

P01-351

## CHILD OMBUDSMEN AS COLLABORATORS OF CHILD PSYCHIATRY ?

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Legislation regulates rights also of individuals with mental disorders. Observance of these regulations is monitored by so-called Ombudsperson, or the Public Defender of the Rights. Since 2002, special attention has been paid to young generation in Slovakia. Developmental problems and issues of rights of ordinary and mentally handicapped children have also been dealt with, applying the paradigm that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance. And this is the ground for collaborators of the Public Defender of Rights, i.e. for school. They are helpful to parents of the minor, to teachers, healthcare professionals and to other adults working with minors. Thus the children ombudspersons become assistants of pedopsychiatry. From the viewpoint of a child psychiatrist, it was important to solve cases of Child Abuse and Neglect syndrome of various scope. Since December 2008, a project for creating the network of children collaborators of the Public Defender of Rights is in operation in Slovakia. Children from a school or other institution selected from their ranks a "children ombudsperson" who is willing to defend the rights of each member also with mental problems and disorders. For this reason is the necessity of development of international cooperation of ombudspersons for children which takes place in 22 European countries within the ENOC (The European Network of Ombudspersons for Children) which was commenced in a greater scale in April 2010. The children ombudspersons should be taken into account in the public healthcare system and they should become a part of the standard care for minor patients.