Selected Publications

- Handbuch Pflegekinderhilfe in Deutschland (Handbook on foster care services in Germany), ed. by Heinz Kindler/Elisabeth Helming/Thomas Meysen/Karin Jurczyk, 2011.

These and other publications can be downloaded from the DIJuF homepage [www.dijuf.de → Publikationen → Bücher/Broschüren](http://www.dijuf.de) or ordered at [institut@dijuf.de](mailto:institut@dijuf.de).

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Recovery of Maintenance Abroad

The number of cross-border maintenance cases constantly increases. Globalization is not only an economic phenomenon, but also leaves its marks on families.

The German Institute for Youth Human Services and Family Law (DIJuF) supports the local youth welfare offices by providing the knowledge of the different legal requirements in different states which is necessary to assert and enforce child maintenance claims and, above all, by keeping this knowledge up-to-date.

Today, DIJuF trustfully cooperates with courts and public authorities in more than 50 states for the benefit of the children. This work also contributes to the enforcement of reimbursement claims of the local authorities if they have granted advance maintenance payments, and often saves public transfer payments.

- Provision of legal advice on the enforceability and the procedures for maintenance claims in all countries of the world;
- Assertion and enforcement of maintenance claims of minor children against parents living abroad;
- Ascertainment of the whereabouts of maintenance debtors;
- Legal enforcement of maintenance claims abroad.

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Over 100 Years of Commitment in

- Policies
- Law
- Practice

of Youth Human Services and Family Law

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German Institute for Youth Human Services and Family Law
The German Institute for Youth Human Services and Family Law (DiJuF) provides assistance to the German youth welfare offices through

- Recovery of child support abroad
- Individual legal advice
- Drawing up expert opinions in the fields of youth human services and family law
- Further education events for employees of the youth welfare offices.

It is supported by 560 regional administrative bodies which function as members on behalf of their youth welfare offices. The members are represented by the board of directors. The honorary members of the board act as a driving force and adviser for the Institute’s office.

**Board of Directors**

Front row from left to right: Bernd Mix (Osnabrück; vice-chairman), Thomas Mörsberger (Lüneburg, chairman), Beate Schiffer (Ratingen, vice-chairwoman); back row from left to right: Klaus Guido Ruffing (Homburg), Monika Reichel (Chemnitz), Hans Happel (Gießen), Manfred Donatin (Hamm), Dr. Roswitha Krum (Salzgitter, cash auditor), Anselm Brößkamp (Plön), Julia Joos (Lörrach), Joachim Beinkinshadt (Hamburg, cash auditor), Matthias Röder (Gelnhausen), Holger Gläss (Waiblingen)

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**Specialist Events**

A broad range of specialist events organized by DiJuF provides information on current developments in the field of youth welfare. The further education offers contribute to the uniform application of youth welfare and family law and encourage youth welfare offices to jointly develop further “good practices”.

**Legal Advice and Legal Policies**

DiJuF offers its members free legal advice on individual cases. Our legal experts draw up well understandable written opinions geared to the needs of practitioners or provide phone-based advice in all fields of youth welfare work.

The professional and practical knowledge of the DiJuF employees is reflected in policy consultations during the legislative process. DiJuF also contributes to the legal developments in Germany by providing expert opinions in (high) court proceedings.

**“DAS JUGENDAMT” (“THE YOUTH WELFARE OFFICE”)**

Essays on professional topics, specialist-policy expert opinions and reports, selected legal opinions and practice-oriented comments on relevant case law form the core of the monthly journal “Das Jugendamt” (ISSN 1867-6723), which is edited by DiJuF.

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**Forum for Expert Debates**

DiJuF promotes dialogue between institutions and occupational groups involved in youth welfare and family law.

Practitioners from youth welfare offices and private youth welfare organizations as well as experts from academia help to shape the inter-institutional and inter-professional discourse in permanent specialist conferences (SFK):

- SFK 1 “Basic and Structural Issues of Youth Welfare Law”
- SFK 2 “Family Law and Social Services”
- SFK 3 “Family Law and Legal Advisership, Official Guardianship”.

In addition, specialist committees on current issues are created on a temporary basis, such as the “Expert Meeting on Legal Adviserships” from 2004 until 2006 and the “Expert Group on Foster Care Services” (since 2012).