

On contact centres in Europe

Is it good for children to meet their father in a contact centre and why?

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INTRODUCTION

- **Contact centres**

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- **Contact centres**
- **Which rationale for their action ?**

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- **Contact centres**
- **Which rationale for their action ?**
- **A new paradigm**

PRESENTATION

1. European Charter

2. Professional writings and research

3. Back to the origins

1. EUROPEAN CHARTER

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1) The action of “the meeting points” is founded on recognition from the importance of family ties, and the child’s interest and right, to see assured the setting up and continuity of all relations necessary to the construction of its identity. That is set on the articulation from psy-chological, social and legal dimensions.

1. EUROPEAN CHARTER

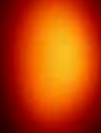
2) All situation wherever the child could not set up or maintain the relation with one of its “ parents”*, affects him in his development, and the construction of its identity.

Some of these situations made necessary, that all persons concerned participate to recognize the problems and conflicts, to speak them, this way the child is set on its story in relation with its origins.

1. EUROPEAN CHARTER

6) This neutral places offer a framework, the physical, psychological and moral security and the appropriate support, allowing relationship's maintenance; it permits the initial contact or the resumption of child-parent relation, between the child and the parent with whom it does not live. This support should consider the specific needs of all persons concerned; consider its culture and rhythm, always respecting children's interest.

2. SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ?



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- **Professional writings**

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- **Reports to government**

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- **Professional writings**
- **Reports to government**
- **Research**

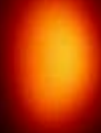
Research

- **“The children involved in high conflict custody and visitation arguments can be identified as the most “at risk” group of children” [cited by Birnbaum and Alaggia, 2006]**
- **“ Children’s long term behavioral and emotional adjustment will be more positive in the long run when they have contact with both of their parents” [Thompson, Amato, 1999, quoted by Birnbaum and Alaggia, 2006)]**

Research

- **Still, existing research on contact centres is partial and of poor quality...**
- **A second generation of research on supervised visitation is needed (Birnbaum, Alaggia, 2006)**

3. BACK TO THE ORIGINS



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- France

- UK

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- **France**

- **UK**

- **Contact centres are born “in the shadow of courts” in order to offer solutions in difficult cases (when self regulation fails)**

CONCLUSION 1

- **Contact Services : a service for judges ?**
- **Theorisation of the practice**

CONCLUSION 2

Contact centres and fathers

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- Contact services work for judges**
- Contact services work for children**
- Contact services work for fathers**
- Contact services work for disaffiliated fathers**