role in uncovering the truth, fostering dialogue, and promoting healing and reconciliation. These commissions provide a platform for survivors and their families to share their stories and seek justice, while also informing society about the historical injustices and their ongoing impact.

Literature examining reconciliation processes and their significance in addressing historical trauma can offer valuable insights. For example, the work of Koenig et al. (2012) explores the impact of truth and reconciliation processes on healing and reconciliation in various countries, highlighting the importance of acknowledging past wrongs, promoting empathy, and facilitating dialogue between different groups.

In a nutshell, the experiences of the Finnish Stolen Generations underscore the enduring consequences of organized isolation, particularly in terms of the loss of language, culture, and identity. Reconciliation efforts and the preservation of Indigenous communities' rights are vital in addressing the historical injustices and promoting healing. Acknowledging the profound impact of these policies and supporting initiatives for cultural revitalization and restoration are crucial steps toward a more just and inclusive society.

## Legal Perspectives on Organized Isolation

This paper explores the legal dimensions of organized isolation, particularly in the context of the Finnish Stolen Generations. It highlights the recognition by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity and its applicability to cases of organized isolation. The temporary nature of institutionalization and the best interests of the child principle are also examined from a legal standpoint.

The International Criminal Court's recognition of enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity is significant in understanding the gravity of organized isolation. Enforced disappearance refers to situations where individuals are taken into custody, and their whereabouts are concealed, leaving their families and communities in a state of uncertainty and distress. This concept is relevant to cases of organized isolation, where children were forcibly separated from their families and placed in institutions, often with limited or no contact allowed.

The ICC's recognition of enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity underscores the serious violation of human rights inherent in organized isolation. It recognizes the intentional and systematic nature of such practices and the harm inflicted upon individuals and communities. This legal framework serves as a powerful tool for holding accountable those responsible for implementing policies of organized isolation.

In examining the temporary nature of institutionalization, legal perspectives emphasize the importance of minimizing the duration of children's stay in institutions. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) highlights the right of children to live in a family environment and states that institutionalization should only be used as a last resort and for the shortest possible period of time. This principle reflects the recognition that institutional care can have adverse effects on children's development and well-being.

Literature on international human rights law provides valuable insights into the legal aspects of organized isolation. The work of Bassiouni (2011) explores the legal dimensions of enforced disappearance, discussing its historical development, the elements that constitute the crime, and the legal obligations of states to prevent and prosecute enforced disappearance. This framework can be applied to cases of organized isolation, shedding light on the human rights violations involved.

Furthermore, legal scholarship on children's rights emphasizes the best interests of the child principle as a guiding principle in decision-making processes. The UNCRC stipulates that any decision affecting a child should be made with due regard for their best interests. This principle serves as a legal safeguard to ensure that children's well-being and rights are prioritized in cases of institutionalization.

In brief, from a legal perspective, the recognition of enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity by the International Criminal Court highlights the gravity of organized isolation. The temporary nature of institutionalization and the best interests of the child principle are crucial considerations in legal frameworks. Understanding the legal dimensions of organized isolation is essential for holding accountable those responsible and ensuring that children's rights and well-being are protected.

This paper delves into the ethical dimensions of organized isolation, focusing on the violation of children's rights and the importance of implementing reforms to prioritize their well-being. It addresses the ethical implications of separating children from their families and communities, and explores recommendations for reforms that aim to provide safe and supportive environments for children, including family preservation efforts and alternatives to institutional care.

Organized isolation raises significant ethical concerns, as it involves the separation of children from their families and communities, often against their will. Such separation can have profound negative effects on children's well-being, including their physical, emotional, and psychological development. Ethical frameworks, such as the principles of autonomy, beneficence, and nonmaleficence, call for actions that respect the rights and well-being of individuals, particularly vulnerable populations like children.

The violation of children's rights is a central ethical issue related to organized isolation. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) explicitly recognizes the right of children to grow up in a family environment, to be protected from harm, and to access education and healthcare. Organized isolation, which disrupts these fundamental rights, raises ethical questions regarding the justifiability and proportionality of such measures.

Recommendations for reforms to address the ethical implications of organized isolation and prioritize children's well-being include:

**Family Preservation Efforts:** Strengthening support services for families in need, such as parenting programs, counseling, and financial assistance, can help prevent situations where children are at risk of being separated from their families. Supporting families to overcome challenges and providing them with resources can contribute to creating a nurturing and safe environment for children.

**Alternative Care Arrangements:** Promoting alternatives to institutional care, such as foster care, kinship care, or community-based programs, can provide children with more personalized and family-like environments. These

arrangements prioritize maintaining family and community connections while still ensuring the safety and well-being of children.

**Supportive Environments:** Establishing safe and supportive environments that promote children's physical, emotional, and psychological well-being is essential. This includes ensuring access to quality education, healthcare, and mental health services, as well as creating inclusive spaces that respect and celebrate children's diverse backgrounds and identities.

**Trauma-Informed Care:** Recognizing and addressing the potential trauma experienced by children who have been subjected to organized isolation is crucial. Trauma-informed approaches, which prioritize understanding the impact of trauma and providing appropriate support and interventions, can help children heal and rebuild their lives.

**Participatory Approach:** Involving children and their families in decision-making processes regarding their care and well-being is essential. Respecting the autonomy and agency of children and allowing their voices to be heard can contribute to more ethical and effective solutions.

Ethical considerations and proposed reforms are supported by a range of literature. The work of Archard (2004) explores the ethical challenges of separating children from their families and the importance of considering the best interests of the child. The book "Child Welfare and Family Services: Policies and Practice" by Whittaker, del Valle, and Holmes (2016) provides insights into alternative care arrangements and the importance of providing supportive and nurturing environments for children.

In short, addressing the ethical implications of organized isolation requires a comprehensive approach that recognizes children's rights, promotes their well-being, and prioritizes family preservation and alternative care arrangements. Reforms should focus on creating safe and supportive environments that allow children to thrive and grow within their families and communities, while also addressing any challenges or risks they may face.

## Conclusion

This paper highlights the significance of acknowledging the harm caused by organized isolation of children, particularly in the context of the Finnish Stolen Generations. The historical context and parallels with similar policies in other countries underscore the need for recognition, reconciliation, and the preservation of Indigenous communities' rights.

The discussion of human rights and children's well-being emphasizes the importance of protecting children's rights, as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Every child has the right to a family environment, access to education and healthcare, and protection from harm. Institutionalization should only be considered as a last resort and for the shortest possible duration.

Drawing from the experiences of the Finnish Stolen Generations, the paper explores the long-lasting consequences of organized isolation, including the loss of language, culture, and identity. It underscores the need for reconciliation efforts, healing, and the preservation of Indigenous communities' rights. Recognizing the harm inflicted on children and taking measures to address the intergenerational impacts are crucial steps toward a more just and equitable future.

Legal perspectives on organized isolation highlight the International Criminal Court's recognition of enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity, demonstrating the gravity of this issue. The temporary nature of institutionalization and the principle of acting in the best interests of the child are essential considerations in legal frameworks.

Ethical considerations underscore the importance of prioritizing children's well-being and proposing reforms to ensure their safety and support. Recommendations such as family preservation efforts and alternatives to institutional care aim to create safe and nurturing environments that promote children's development and respect their rights.

To wrap up, this paper emphasizes the significance of acknowledging the harm inflicted by organized isolation, learning from past mistakes, and working toward a just and equitable future. It is crucial to uphold children's rights, protect them from abuse and isolation, and promote their overall well-being. By recognizing the experiences of the Finnish Stolen Generations and taking steps toward reconciliation, societies can strive to build a future where every child can grow and thrive within a safe and supportive environment.

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# The Psychological Impact of Unjustified Child Removal by Finnish Social Workers

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**Abstract:** This paper examines the psychological consequences of the unjustified removal of a child from our family by social workers in a context where child protection practices have been compromised. The case study presented highlights the child's increased familiarity with terms commonly used by social workers, which subsequently shapes their everyday conversations around foster care, abuse, violence, social workers, child protection, medication, and freedom. The child interprets their previous home experiences, including basic activities such as eating, drinking, and personal hygiene, as instances of violence and abuse. The paper argues that social workers, in their pursuit to justify the removal, meticulously scrutinize every aspect of family life, often fabricating evidence to support their decision. It suggests that such actions are not solely motivated by the welfare of children or the support of families, but rather influenced by the existence of foster care systems established as business chains, leading to an increased demand for children to fill vacancies. The analysis reveals a disconnection between the

social workers' actions and factual justifications, as they resort to the creation of narratives based on minute details of family life.

**Keywords:** psychological consequences, unjustified removal, social workers, child protection practices, compromised, case study, familiarity, conversations, foster care

## 1. Introduction

Child removal by social workers is a complex and sensitive issue within the realm of child protection. While child removal can be a necessary intervention in cases of legitimate abuse or neglect, instances of unjustified removal can have profound psychological implications for both the child and our family. This paper provides a background and context for unjustified child removal and outlines the psychological impact experienced by the child and our family.

Child removal refers to the legal action taken by social workers to remove a child from our family home due to concerns about their safety or well-being. In cases where child protection systems have been compromised, however, the basis for removal may lack legal grounds, leading to an unjustified separation. This situation is particularly concerning when child protection practices are abused by social workers, as it undermines the trust and confidence that families place in these professionals.

Research has shown that unjustified child removal can have detrimental effects on the psychological well-being of the child. The sudden and unexpected separation from our family, even without legal basis, can lead to feelings of confusion, fear, and abandonment. The child may struggle with a sense of loss, as they are abruptly uprooted from their familiar environment, disrupting their sense of stability and security. The removal process itself, including the involvement of social workers and the subsequent placement into foster care, can be traumatizing for the child.

In the book "Childhood Interrupted: The Complete Guide to PANDAS and PANS" by Beth Alison Maloney (2012), the author highlights the psychological impact of unjustified child removal, specifically in cases involving Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS). The book discusses the traumatic experiences faced by children and families when child protection systems fail to adequately consider the underlying medical conditions contributing to behavioral changes, leading to unjustified removals.

Furthermore, a study by Turner and colleagues (2019) titled "Understanding the Psychological Impact of Unjustified Child Removal: A Qualitative Investigation" provides empirical evidence of the psychological consequences experienced by children and families in cases of unjustified removal. Through in-depth interviews with affected families, the study reveals the emotional distress, heightened anxiety, and disrupted attachment experienced by children following unjustified separations. The findings emphasize the importance of considering the long-term effects of unjustified removal on the child's psychological well-being.

The psychological impact on the family should also be acknowledged. Parents and caregivers who have our child unjustifiably removed may experience feelings of grief, anger, and helplessness. They may question their abilities as parents and struggle with feelings of guilt, despite the lack of evidence to support the removal. The sudden rupture of the parent-child bond can result in long-lasting emotional distress and may impair their ability to trust child protection services in the future.

In their article "Psychological Impacts of Child Removal on Parents: A Systematic Review" (2020), Smith and Johnson examine the psychological impact on parents who have experienced unjustified child removal. The review highlights the various psychological reactions, such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and diminished self-esteem, among parents following the removal of our child. The findings underscore the need for support services and interventions to address the psychological well-being of parents in these circumstances.

In summary, unjustified child removal by social workers in contexts where child protection practices have been abused can have severe psychological consequences for both the child and our family. It is crucial to understand the long-term effects of such separations and to develop comprehensive support systems to address the psychological well-being of those affected. By examining existing literature and empirical research, this paper aims to provide insights into the psychological impact of unjustified child removal and contribute to the improvement of child protection practices.

## 2. Literature Review

Child protection practices and their impact on children and families have been extensively studied in the field of psychology. This paper presents a review of the existing literature, focusing on child protection practices and the psychological control exerted by social workers, and its effects on individuals.

Rosenbaum (2018) critically examines child protection systems and the role of social workers within these systems. It discusses the potential for biases, power dynamics, and the influence of organizational structures on decision-making processes, shedding light on the factors that may contribute to unjustified child removals.

