



# **“The child in the Court – participation in civil Court proceedings”**

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# Legal framework for hearing the child:

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## - **FAMILY CODE** (until 2000)

- the child may be heard if he/she is 14

## - **CHILD PROTECTION ACT** (now):

- every child who has 10 years is heard
- hearing in an appropriate environment
- presence of a social worker

**ПРАВОСЪДИЕ-**  
**ПРИЯТЕЛ НА ДЕТЕТО**  
CHILD – FRIENDLY JUSTICE



**СТАНДАРТИ**  
в областта на гражданското правосъдие за деца  
(STANDARDS FOR CHILDREN IN CIVIL LAW MATTERS)

**ДОБРИ ПРАКТИКИ**  
(GOOD PRACTICES)

„Международна социална служба – България“

- Roadshow for judges and social workers (2005-2010)

- “CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE” project (2012-2015)

- 12 standards for children who participate in Court proceedings (from 2015)

Provision of information to the child for his/her participation

APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENT FOR HEARING THE CHILD

Structure and content of the SOCIAL REPORT prepared by the Child Protection Department

Legal representation of the child

Organisation of judicial proceedings

Decision in the best interests of the child

Specialisation of professionals by means of trainings

Favorable conditions for hearing the child

Specialised programmes and services for children and parents

Interdisciplinary and multiagency approach

Child-friendly language for communication with the child

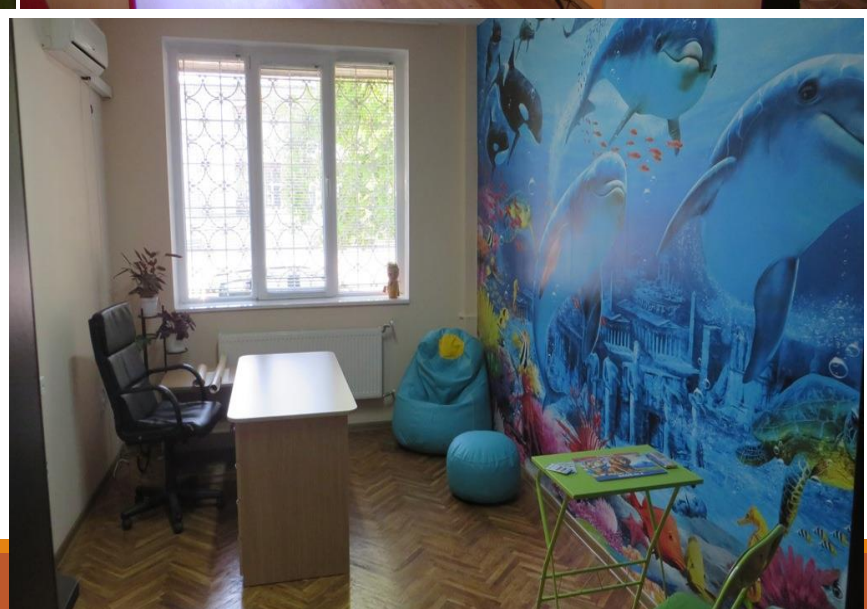
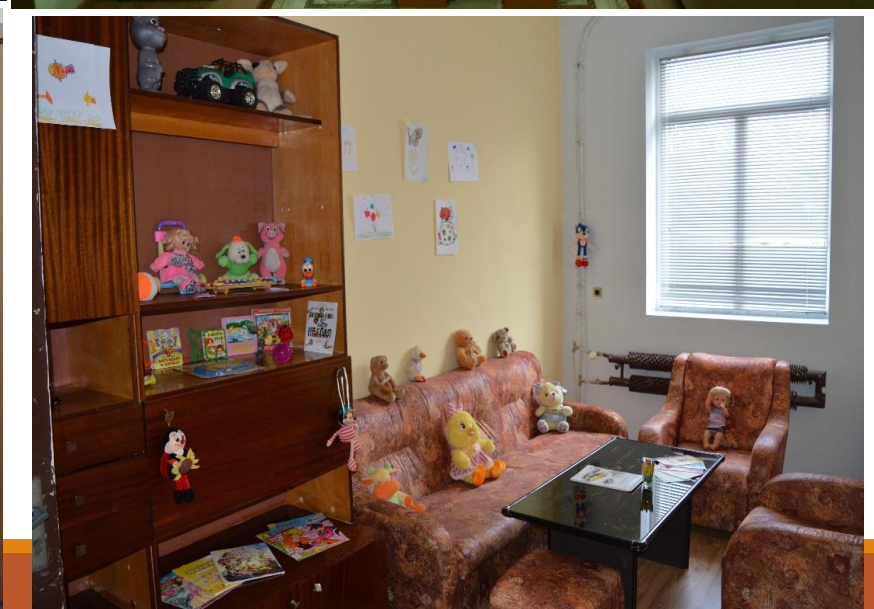
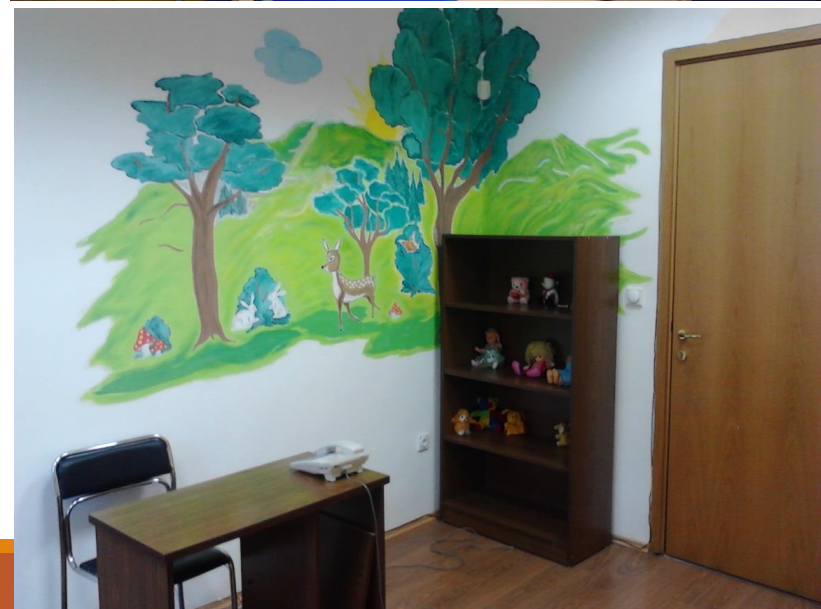
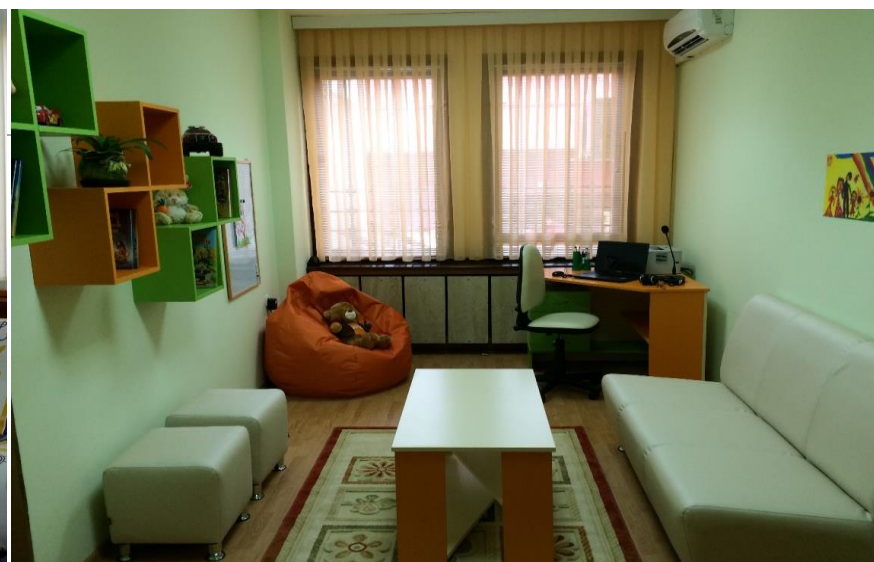
Hearing of the child and expression of his/her opinion

# Standard No 4: Appropriate environment for hearing the child

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- adapted Court rooms or special rooms for hearing the child, waiting areas, if possible;
- walls in tender and mild colors;
- no podiums in Court rooms;
- look like a children's rooms with appropriate equipment and accessories;
- information materials available for the child.

# Rooms for hearing children in different Courts:









ЗАЛА 5





ЗАЛА 6

6





# Practical advices for hearing of children:

- Let the child speak;
- More listen and less speak;
- Listen with patience and attention;
- Show that you listen;
- Express yourself with simple words;
- Check regularly if the child has understood what you have told him/her;
- Use open questions;
- Avoid closed questions;
- Don't tell the child about your own experiences or about the experiences of your children.