



## 'A criterio del juez': desafíos para la participación infantil en justicia de familia [

2023

text (article)

Analítica

In family justice, one of the biggest challenges is to effectively guarantee the right of children to participate. Though participation implies multiple benefits for the child, such as increased self-esteem, psychological wellbeing and preventing violations of rights, it is possible to detect many obstacles for it to effectively occur in court. Among these, prioritizing adults' interests, conditioning participation of the child to their age and lack of formal regulations were noted. The present study consists of a thematic analysis of interviews with Chilean family judges about child participation. Findings point to a consideration of the infrastructure and the institutional legal organization as not being able to guarantee and facilitate child participation in the judicial system. Lack of standardization in norms and practices inside the courts encourages judges to base their decisions on their own personal abilities and criteria, frequently influenced by prejudice about revictimization and the capacity of children to exercise a meaningful participation related to their psychological development. In addition, considerations about how laws and family courts should promote child participation in family justice are discussed

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**Título:** 'A criterio del juez': desafíos para la participación infantil en justicia de familia electronic resource]

**Editorial:** 2023

**Tipo Audiovisual:** Child protection confidential meetings decision-making childhood participation Protección infantil audiencias reservadas toma de decisiones infancia participación

**Documento fuente:** Derecho PUCP: Revista de la Facultad de Derecho, ISSN 2305-2546, N°. 90, 2023 (Ejemplar dedicado a: Estudios Socio-Jurídicos), pags. 115-138

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**Lengua:** Spanish

**Enlace a fuente de información:** Derecho PUCP: Revista de la Facultad de Derecho, ISSN 2305-2546, N°. 90, 2023 (Ejemplar dedicado a: Estudios Socio-Jurídicos), pags. 115-138

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