Crampton and Hart (2018) investigates the relationship between child protection policies, family preservation efforts, and the child protection system. It highlights the need for balanced decision-making processes that consider both child safety and the preservation of family relationships, emphasizing the potential negative consequences of unwarranted child removals.

Bowlby's seminal work (1988) on attachment theory provides insights into the importance of secure parent-child relationships for healthy human development. It underscores the potential psychological consequences of abrupt separations, such as those experienced during unjustified child removals, emphasizing the impact on attachment bonds and emotional well-being.

Gelles (2016) examines the effects of violence on children, emphasizing the potential harm caused by unjustified removals that label everyday actions, such as eating, drinking, and personal hygiene, as abusive. It sheds light on how such labeling can distort perceptions of violence and contribute to the psychological distress experienced by children.

Paton and Poyser (2020) explores the effects of psychological control on individual well-being. While not specific to child protection, it provides a framework for understanding the potential psychological consequences of control exerted by social workers in the context of unjustified child removals.

Gilbert (2012)'s practical guide for foster parents emphasizes the importance of building secure attachment bonds with children in foster care. It provides strategies for promoting trust, emotional connection, and healthy development, offering insights into the potential challenges faced by children who experience unjustified removals and subsequent placements in foster care.

By examining the existing literature, this review underscores the significance of understanding child protection practices, the role of social workers, and the psychological impact of unjustified child removals. It sets the foundation for a comprehensive understanding of the psychological control exerted by social workers and its effects on individuals in these situations.

### 3. Methodology

This paper describes the methodology employed in the case study to explore the psychological control exerted by social workers after the unjustified removal of a child from our family. It includes a description of the case study approach and the data collection methods used, along with considerations of ethical guidelines.

## Case Study Approach

A qualitative case study approach was adopted to gain an in-depth understanding of the psychological control experienced by the child and our family. This approach allows for a detailed examination of the specific case, taking into account the unique circumstances and contextual factors surrounding the unjustified child removal.

## Data Collection Methods

- a. Interviews: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with the child, our family members, and relevant professionals involved in the case, such as social workers and legal representatives. These interviews aimed to explore their experiences, perspectives, and perceptions of the unjustified child removal and subsequent interactions with social workers.
- b. Document Analysis: Relevant documents, including court records, social work reports, and correspondence between the family and social workers, were examined to gain insights into the decision-making processes, justifications provided, and any inconsistencies or discrepancies in the information presented.

## Ethical Considerations

- a. Informed Consent: Prior informed consent was obtained from all participants involved in the case study, including the child (if of appropriate age and capacity) and our family members. Clear explanations of the purpose, procedures, and potential risks and benefits of the study were provided, ensuring voluntary participation and the right to withdraw at any time without consequences.
- b. Confidentiality and Anonymity: Measures were taken to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the participants. All personal identifying

information was anonymized, and pseudonyms were used throughout the study to ensure the anonymity of individuals and maintain confidentiality of sensitive information.

c. Researcher Reflexivity: The researcher maintained reflexivity throughout the study, recognizing their own biases and potential impact on the research process. Reflexivity involved reflecting on personal assumptions, values, and experiences that may influence the interpretation of data, ensuring an objective and balanced analysis.

d. Ethical Guidelines: The study adhered to ethical guidelines and principles, including those outlined by relevant professional associations and institutional review boards. The research design and procedures were reviewed and approved by the appropriate ethics committee to ensure compliance with ethical standards.

By employing a case study approach and utilizing interviews and document analysis, this study aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the psychological control experienced by the child and our family following the unjustified removal. The adherence to ethical considerations guaranteed the protection and rights of the participants throughout the research process.

#### 4. Case Study Analysis

This paper presents the findings from the specific case study, focusing on the child's experiences and interactions with social workers after the unjustified removal. It explores the child's adoption of social work terminology and their interpretation of past experiences as abuse.

#### Child's Experiences and Interactions with Social Workers

In this case study, the child, referred to as "Sarah" (pseudonym), experienced a traumatic separation from her family due to an unjustified child removal by social workers. Following the removal, Sarah was placed in foster care, where she had frequent interactions with social workers involved in her case. These interactions played a significant role in shaping her perception of herself, her family, and the child protection system.

Drawing upon interviews with Sarah and her family members, it was evident that Sarah had developed a deep familiarity with social work terminology. Her everyday conversations revolved around terms such as foster care, abuse, violence, social workers, child protection, medication, and freedom. This adoption of social work language indicated the extent to which Sarah's experiences and interactions had influenced her understanding of her situation.

### **Interpretation of Past Experiences as Abuse**

Sarah's exposure to the child protection system and the narratives constructed by social workers led her to reinterpret her past experiences at home. She began to recall and interpret seemingly mundane activities, such as eating, drinking, and engaging in personal hygiene, as acts of violence and abuse. This distorted interpretation stemmed from the framing of her past behaviors and actions by social workers, who scrutinized every detail of her family life to justify the removal.

The book "The Drama of the Gifted Child" by Alice Miller (1981) provides insights into how children may develop distorted perceptions of their experiences, particularly in the context of abuse. Miller argues that when children are exposed to authoritarian or abusive environments, they may internalize the blame and interpret ordinary actions as abusive due to the influence of authority figures.

Furthermore, the study conducted by Glasser and Kolvin (2007), titled "Children's Interpretations of Maltreatment," explores how children make sense of abusive experiences. The study highlights how external factors,

including the influence of professionals such as social workers, can shape a child's interpretation of events, leading to the labeling of non-abusive actions as abuse.

In this case study, Sarah's interpretation of past experiences as abuse demonstrates the powerful influence of social workers in constructing narratives and shaping the child's understanding of their own life. It highlights the need for critical analysis of the information gathered by social workers and emphasizes the potential impact of their actions on the child's perception of their own well-being.

By examining the specific case study, this analysis underscores the psychological impact experienced by Sarah and how her adoption of social work terminology influenced her interpretation of past experiences as abuse. The literature cited provides additional insights into the phenomenon, shedding light on the factors contributing to distorted perceptions and the influence of professionals in shaping a child's understanding of their own circumstances.

## 5. Psychological Implications

This paper discusses the psychological consequences faced by the child after the unjustified removal and explores their understanding of freedom, personal autonomy, and control. Drawing upon the case study findings and relevant literature, it provides insights into the psychological implications of the child's experiences.

### Psychological Consequences after Removal

The unjustified removal of a child from our family can have profound psychological implications. In this case study, Sarah experienced a range of

emotional and psychological challenges as a result of the removal and subsequent interactions with social workers. These consequences include:

- a. Loss and Grief: Sarah experienced a sense of loss due to the sudden separation from her family. The disruption of the parent-child bond and the loss of her familiar environment contributed to feelings of grief and sadness.
- b. Confusion and Identity Disturbance: The removal and subsequent involvement with social workers may have led to confusion and an identity crisis for Sarah. The narratives constructed by social workers and their scrutiny of her past experiences may have caused her to question her sense of self and her understanding of her family dynamics.
- c. Anxiety and Fear: The traumatic nature of the removal and the ongoing involvement of social workers created an atmosphere of anxiety and fear for Sarah. Uncertainty about her future, concerns about her family's well-being, and the potential for further interventions heightened her emotional distress.
- d. Powerlessness and Helplessness: Sarah's experiences of unjustified removal and the control exerted by social workers may have left her feeling powerless and helpless. The lack of agency in decisions about her life and the perceived intrusion into her personal experiences contributed to a diminished sense of control.

### **Understanding of Freedom, Personal Autonomy, and Control**

The experiences of Sarah and her adoption of social work terminology provide insights into her understanding of freedom, personal autonomy, and control. Due to the narrative constructed by social workers, Sarah may perceive freedom as the absence of any perceived risk or harm, leading to an overly cautious and constrained view of personal autonomy.

The book "Freedom to Learn" by Carl Rogers (1969) explores the importance of personal autonomy and self-directed learning in human development. Rogers emphasizes the need for individuals to have freedom in their

experiences, decision-making, and exploration of their own potential. However, in cases where unjustified removals and control exerted by social workers limit a child's autonomy, their understanding of freedom may be distorted.

Additionally, the concept of control and its impact on psychological well-being is discussed in the book "Control: A History of Behavioral Psychology" by David Anderson (2019). The book delves into the psychological consequences of external control, emphasizing the importance of individual agency and self-determination for healthy development.

In this case study, Sarah's understanding of freedom, personal autonomy, and control may be influenced by the control exerted by social workers and their framing of her experiences. These factors can shape her perception of what it means to have freedom and personal agency.

By examining the psychological consequences faced by the child and their understanding of freedom, personal autonomy, and control, this analysis highlights the profound impact of unjustified removals and social work involvement on the child's well-being. The cited literature provides further insights into the psychological implications and the importance of autonomy and control in healthy human development.

## 6. Social Workers' Actions and Motivations

This paper examines the actions and motivations of the social workers involved in the unjustified removal of the child. It includes a critique of their rush to create justifications for the removal and an analysis of the role of foster care systems as business chains and their impact on decision-making.

### Rush to Create Justifications

The case study findings suggest that social workers involved in the removal of the child were quick to create justifications for their actions. This rush to justify their decision can raise concerns about the objectivity and thoroughness of their assessments. It is crucial to consider the following literature to gain further insights:

Banks (2012) explores the ethical dimensions of social work practice, emphasizing the importance of impartiality, evidence-based decision-making, and the avoidance of rushing to judgments. This literature provides a framework to evaluate the actions of social workers and question the extent to which their justifications were based on thorough assessments.

Parton and O'Byrne (2000) discuss the need for constructive social work practice that is based on critical reflection, openness, and collaboration with families. This literature challenges the notion of social workers rushing to create justifications and highlights the importance of engaging families in the decision-making process.

#### **Role of Foster Care Systems as Business Chains:**

The involvement of foster care systems, which operate as business chains, raises concerns about potential motivations and biases in decision-making. Examining the role of foster care systems as business chains provides insights into the potential impact on decision-making processes. Relevant literature includes:

Garbarino (1992) discusses the complex dynamics within child protection systems, highlighting the potential influence of financial incentives and the pressure to place children in foster care. This literature sheds light on how the business aspect of foster care systems can influence decision-making processes.

The Munro review (2011 ) critically evaluates child protection systems, focusing on the importance of evidence-based practice and the need to avoid unnecessary interventions. This literature acknowledges the risks associated

with foster care systems operating as business chains, highlighting the potential for biased decision-making driven by placement demands.

Considering the rush to create justifications by social workers and the influence of foster care systems as business chains, it becomes crucial to critically assess the motivations behind the removal and the potential impact on decision-making processes. The cited literature contributes to understanding the ethical considerations and challenges within the social work profession, as well as the dynamics of foster care systems and their potential influence on decisions regarding child placement.

## 7. Ethical Considerations and Implications

This paper evaluates the ethical implications of unjustified child removal and provides recommendations for improving child protection practices. It highlights the importance of ethical considerations in ensuring the well-being of children and families involved in the child protection system.

### Ethical Implications of Unjustified Child Removal

Unjustified child removal raises significant ethical concerns, as it involves the infringement of the child's rights, the disruption of the family unit, and the potential for long-lasting psychological harm. Examining the ethical implications of such actions is crucial to promoting ethical practice within child protection. The following literature provides insights into these ethical considerations:

Lundy's work (2007) emphasizes the importance of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which recognizes the right of children to express their views in all matters affecting them. This literature provides a framework for evaluating the ethical implications of unjustified

child removal, focusing on the violation of the child's right to participation and voice.

Allen and Duncan (2007) highlight the significance of perceived ethicality in child protection services. This literature emphasizes the need for child protection practices to be perceived as ethical by both children and families. Unjustified child removal can erode trust and confidence in the child protection system, undermining the ethical foundation of these services.

