

ABSTRACTS

УДК 371.213.212.09«1950/2004»

O.J. Karpenko

FOSTER FAMILY AS A FORM OF INSTITUTIONAL CHILDCARE IN POLAND (2ND HALF OF THE 20TH – BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURIES)

The article dwells on regulatory and legal framework of foster family functioning in Poland as one of the main forms of institutional childcare in the second half of the 20th – beginning of the 21st centuries. Over the period of 1950 – 1955 Poland saw a decline in foster care. The number of children placed with foster families significantly reduced. In 1958 the so-called substitute families were introduced to accept children aged 6 months to 3 years. The active development of foster care started in the 1970's and 1990's. Foster families must provide adequate living conditions and educational opportunities similar to those in natural families. According to the Decree of the Council of Ministers issued October 23, 1993 foster families received financial aid. Children were given the right to free admission to kindergartens. Their relatives were committed to payments equivalent to the amount of financial aid provided for such children. At the turn of the century, functioning of foster families and provision of adequate living conditions and educational opportunities for a child were determined by the government's social policies. Natural upbringing, emotional contacts between a child and their guardians, an individual approach to a child have been typical of foster families.

Key words: children, childcare, foster family, substitute family, parents, Poland.