The child's best interest vs. the child's desire

(Kindeswohl und Kindeswille)

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When a family breaks apart, children often become the bone of contention. It is decided in court, who is allowed to take custody of the child. Other forms of a child's future upbringing are ruled in court, too: questions of visitation rights, adoption or the issue of taking children away from their parents are decided by judges and appointed experts. The central criteria on which the decision will be based are "the child's best interest" and "the child's desire". But is not the understanding of these terms diffuse and arbitrary? Does the judgement of the experts really do justice to the child's interests?

This book demonstrates, how the criteria "the child's best interest" and "the child's desire" can be used in a controlled and sensitive manner. In addition to the basic legal principles, the psychological aspects are clarified: What can the newest findings of development psychology contribute to the discussion?

Moreover, the professional receives practical advice for the diagnosis and for the further handling of the child's desire. The example of the Parental Alienation Syndrome, meaning the alienation of a
Child from one parent, serves to illustrate how the child's best interest and the child's desire can be judged in a perceptive way.

**The author**
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**Target Groups**
Lawyers specialized in family law, psychologists, psychological experts, pedagogues, remedial teachers, child and youth welfare workers, child protection workers, child representatives in court, parents.