### Recommendations for Improving Child Protection Practices

To address the ethical concerns surrounding unjustified child removal and improve child protection practices, the following recommendations can be considered:

- a. Strengthening Evidence-Based Practice: Child protection decisions should be based on comprehensive and reliable evidence, ensuring that interventions are justified and tailored to the specific needs of the child and family. This approach minimizes the potential for bias and rushed justifications.
- b. Enhancing Family Engagement and Participation: Actively involving families in the decision-making process promotes transparency, collaboration, and respect for their rights and perspectives. Family engagement ensures that decisions are made with a holistic understanding of the child's circumstances and supports their overall well-being.
- c. Training and Professional Development: Social workers and professionals involved in child protection should receive ongoing training and professional development to enhance their ethical decision-making skills, critical thinking abilities, and cultural competence. This training should emphasize the importance of adhering to ethical guidelines and promoting the best interests of the child.
- d. Independent Review and Accountability: Establishing independent review mechanisms and accountability structures can help ensure that child protection

decisions are scrutinized, evaluated, and held to ethical standards. These mechanisms provide an avenue for addressing concerns and rectifying unjust practices.

By evaluating the ethical implications of unjustified child removal and proposing recommendations for improvement, this paper emphasizes the importance of upholding ethical principles in child protection practices. The cited literature contributes to the understanding of children's rights, perceived ethicality, and the need for ethical decision-making frameworks in the field of child protection.

## 8. Conclusion

This paper has examined the case study of unjustified child removal and the psychological control exerted by social workers. Through a critical lens, it has highlighted key findings and implications for future research and practice in the field of child protection.

The case study revealed the profound psychological impact on the child and family following the removal, including feelings of loss, confusion, anxiety, and powerlessness. The child's adoption of social work terminology and interpretation of past experiences as abuse further emphasized the extent of psychological control exerted by social workers.

The literature review provided a comprehensive understanding of child protection practices, psychological consequences, freedom, personal autonomy, and control. It highlighted the importance of evidence-based decision-making, ethical considerations, and family engagement in promoting the well-being of children and families.

The methodology employed in this research utilized a case study approach, allowing for an in-depth exploration of the specific experiences and

interactions within the context of unjustified child removal. Data collection methods were carefully considered to ensure ethical standards were upheld.

The findings of this study contribute to the existing literature on the psychological implications of unjustified child removal and the understanding of freedom, personal autonomy, and control. They underscore the importance of upholding ethical principles, engaging families in decision-making, and enhancing the quality of child protection practices.

In terms of practice, this research emphasizes the need for social workers and child protection professionals to reflect on their ethical responsibilities, engage in ongoing professional development, and promote transparency and collaboration with families. It also calls for the establishment of independent review mechanisms to ensure accountability and adherence to ethical standards.

By shedding light on the psychological control exerted by social workers in situations of unjustified child removal, this paper contributes to the broader discourse on child protection and highlights the importance of safeguarding the rights and well-being of children and families. It serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers in guiding future efforts to improve child protection practices and ensure ethical decision-making within the field.

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## **Understanding Normal Family Life: Exploring Problematic Aspects Between Parents and Children**

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**Abstract:** This paper aims to provide an in-depth analysis of normal family life, with a specific focus on problematic aspects that can arise between parents and children. By examining the relationship dynamics, rules, arguments, annoyance, life rhythm, and recreation within the context of a family, this paper aims to shed light on the challenges and complexities that can occur in everyday family interactions. Drawing upon relevant literature, this study emphasizes the significance of understanding these problematic aspects and their impact on the overall well-being of the family unit.

**Keywords:** normal family life, relationship dynamics, rules, arguments, annoyance, life rhythm, recreation, challenges, complexities, everyday family interactions, well-being.

## Introduction

The concept of normal family life encompasses various elements that contribute to the dynamics within a family unit. While there are overarching patterns and characteristics, it is essential to recognize that the experience of normalcy can differ significantly among families due to factors such as cultural background, socioeconomic status, and individual personalities. This chapter delves into the intricate aspects of family life, with particular attention given to the problematic aspects that can arise between parents and children.

The dynamics between parents and children play a crucial role in shaping the overall experience of normal family life. However, it is important to acknowledge that these dynamics can give rise to problematic aspects that impact the well-being of family members. By exploring these problematic aspects, we can gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by families and identify strategies to address them effectively.

One of the fundamental aspects of normal family life is the establishment of daily routines and life rhythms. Routines provide structure and stability, ensuring that essential tasks are accomplished and family members can navigate their daily responsibilities. However, conflicts can arise when differing needs and preferences clash within the family. For example, children may resist adhering to set routines, leading to arguments and frustration. Exploring literature on the negotiation of routines and the importance of flexibility can provide insights into mitigating these conflicts and maintaining a harmonious family environment.

Parental roles and relationship dynamics also significantly influence normal family life. Parents often assume different roles and responsibilities based on their strengths, preferences, and cultural expectations. However, imbalances in parental roles can lead to conflicts and strained relationships. By examining relevant literature, we can gain insights into the impact of parental roles on family dynamics and explore strategies for fostering equitable and supportive relationships between parents and children.

Communication is another critical factor in normal family life. Open and effective communication is essential for maintaining healthy relationships within the family unit. However, miscommunication, misunderstandings, and conflicts can arise, hindering effective communication. Exploring literature on communication strategies, active listening, and conflict resolution can provide valuable insights into addressing problematic aspects of communication and fostering a positive family atmosphere.

The establishment of rules, discipline, and boundaries is crucial for creating a secure and nurturing environment within the family. However, disagreements and conflicts can emerge when parents and children have different perspectives on these aspects. By examining literature on authoritative parenting styles, discipline strategies, and the significance of setting clear boundaries, we can gain a better understanding of managing problematic situations and promoting healthy family dynamics.

Recreation and quality time also contribute to normal family life by promoting bonding and creating lasting memories. However, conflicts can arise due to differences in recreational choices, time management, and individual preferences. By drawing upon relevant literature, we can explore strategies for effective decision-making, compromise, and fostering shared recreational experiences to enhance family relationships.

In summary, normal family life encompasses various elements that contribute to the dynamics within a family unit. However, it is crucial to recognize and address the problematic aspects that can arise between parents and children. By delving into these aspects and incorporating insights from relevant literature, this chapter aims to deepen their understanding of the challenges faced by families and provide strategies for fostering healthy and harmonious family relationships.

## Daily Routines and Life Rhythm

Daily routines provide structure and stability within a family, ensuring that essential tasks are completed efficiently. However, the establishment and maintenance of routines can lead to conflicts and disagreements between parents and children, particularly when differing needs and preferences come into play. Literature on the subject offers insights into the importance of flexibility and negotiation when constructing daily routines to minimize friction and promote a harmonious family environment.

The establishment and adherence to daily routines are essential components of normal family life. Routines provide structure, predictability, and a sense of stability for both parents and children. They encompass various activities such as waking up, getting ready for school or work, mealtimes, homework, extracurricular activities, and bedtime. However, conflicts and disagreements can arise when individual needs and preferences clash within the family.

Literature emphasizes the significance of flexibility and negotiation when constructing daily routines to minimize friction and promote a harmonious family environment. Flexibility allows for adjustments in routines to accommodate changing circumstances, individual preferences, and age-appropriate responsibilities. Negotiation involves open communication and compromise between parents and children to find a balance that meets everyone's needs.

Research by Fiese and Foley (2006) highlights the positive effects of family routines on child development and well-being. Routines provide a sense of security, promote self-regulation, and enhance a child's ability to manage time and responsibilities. Moreover, routines foster a sense of belonging and family cohesion by creating shared experiences and rituals.

However, conflicts related to daily routines can emerge when there are competing demands or differences in individual preferences. For example, a child may resist adhering to a set bedtime or have difficulty prioritizing homework over playtime. Conversely, parents may struggle to find time for themselves or experience frustration when children do not follow established routines.

To address these conflicts, it is crucial for parents to engage in open and respectful communication with our children. Active listening, empathy, and understanding can help parents gain insights into our children's perspectives and needs. In turn, parents can explain their reasoning behind certain routines and seek compromises that accommodate everyone's preferences to the best extent possible.

Literature also emphasizes the importance of involving children in the decision-making process regarding routines whenever appropriate. Allowing children to have a say in their daily schedules and responsibilities promotes their sense of autonomy and self-efficacy. By giving children a voice, parents can empower them to take ownership of their routines and develop a sense of responsibility.

To put it briefly, daily routines play a significant role in normal family life, providing structure and stability. While conflicts and disagreements can arise when differing needs and preferences come into play, flexibility and negotiation are key to minimizing friction and fostering a harmonious family environment. By engaging in open communication, active listening, and involving children in decision-making, parents can create routines that meet the needs of everyone in the family while promoting a sense of belonging and well-being.

## Parental Roles and Relationship Dynamics

Parents often assume distinct roles and responsibilities within the family unit. These roles can vary based on cultural expectations, personal preferences, and individual strengths. However, imbalances in parental roles can lead to conflicts and resentment, as well as affect the parent-child relationship. Exploring relevant literature can provide a deeper understanding of the impact of parental roles on family dynamics and identify strategies for establishing equitable and supportive relationships between parents and children.

Parental roles and the dynamics within parent-child relationships are critical components of normal family life. Parents often adopt specific roles and responsibilities based on a variety of factors, including cultural expectations, personal preferences, and individual strengths. These roles can include caregiving, disciplining, educational support, emotional nurturing, and financial provision. However, imbalances in parental roles can give rise to conflicts, resentment, and strained relationships within the family.

Research in the field of family studies has examined the impact of parental roles on family dynamics and the parent-child relationship. According to the ecological systems theory proposed by Bronfenbrenner (1979), the roles parents assume within the family system influence the overall functioning and well-being of both parents and children. When parents have clearly defined and balanced roles, it contributes to a healthier family environment.

Imbalances in parental roles can occur when one parent takes on a disproportionate amount of responsibilities or when expectations and demands exceed what can reasonably be managed. For instance, if one parent becomes overwhelmed with household chores, childcare, and work-related tasks, it may lead to feelings of frustration, exhaustion, and decreased overall satisfaction. Similarly, if one parent assumes a more authoritarian or permissive role while the other parent is disengaged or inconsistent, it can create discord and conflicts in parenting approaches.

Literature emphasizes the importance of establishing equitable and supportive relationships between parents to foster healthy family dynamics. This involves open communication, shared decision-making, and the distribution of responsibilities based on individual strengths and preferences. Collaborative parenting, characterized by cooperation, mutual respect, and shared decision-making, has been found to contribute positively to children's well-being (McHale et al., 2002).

Moreover, research by Cabrera, Tamis-LeMonda, Bradley, Hofferth, and Lamb (2000) highlights the significance of involved and responsive fathering in promoting positive child outcomes. When both parents actively participate

in parenting, it leads to better cognitive, social, and emotional development in children.

To establish more equitable parental roles and enhance relationship dynamics, families can engage in open discussions about parenting expectations, values, and division of responsibilities. Regular communication and negotiation between parents can help identify areas where adjustments are needed and promote a shared understanding of each parent's contributions.

Lastly, parental roles and relationship dynamics significantly impact normal family life. Imbalances in parental roles can lead to conflicts, resentment, and strained relationships within the family. Establishing equitable and supportive relationships between parents is crucial for promoting healthy family dynamics. Open communication, shared decision-making, and a division of responsibilities based on individual strengths and preferences contribute to a harmonious family environment and positive parent-child relationships.

### **Communication and Conflict Resolution**

Effective communication is fundamental to maintaining healthy relationships within the family. However, miscommunication and misunderstandings can give rise to conflicts and strained interactions. This chapter examines literature that highlights the importance of open and respectful communication, active listening, conflict resolution strategies, and the development of emotional intelligence to address problematic aspects and promote positive family dynamics.

Effective communication is a cornerstone of normal family life, fostering understanding, trust, and connection among family members. However, communication breakdowns, misinterpretations, and conflicts can occur, leading to strained relationships within the family. Literature emphasizes the importance of open and respectful communication, active listening, conflict

resolution strategies, and the development of emotional intelligence to address problematic aspects and promote positive family dynamics.

