
About the Authors

Magdalena Szafranek is a sociologist and lawyer working at the Institute of Applied Social Sciences, University of Warsaw. Her research interests include child and family support in the local environment and changes in civil society. She is a member of the Management Board of the Family Judges Association in Poland and of the General Committee of the International Association of Family Judges and Justices of the Peace. She holds the position of editor-in-chief of the scientific journal *Dziecko Krzywdzone. Teoria, badania, praktyka* (Child Abused. Theory, Research, Practice), which is published by the Dajemy Dzieciom Siłę Foundation.

Petr Fabián studied philosophy, theology and special pedagogy. He prepared his doctoral thesis on the issue of introducing quality standards into the child protection system in the Czech Republic. He completed psychotherapeutic and supervisory training and led a therapeutic programme in a therapeutic community for children and young people abusing drugs (addictive substances). Fabián worked for 13 years as the director of an infant home, which he transformed into the Crisis Centre for Family and Child. He is a lecturer at the Silesian University in Opava, where he leads research projects concerning vulnerable children and families and social work with families. Another topic of interest to him professionally is social work with the elderly and the use of assistive technologies. At the same time, he works as a psychotherapist for non-governmental non-profit organisations. Currently, he is managing a new project, unique in the Czech Republic, called the Sluchátko therapeutic line, which aims to make systematic therapeutic help available. In some regions, it is used as a tool to support the deinstitutionalisation of psychiatric care. He publishes mainly on topics related to the family

(vulnerable families and the needs of functional families), the e-Health system and paediatric patients. His most recent publication, *Možná to jde i jinak* (Maybe There's a Different Way), published in 2021, presents a multidisciplinary approach to the theory and methods of social work.

Albín Škoviera graduated in special and therapeutic pedagogy at the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava. He completed psychotherapeutic training focused on psychodynamics. For 18 years, he worked as a therapist and educator in special educational facilities, and from 1989, he was the director of the Children's Diagnostic Institute in Bratislava for more than 12 years.

Joanna Gorczowska holds a Master's degree in pedagogy, is a systemic practitioner and Gestalt psychotherapist. She has extensive experience of working in the child protection system in the UK as a social worker and, since 2012, as an independent social worker preparing systemic parenting assessments and special guardianship assessments for the UK family justice courts. She has worked with abused children, families at risk and foster families. She has published articles and presented papers at conferences in Poland highlighting good practices and solutions in the field of child protection. Currently, she also works as a psychotherapist. Her areas of interest include the impact of early childhood negative experiences on child development and functioning in adulthood and therapeutic support for people with traumatic experiences.