

25. September 2023

Family

Symposium: Providing help with separation conflicts

Joint meeting of city and counselling centres at the Stadtparkasse

If there is a permanent dispute between the parents, the children suffer the most. The youth welfare office of the city of Bocholt and the counselling centres in Bocholt have observed an increase in separation conflicts in families. A symposium on this topic has now taken place.

Children in particular suffer from the effects of constant arguments between parents. Therefore, employees of the city of Bocholt, the marriage, family and life counselling centre as well as the Caritas Association Bocholt have now dealt with the topic of "highly contentious parents" in a joint expert day in the conference room of the Stadtparkasse.

The speaker for the day was Uli Alberstötter from "VIA - Ways in Conflict" in Frankfurt. He has worked for many years as a counsellor in the area of separation and divorce and has specialised in the topic of "high conflict". In his lecture, Alberstötter emphasised, among other things, that successful counselling of quarrelling parents requires smooth cooperation of all involved actors on the ground in the community.

The expert positively highlighted the cooperation that already exists in Bocholt. The family court judges of the Bocholt district court also took part in the event. Alberstötter emphasised: "Such cooperation and collaboration is not a matter of course in other cities."

The aim of the joint expert day was to facilitate a lively exchange on the topic of "highly contentious parents" and to promote networking among professionals. All institutions agreed to remain in contact with regard to the findings of the symposium and to intensify their cooperation.

Counselling centres for separation situations

The Youth, Family, School and Sports Department of the City of Bocholt, the Marriage, Family and Life Counselling Centre as well as the Counselling Centre for Children, Adolescents and Families of the Caritas Association Bocholt e.V. are contact points for parents who are in a separation situation and need counselling to regulate contact with their children and to clarify questions about custody.

If parents have questions about separation and divorce, the following offices can be contacted:

Department of Youth, Family, School and Sport,
Kaiser-Wilhelm-Straße 77 in 46395 Bocholt,
Tel.: 02871/953-2421

Marriage, Family and Life Counselling Centre,
Neutorplatz 1 in 46395 Bocholt,
Tel.: 02871/183808

Counselling centre for children, young people and families,
Nordwall 44-46 in 46399 Bocholt,
Tel.: 02871/2513-1301





Participants in the symposium were: Claudia Hardeweg, Head of Marriage, Family and Life Counselling, Florian Tschirpke, Head of the Social Services Division of the City of Bocholt, Karin Nachbar, Head of the Counselling Centre for Children, Adolescents and Families of the Caritas Association Bocholt and speaker Uli Alberstötter (Via Konflikt).

© Stadt Bocholt