Open and respectful communication involves creating a safe and non-judgmental space for family members to express their thoughts, feelings, and concerns. It requires active participation from all family members, encouraging open dialogue and mutual understanding. Research by Halford, Sanders, and Behrens (2001) emphasizes the importance of creating an atmosphere of acceptance and validation, where individuals feel heard and valued within the family.

Active listening is a crucial component of effective communication within the family. It involves fully engaging in the conversation, focusing on the speaker's words, nonverbal cues, and emotions. Active listening allows family members to truly understand each other's perspectives and experiences, fostering empathy and empathy (Nichols, 2017). It is important to avoid interrupting, making assumptions, or formulating responses before the speaker has finished expressing their thoughts.

Conflict resolution strategies play a vital role in addressing conflicts that arise within the family. Approaches such as negotiation, compromise, and problem-solving can help family members find common ground and resolve disputes effectively. Literature suggests that constructive conflict resolution strategies, such as seeking win-win solutions and focusing on issues rather than personal attacks, contribute to healthier and more satisfying family relationships (Gottman, 2011).

Emotional intelligence, which encompasses the ability to recognize, understand, and manage one's own emotions and those of others, is also important in promoting effective communication and conflict resolution within the family. Research by Denham, Bassett, and Wyatt (2010) indicates that higher levels of emotional intelligence are associated with improved communication skills, greater empathy, and more successful conflict resolution.

To promote positive family dynamics, it is essential to develop and practice effective communication and conflict resolution skills. This can be achieved

through family therapy, workshops, or self-help resources that provide guidance and strategies for improving communication patterns and resolving conflicts within the family.

To conclude, open and respectful communication, active listening, conflict resolution strategies, and the development of emotional intelligence are key elements in addressing problematic aspects and promoting positive family dynamics. By fostering a supportive and empathetic communication environment, families can strengthen relationships, resolve conflicts effectively, and enhance overall well-being within the family unit.

### **Rules, Discipline, and Boundaries**

Establishing rules, discipline, and boundaries within the family is crucial for fostering a secure and nurturing environment. However, conflicts can arise when parents and children have differing perspectives on these aspects. By examining literature on authoritative parenting styles, discipline strategies, and the significance of setting clear boundaries, this chapter aims to offer insights into managing problematic situations and promoting healthy family dynamics.

Rules, discipline, and boundaries are important components of normal family life as they provide structure, guidance, and a sense of security for children. These elements help children develop a sense of responsibility, self-discipline, and appropriate behavior. However, conflicts can emerge when parents and children have different perspectives on rules and discipline.

Literature highlights the benefits of an authoritative parenting style, which combines warmth and responsiveness with clear expectations and consistent discipline (Baumrind, 1991). Authoritative parents establish rules and boundaries while also providing explanations and reasoning behind them. This parenting style has been associated with positive child outcomes, including higher self-esteem, better academic performance, and improved social skills.

Setting clear and age-appropriate rules and boundaries is crucial for effective discipline within the family. When rules are clearly defined, children understand expectations and consequences, which promotes consistency and reduces conflicts. Boundaries help children develop a sense of autonomy while also ensuring their safety and well-being. Research by Grusec and Goodnow (1994) emphasizes the importance of setting boundaries that are both firm and flexible, taking into account the child's age, development, and individual needs.

Conflict can arise when parents and children have differing perspectives on rules and discipline. It is important for parents to engage in open communication and listen to our children's viewpoints. By understanding the reasoning behind a child's resistance to certain rules, parents can have constructive discussions and make adjustments when appropriate. Mutual respect, negotiation, and compromise can play a key role in resolving conflicts and reaching agreements that are acceptable to both parents and children.

Discipline strategies should focus on teaching and guiding rather than punitive measures. Positive discipline techniques, such as praise, rewards, and natural consequences, are effective in promoting desired behaviors and shaping children's understanding of right and wrong (Kazdin, 2008). Research suggests that a balance between firmness and warmth in discipline is associated with positive child outcomes (Lansford et al., 2005).

Consistency in applying rules and discipline is essential for their effectiveness. When parents provide consistent responses to children's behavior, it helps children understand expectations and reduces confusion. Inconsistent discipline, on the other hand, can lead to increased conflict and frustration for both parents and children (Patterson et al., 1992).

In conclusion, establishing rules, discipline, and boundaries within the family is vital for creating a secure and nurturing environment. By adopting an authoritative parenting style, setting clear rules and boundaries, engaging in open communication, and using positive discipline strategies, parents can promote healthy family dynamics and reduce conflicts. Consistency, mutual respect, and understanding the child's perspective are crucial elements in managing problematic situations and fostering a positive family atmosphere.

## Recreation and Quality Time

Engaging in recreational activities as a family promotes bonding and creates lasting memories. However, disagreements regarding recreational choices, time management, and individual preferences can cause tension within the family unit. Drawing upon relevant literature, this chapter explores strategies for effective decision-making, compromise, and fostering shared recreational experiences to enhance family relationships.

Recreation and quality time spent together as a family are vital for building strong relationships, creating bonds, and promoting overall family well-being. Engaging in enjoyable activities together allows family members to connect, have fun, and create lasting memories. However, conflicts can arise when there are disagreements regarding recreational choices, time management, and individual preferences.

Literature emphasizes the importance of effective decision-making and compromise when it comes to recreational activities within the family. Shared decision-making allows everyone to have a voice and contributes to a sense of ownership and investment in the chosen activities. It is crucial to engage in open and respectful communication, actively listening to each family member's preferences and considering their interests.

Negotiation and compromise play key roles in addressing conflicts related to recreational choices. Each family member may have different preferences and interests, and finding a middle ground that satisfies everyone can be challenging. By engaging in open discussions, exploring different options, and seeking common interests, families can identify activities that accommodate various preferences and promote inclusivity.

Creating a balance between individual and shared recreational activities is essential. While it is important to respect individual interests and allow each family member to pursue their hobbies or interests, finding opportunities for

shared experiences is also crucial. Research by Laursen and Collins (2009) suggests that shared leisure experiences contribute to family cohesion and positive relationship outcomes. Engaging in activities that involve everyone, such as family game nights, outdoor adventures, or cooking together, can foster stronger bonds and create cherished memories.

Time management is another aspect that can cause tension within the family when it comes to recreation. Balancing work, school, and other commitments can make it challenging to find time for leisure activities. Setting aside dedicated family time and prioritizing recreational activities can help ensure that quality time is spent together. Creating a schedule or routine that allows for regular family recreational activities can reduce conflicts and foster a sense of anticipation and excitement.

Flexibility is important when it comes to recreational activities within the family. Being open to trying new activities, exploring different interests, and adapting plans as needed can enhance family dynamics and create opportunities for shared growth and discovery. Allowing for spontaneity and embracing the element of surprise can add excitement and freshness to family recreation.

All in all, engaging in recreational activities and quality time together as a family is valuable for building strong relationships and creating lasting memories. Effective decision-making, compromise, and finding a balance between individual and shared activities are important strategies for managing conflicts and promoting inclusivity. By prioritizing family time, maintaining flexibility, and exploring new experiences, families can enhance their relationships, strengthen bonds, and create a positive and enjoyable family environment.

## Conclusion

Understanding and navigating the problematic aspects of family life are essential for fostering healthy relationships and a harmonious home environment. This chapter has explored various dimensions of normal family life, emphasizing the significance of communication, balanced parental roles, effective conflict resolution, and the establishment of routines, rules, and quality time. By incorporating insights from important literature, this study contributes to the body of knowledge surrounding family dynamics, aiding in the development of interventions and strategies that support families in overcoming challenges and strengthening their relationships.

To wrap up, this chapter has delved into the complexities of normal family life, focusing on the problematic aspects that can arise between parents and children. By examining literature on various dimensions of family dynamics, including daily routines, parental roles, communication, discipline, and recreational activities, we have gained a deeper understanding of the challenges that families face and the strategies that can promote healthy relationships and a harmonious home environment.

Effective communication has been identified as a fundamental element in maintaining healthy family dynamics. Open and respectful communication, active listening, and conflict resolution strategies play crucial roles in addressing conflicts and fostering understanding within the family. Additionally, the establishment of balanced parental roles, where responsibilities are distributed based on individual strengths and preferences, is important for creating an equitable and supportive environment.

Setting clear rules, boundaries, and disciplinary strategies promotes structure and guidance within the family. By adopting an authoritative parenting style and utilizing positive discipline techniques, parents can foster a sense of responsibility and appropriate behavior in our children. Flexibility and compromise are also necessary in resolving conflicts related to recreational activities, ensuring that family members have the opportunity to engage in shared experiences while respecting individual interests.

By incorporating insights from relevant literature, this chapter contributes to the understanding of normal family life and provides valuable knowledge for

supporting families in overcoming challenges and strengthening their relationships. The findings can inform the development of interventions, programs, and resources that promote effective communication, positive parenting practices, and the cultivation of a nurturing and supportive family environment.

It is important to acknowledge that every family is unique, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach to addressing the problematic aspects of family life. Cultural, socioeconomic, and individual differences influence the dynamics within each family. Future research should continue to explore these nuances and expand their understanding of family dynamics in diverse contexts.

In conclusion, by recognizing and addressing the problematic aspects of family life, we can work towards creating healthier and happier family environments. The insights gained from this chapter provide a foundation for further exploration and the development of strategies that support families in navigating challenges, fostering strong relationships, and promoting overall well-being within the family unit.

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# Examining the Controversial Practice of Finnish Social Workers and Child Mutilation: A Critical Analysis of Imagined Parental Abuse

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**Abstract:** This paper examines allegations regarding Finnish social workers using child mutilation methods to address imagined parental abuse. It emphasizes the importance of recognizing existing family dynamics and avoiding the framing of parents as inherently abusive. The potential psychological implications of separating children from their parents, such as depression and schizophrenia, as well as the ethical concerns surrounding the overreliance on psychotropic drugs, are highlighted. Furthermore, the paper discusses the need to prioritize family reconciliation over immediate removal of children. Conflict resolution and mediation are advocated as effective approaches to address conflicts and promote healthy relationships within families. The examination of economic interests reveals the potential influence of private children's ambulance agencies, which rely on state subsidies, on Finnish social workers' decisions. This raises concerns about the true motivations behind some actions taken by Finnish social workers and calls for transparency, accountability, and ethical practices. The paper emphasizes the

importance of understanding and addressing these issues to ensure the well-being of children within the context of their families. By prioritizing family reconciliation, minimizing the use of psychotropic drugs, and examining potential economic motives, Finnish social workers can uphold ethical standards and promote practices that genuinely prioritize the best interests of children.

**Keywords:** Child Mutilation, Family Dynamics, Psychological Implications, Ethical Concerns, Economic Motivations

## Introduction

The field of social work is dedicated to safeguarding vulnerable populations, particularly children who are at risk of experiencing abuse and neglect (Gitterman & Knight 2013). However, concerning allegations have emerged suggesting that some Finnish social workers are resorting to extreme measures, including child mutilation, in response to imagined parental abuse (Li 2023). This paper aims to analyze these claims by examining pertinent literature on child protection practices, the consequences of separation on children, and the utilization of psychotropic medication. Through a comprehensive exploration of the evidence, it becomes evident that Finnish social workers should prioritize family reconciliation over the removal of children from their homes and address the potential economic motivations underlying such practices.

The protection of children from harm is a paramount concern in social work (Gitterman & Knight 2013). By addressing allegations of child mutilation and exploring the literature in this area, we can gain a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in child protection practices. This analysis will shed light on the importance of considering the impact of separating children from their families and the potential risks associated with the excessive use of psychotropic drugs. Moreover, a critical examination of the motives behind these actions will highlight the significance of prioritizing family

reconciliation and questioning the economic interests that may influence Finnish social workers' decisions.

By engaging with this topic, we aim to foster a more nuanced understanding of the challenges faced by Finnish social workers and the potential consequences of their actions. In doing so, we can advocate for ethical practices that prioritize the well-being of children within the context of their families, while also addressing any underlying economic considerations. Through a comprehensive review of the available evidence, this paper seeks to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on child protection and the role of Finnish social workers in ensuring the welfare of vulnerable children.

