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PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S PROPERTY RIGHTS IN CROATIAN FAMILY LAW - LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Summary: *This paper analyses the protection of a child's property rights in Croatian family law, with particular emphasis on the normative framework established by the Family Act of 2015 and the influence of international and European standards, especially the principle of the best interests of the child. Starting from the premise that, despite possessing legal capacity, a child cannot independently exercise their property rights due to limited capacity to act, the paper examines the role of parents and guardians as primary protectors of those rights, the mechanisms of judicial and institutional supervision over their conduct, as well as the possibilities for the child's autonomous action in the sphere of property relations.*

Special attention is devoted to the management of a child's property, representation in property matters, and the disposition of more valuable assets and future property rights, including contracts related to sports and similar activities. The analysis of relevant legal provisions is complemented by an examination of case law, with the aim of identifying how abstract legal standards are applied in individual cases.

The paper points to a certain gap between the formally high level of normative protection and its practical implementation, and the lack of alignment between sector-specific regulations and the family law framework. The research indicates the need for further improvement of the system through more consistent application of existing norms, their more precise interpretation, and better harmonisation of relevant regulations, in order to ensure effective protection of the child's property rights in practice.

Keywords: *property rights of the child, management of the child's property, representation of the child, parents, guardian, independence of the child in the protection of property rights.*