

Dr Ranka RAČIĆ, Full Professor
Faculty of Law, University of East Sarajevo
rankaracic@t-com.me

THE CHILD'S RIGHT TO MAINTAIN PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH RELATIVES AND OTHER PERSONS

Abstract: *The new Family Law of the Republic of Srpska introduces updated provisions concerning the child's right to maintain personal relationships with relatives and other persons. These revisions reflect the legislator's intent to advance the legal framework beyond previous statutory solutions. This article offers a critical analysis of the extent to which the amended provisions facilitate the realization of this right, particularly in situations where the parent with whom the child resides obstructs such relationships.*

Special attention is given to the role of the guardianship authority in determining the best interests of the child within the framework of the current legal norms governing the child's right to personal contact with relatives and third parties. The article explores whether these parties are routinely excluded from maintaining such relationships or whether the guardianship authority provides an expert opinion on the child's best interests, which the court adopts in line with the right to respect for family life as guaranteed by international human rights instruments.

The analysis also considers the procedural innovations concerning legal protection mechanisms available to the child.

Keywords: *child, relatives, third parties, personal relationships, best interests of the child.*