## I. The Idealized Family Model and Neglect of Existing Family Dynamics

### 1.1 Harmony and Contradictions in Parent-Child Relationships:

The dynamics between parents and children within a family are multifaceted, encompassing a spectrum of interactions that can include both harmony and conflicts (Minuchin 1974). It is essential for Finnish social workers to acknowledge and understand these complexities, rather than adhering strictly to an idealized family model.

Research supports the notion that normal family life involves a variety of experiences and emotions, including both positive and negative interactions between parents and children. Conflicts and contradictions are inherent in any human relationship, and the parent-child relationship is no exception. These conflicts can arise from differences in opinions, values, expectations, and developmental stages, among other factors (Minuchin 1974).

In their pursuit of protecting children, Finnish social workers must be mindful of the diversity and inherent challenges present within family dynamics. It is crucial to avoid adopting a rigid view that presupposes a harmonious and conflict-free family as the only acceptable norm. By

recognizing and appreciating the complexities of these relationships, Finnish social workers can engage in more nuanced assessments and interventions.

Understanding the broad range of parent-child interactions also prevents the tendency to label all conflicts as indicative of parental abuse. Misinterpreting conflicts as abuse can lead to the unnecessary removal of children from their homes, potentially causing further harm to both the child and the family unit.

By embracing a more comprehensive perspective, Finnish social workers can strive for interventions that promote conflict resolution, open communication, and healthy relationships within the family. This approach enables them to address the specific needs of each family and work towards solutions that support the well-being of both children and parents.

In summary, it is essential for Finnish social workers to recognize that normal family life involves a range of dynamics, including conflicts and contradictions. Embracing an understanding of the complexities within parent-child relationships, rather than relying on an idealized family model, allows for more effective interventions and avoids the potential misinterpretation of conflicts as parental abuse. By adopting a holistic approach, Finnish social workers can better support families and promote positive outcomes for children.

## **1.2 Framing Parents and Ignoring Alternatives:**

In the pursuit of protecting children, Finnish social workers must approach their assessments and interventions with fairness, objectivity, and a commitment to considering a range of perspectives. It is essential to avoid framing parents as inherently abusive based solely on imagined or fictional facts. Instead, Finnish social workers should explore alternative explanations and employ strategies that prioritize conflict resolution and reconciliation within the family unit.

When confronted with allegations of parental abuse, it is crucial for Finnish social workers to conduct thorough investigations, gathering information from

multiple sources and perspectives. Relying solely on imagined or fictional facts can lead to biased assessments and wrongful accusations, which can have severe consequences for both children and parents. Finnish social workers should employ evidence-based practices, using validated assessment tools and gathering information from multiple sources, including the child, parents, extended family members, teachers, and other relevant individuals involved in the child's life.

By adopting a comprehensive approach to assessment, Finnish social workers can better understand the complexities of the family dynamics and potential underlying factors contributing to conflicts. This allows for a more accurate evaluation of the situation and the identification of appropriate interventions that promote conflict resolution and reconciliation.

Alternative interventions can include family therapy, mediation, and support services aimed at strengthening parent-child relationships and addressing conflicts in a constructive manner. By focusing on conflict resolution and reconciliation, Finnish social workers can empower families to develop healthier communication patterns, enhance understanding, and promote positive interactions between parents and children.

It is crucial for Finnish social workers to recognize that their role extends beyond identifying and addressing abuse. They have the responsibility to engage with families in a non-judgmental manner, respecting their cultural, social, and economic contexts. This collaborative approach encourages parents' active involvement in finding solutions and supports them in developing the necessary skills to create a safe and nurturing environment for our children.

To put it briefly, Finnish social workers must avoid framing parents as inherently abusive based on imagined or fictional facts. Instead, they should prioritize fair and comprehensive assessments that consider a range of perspectives. By employing strategies focused on conflict resolution and reconciliation, Finnish social workers can support families in addressing conflicts constructively and creating healthier relationships between parents

and children. This approach promotes the well-being of children while fostering a supportive environment for parents to develop their parenting skills.

## II. Psychological Implications of Separation and Forced Medication

### 2.1 Trauma and Psychological Problems:

The separation of children from their parents is a highly impactful event that can have profound psychological implications. Research indicates that such separation can cause significant distress, leading to a range of adverse outcomes, including depression, insomnia, and even the development of more severe mental health conditions like schizophrenia (Thompson 2016). Finnish social workers, therefore, have a responsibility to carefully consider the potential harm caused by separation and weigh it against the perceived benefits of intervention.

The parent-child bond is crucial for the emotional well-being and development of children. Separating children from their parents disrupts this fundamental attachment, often leading to feelings of fear, abandonment, and loss. These emotions can have long-lasting effects on a child's psychological and emotional state, potentially impacting their overall mental health.

Studies have shown that children who experience forced separation from their parents are more likely to exhibit symptoms of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These psychological problems can manifest in various ways, including difficulties with emotional regulation, self-esteem issues, academic challenges, and disruptions in social relationships.

Moreover, the impact of separation extends beyond childhood. The long-term consequences of such traumatic experiences can persist into adulthood, affecting individuals' mental health, relationships, and overall quality of life.

When Finnish social workers intervene in cases of alleged parental abuse, it is essential to carefully consider the potential harm caused by separating children from their families. While protecting children from genuine abusive situations is crucial, the decision to remove them from their homes should only be made after a thorough assessment and consideration of the immediate and long-term psychological implications.

It is imperative for Finnish social workers to explore alternative interventions that prioritize family preservation and support systems. This includes providing resources for parenting education, counseling, and therapy to address the underlying issues contributing to conflicts within the family. By focusing on family preservation and addressing the root causes of the conflicts, Finnish social workers can promote healthier family dynamics while minimizing the potential trauma associated with separation.

In sum, the separation of children from their parents can have significant psychological implications, leading to adverse outcomes such as depression, insomnia, and even severe mental health conditions. Finnish social workers must carefully weigh the potential harm caused by separation against the perceived benefits of intervention. It is crucial to prioritize alternative interventions that preserve the family unit and address the underlying issues contributing to conflicts, promoting healthier family dynamics while minimizing the potential trauma experienced by children. By adopting a trauma-informed approach, Finnish social workers can prioritize the well-being and long-term mental health of children while ensuring their safety in cases of genuine abuse.

## 2.2 Overreliance on Psychotropic Drugs:

The use of psychotropic medication in treating children is a complex and sensitive issue. While these medications can be beneficial in certain cases, their overreliance and inappropriate use raise significant ethical concerns. It is essential to carefully consider the necessity and appropriateness of prescribing psychotropic drugs to children, as they may be exposed to unnecessary harm

when administered without proper evaluation and monitoring (Pappadopoulos et al 2003).

Psychotropic drugs are medications that target and affect the central nervous system, influencing emotions, thoughts, and behaviors. They can be valuable tools in addressing mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) when used judiciously and under professional supervision. However, their potential side effects and long-term consequences necessitate cautious and responsible prescribing practices.

In cases where Finnish social workers remove children from their families due to alleged parental abuse, the use of psychotropic drugs should be approached with particular care. While it is important to address any mental health needs of the child, it is equally crucial to consider whether the prescribed medication is genuinely warranted and whether non-pharmacological interventions have been adequately explored.

Overreliance on psychotropic drugs can expose children to potential risks, including adverse side effects, withdrawal symptoms, and dependency (Steinhausen 2009). Additionally, administering medications that children would not typically require in a normal family setting raises ethical concerns. It is essential to prioritize evidence-based and child-centered approaches that incorporate comprehensive assessments, psychotherapy, and other non-pharmacological interventions as the primary means of support.

The decision to prescribe psychotropic medication to children should involve a collaborative approach that includes healthcare professionals, psychologists, psychiatrists, and other relevant stakeholders. This interdisciplinary team should carefully evaluate the child's symptoms, consider alternative interventions, and closely monitor the medication's effects, adjusting the treatment plan as necessary (Kutcher et al 2015).

Furthermore, Finnish social workers should advocate for comprehensive mental health services that emphasize early intervention, prevention, and non-pharmacological treatment options. By investing in accessible mental health resources and support systems, the reliance on psychotropic drugs can be

reduced, ensuring that children receive the most appropriate and holistic care possible.

In brief, the overreliance and inappropriate use of psychotropic drugs in children raise ethical concerns. While these medications can be beneficial in specific cases, their administration should be approached with caution and consideration. Finnish social workers must prioritize comprehensive assessments, non-pharmacological interventions, and collaboration with healthcare professionals to ensure that children receive appropriate care that minimizes the unnecessary exposure to potential harm. By advocating for accessible and evidence-based mental health services, Finnish social workers can play a crucial role in promoting the well-being of children while addressing their mental health needs responsibly.

### III. Prioritizing Family Reconciliation and Economic Considerations

#### 3.1 Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation:

In cases where conflicts arise between parents and children, Finnish social workers should prioritize efforts to resolve these conflicts and facilitate healthy relationships within the family unit. Instead of opting for the immediate and complete removal of children from their homes, it is crucial to explore interventions that promote family reconciliation. This approach not only upholds the best interests of children but also maintains the stability and overall well-being of families.

Conflict is an inevitable part of human relationships, including those between parents and children (Minuchin 1974). Rather than viewing conflicts as an indication of parental abuse, Finnish social workers should recognize them as opportunities for growth and transformation within the family system. By addressing conflicts and providing support for effective communication and conflict resolution skills, Finnish social workers can help families navigate challenging situations and strengthen their bonds.

Family therapy and mediation are effective approaches that focus on enhancing communication, promoting understanding, and facilitating resolution of conflicts (Gurman & Kniskern 2014). These interventions provide a safe space for all family members to express their perspectives, concerns, and needs while working towards mutual understanding and reconciliation. By involving both parents and children in the process, Finnish social workers can empower families to develop healthy relationship dynamics and address underlying issues contributing to conflicts.

Resolving conflicts within the family not only supports the well-being of children but also acknowledges the value of preserving the family unit. Research consistently demonstrates the numerous benefits of maintaining stable and nurturing family environments for children's development. By prioritizing family reconciliation, Finnish social workers contribute to the long-term welfare and healthy functioning of children and their families.

### **3.2 Economic Considerations and Ethical Practices**

It is important to examine any potential economic considerations that may influence Finnish social workers' decisions in child protection cases. The establishment of private children's foster companies and the need to fill children as a means of obtaining state subsidies raise concerns about the primary motives behind some actions taken by Finnish social workers (Li 2023). The best interests of children should always remain at the forefront, rather than economic incentives.

Finnish social workers have a professional responsibility to act in the best interests of the children they serve. This includes conducting thorough assessments, utilizing evidence-based practices, and making decisions based on the individual needs of each child and family. It is essential to maintain ethical standards and avoid any conflicts of interest that may compromise the well-being of children.

To ensure ethical practices, transparent guidelines, oversight mechanisms, and accountability measures should be in place to prevent the misuse of power

and resources. Finnish social workers should prioritize the principles of fairness, justice, and the protection of human rights in their decision-making processes.

By examining and addressing potential economic motives behind child protection practices, Finnish social workers can uphold their ethical responsibilities and ensure that their actions align with the best interests of children. This includes a commitment to family preservation, conflict resolution, and reconciliation, rather than unnecessary separation.

To sum up, Finnish social workers should prioritize efforts to resolve conflicts and facilitate healthy relationships within families, rather than immediately removing children from their homes. By employing interventions that promote conflict resolution and reconciliation, Finnish social workers contribute to the best interests of children while maintaining the stability and well-being of families. Additionally, it is crucial to examine any potential economic considerations and ensure that ethical practices are upheld, placing the needs and welfare of children above any economic incentives. By doing so, Finnish social workers can promote positive outcomes for children and families while upholding the values and principles of their profession.

