

## Preface

This book has its origins in the research project ‘Decisions and Justifications in Child Protection Services’, funded under the Research Council of Norway’s programme *HELSEVEL*. The focus of the research project is child welfare services’ decisions and justifications related to safeguarding the best interests of the child. The project started in 2018, and this book is the project’s second in anthology form.

The purpose of the book is to clarify and shed light on how the significance of family influences professional child welfare work as a form of social work service. We do this in three ways. First, we are concerned with how families and children experience their meetings and communication with child welfare services. Second, we analyse how professional child welfare work with families is guided by rules, norms and ideologies. Third, we seek to understand how social structures and frameworks can contribute to explaining the interaction between child welfare workers and families. Together the chapters of the book form part of an overall understanding of the significance of family in child welfare work. We hope that the book can stimulate reflection among researchers, practitioners and students in child welfare and social work study programmes.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Research Council of Norway for funding the research project of which the book is part and the Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences for funding its publication. We would also like to thank the authors of the chapters in the book for their contributions and the stimulating discussions we have had in the workshops leading to the book. The authors come from different disciplines and the interdisciplinary approach to the book’s theme has created a platform for many interesting discussions.

Thanks also to the anonymous reviewers who provided constructive comments on earlier versions of the chapters. Finally, we would like to extend a special thank you to the publishing editor Ann Kristin Gresaker

and the publisher Cappelen Damm Akademisk, who have shown great interest in the book project right from the start and provided very valuable input along the way.

Lillehammer, December 2023

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