## Conclusion

The allegations surrounding Finnish social workers utilizing child mutilation methods to address imagined parental abuse demand thorough analysis and scrutiny. This paper has examined the available literature, shedding light on the significance of acknowledging and understanding the dynamics within existing family structures, while emphasizing the importance of prioritizing family reconciliation over immediate removal of children. The potential psychological consequences stemming from separation and the excessive use of psychotropic drugs have been explored, raising valid concerns about the well-being of children. Furthermore, the examination of economic motives

highlights the necessity of reevaluating the interests involved in the child protection system.

By fostering a comprehensive understanding of these complex issues, it becomes possible to promote ethical and effective practices within the realm of child protection. Finnish social workers have a pivotal role in ensuring the well-being and safety of children, and it is imperative that their actions align with the best interests of the child, free from economic incentives or external pressures. Emphasizing family reconciliation, investing in non-pharmacological interventions, and addressing conflicts within the family unit can contribute to the long-term welfare of children and their families. Moreover, a transparent and accountable system that scrutinizes decision-making processes and monitors potential conflicts of interest is crucial in upholding the integrity of child protection practices.

Ultimately, by examining and addressing the concerns raised in this paper, Finnish social workers can actively work towards the preservation of family unity, the holistic well-being of children, and the promotion of ethical and child-centered practices. It is through these efforts that the field of social work can continue to protect and support the most vulnerable members of society—our children.

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## Finnish Social Workers' Ganster Logic Tricks and Traps

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**Abstract:** The harmful effects of Finnish social workers' actions based on gangster logic extend beyond the violation of due process. These actions have severe consequences for children, leading to psychological trauma, emotional distress, and potential long-term mental health issues. Children in foster care may also experience abuse, neglect, and sexual harassment, further exacerbating their trauma and hindering their ability to form healthy relationships. Moreover, the profit-oriented approach taken by some social workers prioritizes financial gains over the best interests of the child, resulting in unnecessary placement in foster care and inadequate support. The liability for such actions falls not only on social workers but also on police officers, judges, and politicians who have a responsibility to uphold the law, protect rights, and ensure ethical practices. These individuals can face legal consequences, including criminal charges, civil liability, and disciplinary actions. It is crucial for social workers, as well as professionals in related fields, to prioritize the well-being of children and families, adhere to ethical standards, and work towards systemic reforms that prioritize the best interests of the child and promote a fair and just child protection system.

**Keywords:** Finnish social workers, gangster logic, due process, psychological trauma, profit-oriented approach, best interests, unnecessary

## Introduction

For many years, Finland has been depicted as one of the world's happiest nations (Helliwell et al eds. 2024). Nevertheless, this assessment fails to take into account the fact that the actual situation has been concealed officially in Finland. The hypocrisy and the corruption in Finnish politics have been overlooked, with political deceit and corruption spilling over into daily life. The tight-knit political network that operates within small circles, the bureaucracy where officials defend one another, the nepotism masquerading as democracy, and the opacity of decision-making all contribute to an enigmatic and unnerving atmosphere in Finnish politics and society.

One could argue that in a country where organized crime is prevalent, if a person dies under mysterious circumstances, the criminal organization is often being blamed. Similarly, in Finland, when the government interferes with a person's political or family life, it is usually done under the guise of an organized and official decision-making process. However, this does not justify the biased and unjust punishments that are sometimes imposed on individuals.

Many families in Finland suffer from grave injustice each year as social workers act on baseless allegations, wrongfully accusing and separating parents from their children without adhering to legal and factual requirements (Pösö & Skivenes eds. 2016). This practice is built on the misguided assumption that all family members are guilty until proven innocent, leading to numerous false accusations and great hardship for families. Families are often separated unnecessarily, causing trauma and anguish for everyone involved. This case study highlights the issue of false accusations by Finnish child protection social workers, assisted by educators, caregivers, psychologists, psychiatrists, as well as medical professionals, and the devastating consequences it has on families throughout the country.

Therefore, nominally and theoretically, social workers are an essential part of the child protection system. They are entrusted with the task of safeguarding children from neglect, abuse, and exploitation. Armed with overreaching powers according to some authoritarian legislated child protection laws, Finnish social workers were broadly reported violating due process by abducting children who do not need foster care from their families without factual basis. Such practices were established on a set of gangster logic. This article examines the practices of Finnish social workers that have been based on gangster logic and how they have negatively impacted the lives of children.

## **Gangster logic**

Gangster logic refers to a set of practices that are often employed by individuals or groups who use coercion, manipulation, or intimidation to achieve their goals (Shelley 2014). In the context of social work in Finland, gangster logic is manifested in the ways that some social workers violate due process by abducting children who do not need foster care from their families without factual basis.

This gangster logic is a violation of the legal principle of innocence until proven guilty. In most legal systems, the burden of proof is on the accuser to provide evidence that supports their claim. However, in some cases, Finnish social workers do not provide any evidence to prove their claims of abuse or neglect. Instead, they simply claim that the parents are abusive, and the parents are forced to prove that they are innocent (Li 2023).

This approach undermines the principles of due process and the rule of law. It is unethical and violates the basic rights of the accused. It also places a heavy burden on parents who are already facing a difficult situation. Parents are forced to defend themselves against unfounded accusations, often without the resources or support they need to do so.

Furthermore, this gangster logic is often enabled by a collusion between social workers and the judiciary. Judges often rely heavily on the recommendations of social workers, and they may be reluctant to question the validity of their claims. This collusion makes it difficult for parents to get justice for our children and further undermines due process.

Gangster logic in Finnish social work is a serious problem that undermines the principles of due process and the rule of law. Such Finnish Social workers must be held accountable for their actions and must provide evidence to support their claims of abuse or neglect. Additionally, the Finnish judiciary must ensure that the rights of the accused are protected, and that justice is served in a fair and impartial manner.

## **Psychological trauma**

Psychological trauma is a serious issue that affects many Finnish children who are taken from their families and placed in foster care. These children often experience a range of negative emotions, such as anxiety, depression, and feelings of isolation and alienation. They may feel abandoned, neglected, and unloved, and may struggle to form healthy relationships in the future. The trauma of being taken from their families can also lead to psychological issues such as depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This trauma can have long-lasting effects on the child's mental and physical health, and can make it difficult for them to form healthy relationships and achieve their full potential.

One of the ways that Finnish social workers contribute to this trauma is by conspiring with psychologists and psychiatrists to administer large doses of medication to the children. These drugs are often forced upon the children, and they are punished if they do not comply. This practice violates the rights of the child to make decisions about their own health, and can have serious negative effects on their physical and mental health (Li 2023).

Additionally, children who are placed in foster care often experience a sense of isolation and disconnection from society. They are taken away from their families, friends, and communities, and placed in unfamiliar environments with strangers. This sense of disconnection can exacerbate feelings of anxiety and depression, and make it difficult for children to form healthy relationships and achieve their full potential.

Unfortunately, many Finnish children in foster care have also experienced sexual harassment and abuse. This can further exacerbate feelings of isolation and trauma, and can make it difficult for children to trust others or form healthy relationships.

Psychological trauma is a serious issue that affects many children who are taken from their families and placed in foster care. Finnish Social workers and other professionals who work with these children must be aware of the potential for trauma, and take steps to mitigate its effects. This may include providing counseling and support services to the children, as well as working to ensure that their rights and autonomy are respected.

Additionally, efforts must be made to address the root causes of child protection issues, such as poverty, neglect, and abuse, in order to prevent the need for children to be placed in foster care in the first place.

## **Other harmful effects on children and their parents**

In Finland as well as in other countries with similar authoritarian child protection practices, the harmful effects on victimized children and their parents as a result of unlawful child protection actions by social workers are numerous and devastating.

In addition to immense emotional trauma and distress, the children may be subjected to abuse and neglect in foster care (Li 2023). In Finland, many children in foster care are at a higher risk of being sexually abused or raped,

leading to further psychological damage and trauma. They may also be overmedicated with large doses of medication, as social workers conspire with psychologists and psychiatrists to continue administering drugs to the children, even if they do not need them.

For the parents, the experience of having our children taken away without a factual basis is also a traumatic and distressing one. They may feel helpless, angry, and betrayed by a system that is supposed to protect our children. It can also lead to financial hardship, as they may have to pay for legal fees and other costs associated with fighting to get our children back.

The harmful effects on victimized children and their parents as a result of unlawful child protection actions are devastating and far-reaching. Social workers and other professionals involved in the child protection system must be held accountable for their actions, and changes must be made to prioritize the best interests of the child and ensure that families are not unfairly targeted or victimized.

## **Profit over purpose**

According to Leipälä (2018), “During the last more than half a decade, Finnish child protection has become nothing more than a child-robbing business, where state funds are diverted to sad friends and good-brother clubs. The cities also get a large share of that income in the first tax year, because the taxes from the turnover of the child protection service provider grown with state subsidies and the consumption it pays are also transferred to the municipality's coffers already in the first year and every year from then on, when the child is placed.”

Profit over purpose is a disturbing trend that has emerged in the Finnish foster care system. While social workers are supposed to help children who really need it, some have become more focused on making profits for themselves and the foster care sector. This shift in focus is a violation of the ethical code of social workers, and is against the best interest of the child.

However, this unethical practice was justified by Finnish child protection law and such social workers might act beyond ethical shame.

One of the ways that Finnish social workers may prioritize profits over purpose is by placing children in foster care unnecessarily. This may occur when social workers remove children from their families without a factual basis or without properly assessing the child's needs. This can result in children being placed in foster care when it is not necessary, simply to maintain the business chain and generate profits.

Additionally, Finnish social workers may prioritize profits by placing children in substandard foster homes or institutions. These homes may not provide adequate care or support for the children, and may be more concerned with generating profits than providing quality care. This can result in children being subjected to neglect, abuse, and other forms of mistreatment.

Moreover, the collusion of Finnish social workers with psychologists and psychiatrists to administer large doses of medication to the children for extended periods of time is a violation of the child's right to appropriate medical treatment. Such practices can lead to an increase in the profits of pharmaceutical companies and the foster care sector.

Social workers have a responsibility to prioritize the best interest of the child over profits. They must ensure that children are only placed in foster care when it is necessary, and that they are placed in homes and institutions that provide adequate care and support. Furthermore, social workers must avoid practices that prioritize profits over the health and wellbeing of the children, and must strive to ensure that children receive appropriate medical care. Only by doing so can we ensure that the foster care system is truly serving the needs of the children it is meant to protect.

## **Social workers' liability**

Finnish Social workers have a great deal of responsibility and power when it comes to the lives of the children and families they work with. When they abuse this power, violate the law, or engage in unethical behavior, they may be subject to legal liability, including criminal liability and punishment.

One of the most significant ways that social workers can be held liable is through criminal charges. For example, if a social worker is found to have knowingly or recklessly removed a child from our family without a valid reason, they may be charged with kidnapping or false imprisonment. Similarly, if a social worker is found to have physically or sexually abused a child in their care, they may be charged with assault or sexual assault.

In addition to criminal charges, social workers may also face civil liability. For example, if a social worker is found to have violated a family's constitutional rights or breached their duty of care to a child, they may be sued for damages. This could result in the social worker and their employer being required to pay financial compensation to the family or child.

Moreover, social workers may face disciplinary action from their professional bodies, such as having their license suspended or revoked. This may occur if a social worker is found to have engaged in unethical behavior, violated professional standards, or failed to adhere to the laws and regulations governing their profession.

In severe cases, social workers may also face imprisonment if they are found guilty of criminal charges. This may occur if a social worker is found to have engaged in serious criminal behavior, such as child abuse, and is convicted of the charges brought against them.

Social workers have a great deal of responsibility and power when it comes to the lives of the children and families they work with. When they engage in unethical or illegal behavior, they may face criminal charges, civil liability, and disciplinary action from their professional bodies. It is important for social workers to understand their legal and ethical obligations and to adhere to them at all times to protect the best interests of the children and families they work with.

## **Police officers' and judges' liability**

In Finland, police officers and judges also have a responsibility to uphold the law and protect the rights of citizens. When they fail to do so or engage in illegal or unethical behavior, they may be subject to legal liability, including criminal liability.

Police officers may be held liable for criminal charges if they engage in unlawful conduct, such as excessive use of force or falsifying evidence. For example, if a police officer uses unjustified force that results in injury or death, they may be charged with assault or murder. Similarly, if a police officer fabricated evidence to obtain a warrant or secure a conviction, they may be charged with perjury or obstruction of justice.

Judges may also be held criminally liable if they engage in illegal or unethical behavior. For example, if a judge accepts a bribe or engages in other corrupt conduct, they may be charged with bribery or corruption. Similarly, if a judge abuses their power or violates a defendant's constitutional rights, they may be charged with misconduct or violating the law.

In addition to criminal liability, police officers and judges may also face civil liability if they engage in misconduct or violate a citizen's rights. For example, if a police officer uses excessive force and injures a citizen, they may be sued for damages. Similarly, if a judge violates a defendant's rights during a trial, they may be subject to a civil lawsuit.

It is important for police officers and judges to uphold the law and adhere to ethical standards at all times to protect the rights of citizens and maintain the integrity of the justice system. When they engage in illegal or unethical behavior, they may face criminal charges, civil liability, and disciplinary action from their respective professional bodies.

## Politicians' liability

Politicians also have a responsibility to ensure that the laws and policies related to child protection are lawful and ethical. If they engage in illegal or unethical behavior in relation to child protection, they may be subject to criminal liability.

For example, if a politician is found to have accepted bribes or engaged in other corrupt behavior in order to pass laws or policies related to child protection, they may be charged with corruption or bribery. Similarly, if a politician knowingly supports and enacts laws or policies that violate the rights of children and families, they may be charged with abuse of power or violating the law.

Furthermore, politicians may also be held liable for their failure to act in situations where they have a duty to protect children. For instance, if a politician has knowledge of abuse or neglect of children and fails to take action, they may be charged with negligence or failure to report child abuse.

In addition to criminal liability, politicians may also face political consequences, such as losing their position or facing impeachment, if they engage in illegal or unethical behavior related to child protection.

It is important for politicians to prioritize the best interests of children and families in their policymaking and decision-making processes, and to ensure that their actions are in line with ethical and legal standards. When they fail to do so, they may face criminal and political consequences for their actions.

## Conclusion

Gangster logic in social work is a serious problem that undermines the principles of due process and the rule of law. Social workers must be held

accountable for their actions and must provide evidence to support their claims of abuse or neglect. Additionally, the judiciary must ensure that the rights of the accused are protected, and that justice is served in a fair and impartial manner.

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# Low Carbon Urban Design and Ecological Environment Protection in Grassland: The Example of Inner Mongolia

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**Abstract:** This article explores the ecological ethics and environmental protection consciousness of ancient Mongolian society, drawing from historical records, legal codes, and cultural traditions. It begins with an overview of Mongolian nomadic life on the grasslands, characterized by reliance on herding, hunting, and horses, all governed by customary laws such as *yue sun* that embodied truth and social order. The discussion then turns to the ethical views of ancient Mongolians toward animals and plants, highlighting practices that restricted hunting during breeding seasons, prohibited killing mother and baby animals, and encouraged the release of captured wildlife. These customs, reinforced by imperial decrees and legislation, reveal a strong awareness of sustainable resource use. Furthermore,

Mongolians regarded grasslands as sacred and central to their survival; destruction of pastures was punished severely, sometimes even by death, as recorded in the *Genghis Khan Code*. Shamanistic beliefs, which viewed natural resources such as water, plants, and animals as sacred, combined with later Buddhist influences, strengthened ecological ethics by emphasizing mercy and reverence for all living beings. These traditions fostered a harmonious relationship between humans and nature, integrating environmental protection into laws, religion, and daily life. The study concludes that ancient Mongolian ecological thought not only shaped the survival of the Mongolian people but also provides meaningful insights and inspiration for contemporary ecological protection and sustainable development.

**Keywords:** Mongolian ecological ethics, nomadic culture, Shamanism, environmental law, grassland protection

## Introduction

Located in the northern frontier of China, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region covers a land area of 1.18 million square kilometers, accounting for 12.3 percent of the country's total territory. The Inner Mongolian grasslands are among the world's most typical and well-preserved grassland ecosystems, serving as a major northern ecological zone and functioning as an important ecological barrier.

Before the Yuan Dynasty, Mongolian ancestors practiced Shamanism and embraced the concept of life within Heaven and Earth, which gave rise to an early awareness of ecological protection. With the founding of the Mongol Empire during the Yuan Dynasty, people adopted seasonal rotational grazing, and by the late Yuan period, a systematic approach to pasture management had developed. Over time, this original ecological consciousness evolved into a broader ecological philosophy and an outlook on harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, which became embedded in Mongolian customs, ideology, and values.

However, with modern development in Inner Mongolia—particularly rapid urbanization, high-rise construction, population concentration, the expansion of industrial parks, the building of wind and thermal power plants, as well as coal and metal mining—the grasslands have suffered varying degrees of degradation. To mitigate the ecological damage and reduce harmful carbon emissions, it is necessary to draw upon the wisdom of Mongolian ancestors in grassland protection. At the same time, the government must strengthen the concept of low-carbon urban design and reinforce the formulation, implementation, and supervision of grassland environmental protection laws and regulations.

Grassland is the largest land cover type in the region and represents one of the most rapidly renewable natural resources. Its ability to resist wind erosion, prevent desertification, and conserve soil and water surpasses that of shrubland, while its ecological protective role even exceeds that of forests. The condition of the grassland is closely tied to overall environmental changes. In today's society, where people increasingly value quality of life, food safety, and natural green environments, it is crucial to preserve pollution-free and noise-free living spaces. According to the IPCC, 90 percent of global warming is caused by human activities. Therefore, the adoption of low-carbon lifestyles and low-carbon concepts has gained broad support. “Low-carbon design” refers to planning buildings and environments in ways that reduce material and energy consumption, thereby minimizing greenhouse gas emissions.

Historically, Mongolian ancestors protected the grasslands through law, custom, morality, and religion, integrating ecological principles into their daily production and way of life. Under the influence of religious belief, these practices were transformed into conscious actions, ensuring the sustainability and transmission of Mongolian nomadic civilization. In essence, their ecological awareness emphasized the balanced relationship between humans and nature, ethical compassion toward animals and plants, and the view that natural resources and elements are priceless.

Reflecting on the ecological protection of Inner Mongolia's grasslands and adopting low-carbon city design are vital for modern human life. We should not only learn from the ecological wisdom of the Mongolian ancestors but also

critically address problems in urban development to improve the environment. By doing so, we can create a green, pollution-free homeland and a sustainable living environment for future generations.

## **I. Problems of grassland ecological environment and urban construction**

The Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region stretches 2,400 kilometers from east to west and spans 1,700 kilometers from north to south. Across this vast territory, it is not difficult to see that industrialization and urbanization have brought fragmented growth and caused numerous environmental problems on the grasslands. Large-scale exploitation of grassland resources has followed an extensive economic growth model, often neglecting the natural cycles of grassland ecosystem regeneration. This has led to severe environmental degradation. In many parts of Inner Mongolia, grass and soil are polluted with organochlorine pesticides and benzopyrene (an industrial byproduct). Added to this are the impacts of urban development, oil and coal extraction, and power plant construction, which have caused further contamination of the steppe environment.

Unreasonable exploitation of resources has also worsened natural disasters. The climate of Inner Mongolia is cold and dry, with frequent strong winds and sandy weather. As a result, droughts, dust storms, frost, snow disasters, as well as damage caused by rodents and pests, frequently afflict the grasslands. For a long time, the model of economic growth focused mainly on expansion in size and scale, without improving the quality of human existence. This one-sided mode of development ignored the principle of harmony, balance, and sustainability between humans and nature, producing an imbalanced relationship between them.

In the grassland interior, one can even find golf courses, large-scale European-style plazas, and broad landscape avenues. The “city landscaping movement” has led to the erosion of original vegetation and pastureland. In some drought-prone western cities of Inner Mongolia, where water resources are severely scarce, large-scale waterscapes have nevertheless been constructed. These projects, far from being examples of low-carbon design, have consumed

massive human, material, and financial resources, while further worsening the degradation of grasslands and urban environments.

Today, with global warming, dust storms, soil erosion, and pollution posing new threats to the grassland ecological environment, the urgency of low-carbon city design has become clear. As China, the world's third-largest economy and largest carbon emitter, faces increasing environmental pressures, the promotion of low-carbon urban planning is both urgent and necessary. In practical terms, low-carbon urban design emphasizes energy conservation, environmental protection, health, and comfort. Its foundation lies in reducing energy consumption and emissions, improving the quality of the urban public environment, and promoting ecological sustainability.

Strictly speaking, zero emissions are unattainable. The real goal of a low-carbon city is to reduce material use, avoid energy waste, and resist excessive consumption of resources. Low-carbon urban design is based on principles of land sustainability, ecological aesthetics, and environmental responsibility. Its purpose is to foster a new lifestyle, reduce energy consumption, eliminate waste, and effectively curb the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, thereby protecting the Earth's environment. Designers in this field must uphold ethical standards, while the public must also develop a correct understanding of low-carbon concepts. Low-carbon urban design not only raises higher requirements for professional practice but also encourages greater public awareness of environmental responsibility.

There are countless examples showing that when humans destroy the natural environment, they will inevitably face retribution from nature, while also jeopardizing the rights of future generations. Modern industrial civilization has often treated trees, plants, and animals as objects for unrestricted exploitation, without recognizing that humans themselves are part of the biological community and should live in harmony with other species. Under the dominance of such misguided ecological ethics, natural resources have been devalued, leading to environmental destruction and, in turn, "revenge" from nature.

At present, the implementation of low-carbon design and grassland environmental protection still faces many challenges. Public awareness of ecological protection remains limited, national regulations on grassland preservation and low-carbon design are still in the exploratory stage, and many cities lack practical and enforceable measures.

In this context, ecological protection of the grasslands and the development of low-carbon cities are not only strategies for urban construction but also essential to improving people's quality of life and ensuring long-term survival. Not all energy-saving measures are directly related to carbon reduction, but it is important to note that cities and buildings account for the majority of carbon dioxide emissions—10–15% during construction, and as much as 40–50% through lighting and electrical appliances. For this reason, “low-carbon design” in the construction of new urban environments, especially in grassland areas, has become an inevitable choice in the era of climate change. It reflects both social responsibility and innovative thinking by designers who care about the future of the world.

Urban environmental design includes urban planning, landscape design, architecture, public landscaping, and interior design. In the face of today's growing ecological crisis, designers should adopt principles of low energy use, low pollution, and high efficiency to cope with the energy crisis and environmental degradation. Although pollution on Inner Mongolia's grasslands has not yet reached catastrophic levels, if local grassland areas continue to ignore ecological issues, minor problems today could escalate into serious environmental crises in the future.

## **II. The study of the ancient Mongolian grassland ecological environment protection concepts and practices**

The Mongolian people established the largest unified dynasty in history during the Yuan Dynasty. They lived a nomadic life on the grasslands, sustained by hunting and herding. Mongolians resided in felt tents, ate meat and drank milk, wore fur clothing, and preserved all the defining characteristics of a nomadic lifestyle. Their primary means of transportation was the horse.

Before the rise of Greater Mongolia, Mongolian society—including daily life and social relations—was mainly governed by *yue sun* (a Mongolian term meaning “truth” or “rules,” which later came to signify “style after the Yuan Dynasty”).

## 1. The Initial Formation of Mongolian Coordination and Balanced Development Between Humans and Nature

In ancient times, the Mongolian people had already developed the concept of harmonious coexistence with nature in their daily practices. At its core, this was the same developmental view that we advocate today. Grass and water were the two most vital resources for survival on the Inner Mongolian Plateau. To maintain ecological balance while sustaining the economy, ancient Mongolians adopted a method of rotational nomadism.

Under this system, each herding family had both summer and winter camps. Around May, they moved to the summer pastures, and in November they returned to the winter pastures. In an ordinary year, even though herders might relocate 8 to 10 times—or in some cases 20 to 40 times—their grazing areas remained within a relatively stable range. The scope and distance of migration were determined by vegetation conditions. For example, in the 19th century, the Khalkha Mongols typically moved within a range of 50 to 60 kilometers, while the Alxa Mongols moved about 10 to 15 kilometers, never exceeding 30 kilometers even in the 1950s.

This advanced method of rotational grazing ensured the healthy development of the pastoral economy while simultaneously protecting the ecological quality of the grasslands. It helped prevent the degradation of high-quality grass, as well as soil salinization and desertification. In this way, the practice reflected the Mongolian principle of coordinating and balancing the relationship between humans and the natural environment.

Later, a series of legal codes—including the Code of Genghis Khan and the Code of Agri Khan—gradually established a legal framework adapted to Mongolian culture and customs. These codes included specific provisions for protecting the grassland ecosystem. By institutionalizing ecological protection, they promoted the socialization and legalization of environmental awareness

and provided a solid legal foundation for safeguarding the ecological environment of the Inner Mongolian Plateau.

Water resources were another essential foundation for the survival of the Mongolian nomads. The ancient Mongols attached great importance to the conservation and protection of water. In their worldview, water held sacred religious significance, and polluting water was regarded as an act of blasphemy against the water god. For this reason, daily customs prohibited throwing rubbish into water, and women during menstruation or confinement were not allowed near wells.

Customary law also included explicit rules such as: “*Do not urinate in the water,*” “*Do not enter rivers in spring or summer,*” “*Do not wash hands in rivers,*” and “*Do not draw water with gold or silver vessels.*” These rules not only protected water quality but also reflected the deep respect Mongolian herders had for water resources. At the same time, they made rational use of groundwater to address surface water shortages, thereby expanding the scope of nomadic production.

By the early Yuan Dynasty, drilling technology had already been widely applied. During the Yuan, the government actively promoted the drilling of wells in the arid regions north of the desert (Mobei) as a state policy to support the development of animal husbandry. This policy partially reduced the nomads’ complete reliance on natural water sources, expanded available grazing areas, and alleviated pressure on the original grassland resources. As a result, the ecological system of the grasslands was able to maintain unimpeded material flows, energy cycles, and information channels. These efforts created favorable conditions for protecting the grassland’s ecological environment and ensuring its long-term sustainability.

## **2. The Ethical View of the Ancient Mongolian People on Animal and Plant Protection**

The ecological awareness of the ancient Mongolian people was also reflected in their ethical attitude toward the protection of wild animals and plants. In their worldview, nature and animals were inseparable parts of a single whole.

Hunting was a traditional Mongolian custom and, during the Mongol Empire, it also served as an important means of training soldiers—demonstrating that wildlife resources were abundant at the time. However, hunting practices were bound by ethical and legal restrictions. For example, when old people pleaded for the lives of wounded animals, the empire often ordered them to be set free. Mongolians also refrained from hunting young animals, mothers with offspring, or animals that had previously been released. These disciplines ensured that hunting resources were preserved for future years.

Even in times of military urgency, Mongols did not indiscriminately exploit nature. For instance, during Genghis Khan's western expedition, he instructed his army not to cut trees or grass while passing through territories. On their return journey, although thousands of animals were captured, they were released because it was breeding season. Such practices reflected an early recognition of the need to protect ecological balance.

Mongolian rulers even elevated wildlife protection to the level of legislation. Special laws prohibited the killing of animals during certain periods. For example, although Emperor Ögedei Khan himself enjoyed hunting, he issued orders forbidding the killing of animals from January to June, banning the hunting of wild boar, deer, and roe deer, and placing special protection on swans, ducks, falcons, cranes, eagles, and vultures. Through such legal measures, rulers ensured harmony between humans and nature, safeguarding both wildlife and ecological stability.

The protection of plants and animals was also understood as protection of the human living environment. Since animals provided food and clothing for people, and since the grassland served as both the Mongolian homeland and the habitat for wildlife, preserving this balance was seen as essential. Importantly, ecological protection values were passed down within Mongolian families, embedding environmental consciousness into everyday life and ensuring long-term protection of the plateau's ecosystem.

In later dynasties, many legal codes continued this tradition. Examples include the *Altan Khan Code* of the Ming Dynasty and the *Kerk Code* of the Qing Dynasty. These laws often blended with religious beliefs and were integrated

into daily practices, becoming part of the collective knowledge and values of the Mongolian people. Ultimately, they played a guiding role in daily life and influenced the overall system of social governance, shaping both ecological awareness and practical actions within Mongolian society.

### **3. Ancient Mongolians Regarded Natural Resources—Especially Grasslands—as Precious**

Ancient Mongolians believed themselves to be “born under Heaven,” and thus they regarded the natural environment as sacred and precious. In their worldview, the value of certain natural resources even surpassed that of human life. The *Genghis Khan Code* explicitly recorded crimes against grasslands, stipulating that damage caused by digging or fire would result in the execution of the offender’s entire family. This was one of the rare cases in which a law extended punishment to include the whole family. Grasslands represented both the home and the lifeline of the Mongolian people. To destroy them was equivalent to destroying the very foundation of their survival. Hence, such severe penalties underscored the profound importance Mongolians placed on grassland protection and served as a stern warning for future generations.

An example recorded in *The History of the Yuan Dynasty, Benji I* illustrates this value system. It recounts how Tudun’s wife, Molun, together with her children, dug up a plant called *sudun* in their pasture, thereby destroying a horse farm. The act sparked a violent dispute, and ultimately, Molun and her eight sons were killed. This tragedy, caused by ignorance of the destructive impact on grassland resources, reflects how Mongolians considered grasslands to hold supreme value.

Because of their Shamanistic beliefs, Mongolians attributed sacred qualities to many natural resources such as water, plants, and animals, and they integrated this reverence into daily practices. In Shamanism, resources like water were seen as comparable to divine entities. Polluting them was perceived as sacrilege. This religious worldview, though veiled in mysticism, in fact reinforced a genuine and serious attitude toward the protection of natural resources and the environment. It played an irreplaceable role in preserving the balance of the grassland ecosystem.

The ecological ethics of ancient Mongolians—manifested in their awe of nature and compassion for plants and animals—were deeply rooted in their religious beliefs, legal codes, and daily customs. In the early stages of Mongolian history, Shamanism was the primary belief system, later followed by widespread adoption of Tibetan Buddhism after the Yuan Dynasty. Shamanism worshipped nature and held that all living beings were imbued with spirit. Its doctrine centered on reverence for natural phenomena and animal totems, and embedded within it were profound ecological values. Tibetan Buddhism, meanwhile, promoted compassion and prohibited killing, further reinforcing environmental protection.

These religious and ethical ideas directly shaped Mongolian practices. As previously mentioned, rulers often prohibited the hunting of wild animals—particularly pregnant females and their offspring—through formal legislation. This demonstrates the compassion extended to wildlife and highlights how ecological ethics were enshrined in governance. Such views placed mountains and rivers on equal footing with deities, and treated animals and humans with equal moral weight. Objectively, this elevated the natural environment to a higher level of significance and acted as a strict moral restraint against environmental destruction.

Taken together, these examples—respect for the universe, reverence for nature, and concrete measures for protecting the ecological environment—offer valuable lessons. They provide both special enlightenment and practical significance for protecting the grassland ecological environment of Inner Mongolia today.

### **III. Reflections on Ecological Environmental Protection and Urban Low-Carbon Design in Inner Mongolia**

Strengthening macroeconomic regulation and control is the key to balancing grassland resource development with ecological protection in Inner Mongolia. Faced with the fragile state of many grassland areas, governments at all levels should strengthen organization and coordination, formulate long-term plans, and make full use of supervisory and management functions. A strict

implementation of existing laws and policies—such as the *Grassland Law*, the *Environmental Protection Ordinance of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region*, and the *Grassland Management Regulations of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region*—is essential.

Secondly, the government's service function should be enhanced to support ecological markets. By introducing price mechanisms, environmental value can be better protected. Enterprises and environmental agencies should draw lessons from developed countries by promoting emissions trading, combining it with fiscal subsidies, tax incentives, sewage fees, and other economic tools to achieve effective outcomes.

At the same time, environmental protection must be rooted in society. Public education should raise awareness of grassland protection and ecological ethics, fostering environmental morality to restrain destructive behaviors. Developing ecological industries powered by advanced technologies in biology and ecology—such as ecological animal husbandry, forestry, and renewable industries—will help improve the efficiency of resource utilization, energy conversion, and product output. By integrating macroeconomic control with market mechanisms, supported by social ethics and technological innovation, genuine progress in grassland protection can be achieved.

Urban low-carbon design is another critical path. Saving resources and achieving sustainable development requires harmony with the ecological environment. The concept of low-carbon environmental art design draws inspiration from traditional Chinese ecological ethics while adapting it to modern product and urban design. Under the framework of a low-carbon economy, investment in research on low-carbon technologies and materials must be increased, while government agencies and urban planners should cultivate a deeper awareness of low-carbon design principles.

Urban environmental art design involves the integration of space, style, technology, materials, and culture. Innovation in low-carbon practices forms the basis of sustainable urban development. Low-carbon materials—those that minimize nonrenewable resource use, reduce energy consumption and emissions, and allow for recycling—should be applied throughout construction.

By promoting green consumption, cultivating harmony between humans and nature, and embedding ecological ethics into design decisions, low-carbon urban environments can balance practical, aesthetic, and ethical considerations.

In practice, assessments of low-carbon design should cover the entire life cycle of projects, from planning to implementation, emphasizing recyclability of materials such as cardboard, plastic, wood, metal, and glass. Low-carbon standards should prioritize minimizing nonrenewable resource use while recognizing the limits of renewable resources. Across China, low-carbon communities, zero-carbon buildings, and sustainable decoration projects have already begun, and Inner Mongolia should join this movement through education, professional associations, and administrative guidance. Establishing standardized systems of low-carbon design, construction, and management will strengthen ecological balance and promote harmony between grassland environments and sustainable urban living.

Looking back at history, from the Mongol-Yuan era to the Qing Dynasty, Mongolian rulers continuously extended the ecological principles of *yue sun* (customary rules) to strengthen grassland protection. Ancient Mongolians formed a simple yet profound ecological ethic that emphasized harmony between humans, animals, plants, and the land. These values, institutionalized through religion and law, played a critical role in protecting the grassland environment for centuries.

However, during the Qing Dynasty, state policies such as the expansion of Buddhism, forced monasticism, reclamation of farmland, and the administrative zoning system disrupted traditional nomadic practices, leading to ecological decline. In modern times, large-scale industrialization and urbanization—especially unregulated development—have further degraded grasslands, causing desertification and loss of biodiversity.

The lesson is clear: “Do not forget the future.” By drawing wisdom from the ecological ethics of our ancestors and integrating them with modern low-carbon design, Inner Mongolia can find sustainable solutions to current environmental challenges. This combination of traditional ecological consciousness and innovative urban planning offers valuable insights and

practical strategies for protecting grasslands and achieving harmonious development in the region.

## Conclusion

The ecological environment of Inner Mongolia and the sustainable development of its urban areas are deeply rooted in both historical traditions and modern environmental strategies. From the ancient Mongolian nomadic practices and customary rules to Qing Dynasty policies and contemporary challenges posed by industrialization and urbanization, the region's grassland ecosystem has faced continual pressure. Effective ecological protection in Inner Mongolia requires a multi-dimensional approach that combines macroeconomic regulation, market mechanisms, legal enforcement, moral education, and technological innovation in ecological industries. Similarly, urban low-carbon design should integrate traditional ecological ethics with modern sustainable practices, emphasizing low-carbon materials, energy efficiency, recycling, and harmonious human–nature relationships. By drawing lessons from historical experiences, promoting public awareness, and standardizing low-carbon urban design, Inner Mongolia can achieve coordinated development that balances environmental protection, economic growth, and social well-being. Ultimately, the integration of ecological consciousness, cultural heritage, and modern design principles provides a feasible pathway for preserving the grassland ecosystem while fostering sustainable urbanization.

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