

# Wiadomości Lekarskie Medical Advances



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Memory of  
dr Władysław  
Biegański

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 CONTENTS

## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

- Vladyslav V. Smiianov, Tetiana V. Fartushok, Yuri M. Fedevych, Nadiia V. Fartushok  
**New view on the compatibility of hemoglobin function in the erythrocytes** 9 
- Aidyn G. Salmanov, Dmytro V. Shcheglov, Maryna Mamonova, Ihor M. Bortnik, Nadiia B. Chabanovych, Yaroslav E. Kudelskyi, Daria Chekhunova  
**Healthcare-associated infections after neurosurgical procedures in Ukraine: a multicentre study (2020-2022)** 17 
- Alla V. Boychuk, Natalia V. Kotsabyn, Julia B. Yakymchuk, Iryna M. Nikitina  
**Pregravid preparation of women with chronic endometritis in IVF cycles** 25 
- Inna Borysova, Alexander Fesenko, Halina Fesenko, Tatiana Potapova, Alla Kirichenko, Daria Chub  
**International classification of functioning, disability and health with long-term consequences of cranio-brain injury** 29 
- Olga Bilyayeva, Vadim Kryzhevsky, Ivan Karol, Serhii Ziablitzev  
**The association of TLR4 gene polymorphisms with the severity of peritonitis in acute inflammatory diseases of the abdominal cavity organs** 35 
- Oksana Slaba, Zoryana Sadova-Chuba, Dzvenislava Hrushkovska, Oksana Hurka  
**Comparative analysis of the quality of life of women who left the territory of Ukraine during the ongoing Russia – Ukraine war and women who stayed at their homes** 42 
- Olena Venger, Volodymyr Bilous, Olena Striepetova, Oleksii Kulivets, Oleksandr Oliynyk  
**Prodromal period of psychosis: diagnostic criteria** 47 
- Andrii Rusanov, Volodymyr Vitomskyi, Iryna Roi, Natalia Borzykh, Anton Kudrin  
**Dynamics of disability and pain indicators under the influence of physical therapy for adhesives capsulitis and myofascial pain syndrome** 55 

Lilia Buria, Nataliia Moisieieva, Anna Kapustianska, Andrii Vakhnenko, Iryna Zviagolska, Olena Vlasova, Mariia Rumiantseva

**Evaluation of the treatment strategy for complicated allergic rhinitis**

62 

Andrii A. Boiko, Vladislav A. Malanchuk, Mykhailo S. Myroshnychenko

**Reparative osteogenesis in mandible in cases of filling a bone defect with hydroxyapatite-containing osteotropic material and injecting the surrounding soft tissues with thymalin: experimental and morphological study**

68 

Inna V. Bielikova, Maksim V. Khorosh, Nataliia A. Lyakhova, Oleh H. Krasnov, Tetiana V. Sharbenko, Dmytro V. Palamarchuk

**Tendencies in disability of the population as a result of malignant neoplasms in Ukraine (on the example of the Poltava region)**

77 

## REVIEW ARTICLES

Nadiya O. Fedchyshyn, Anna L. Shkrobot, Nataliia I. Hantimurova, Ivanna I. Vorona, Halyna Ya. Kitura, Larysa Ya. Fedoniuk  
**Improving the quality of medical education through the introduction of moodle system for the formation of terminological competence of medical students**

85 

Anatolii M. Hrynzovskyi, Serhii V. Bielai, Ihor M. Volkov, Andrii Y. Bakai, Artem V. Shevchenko, Ihor V. Yevtushenko  
**Public management of public healthcare under the COVID-19 outbreak: experience of Ukraine**

94 

Sergiy M. Pyvovar, Iurii Rudyk, Tetiana D Scherban

**The associations of cytokines and gens polymorphisms of  $\beta$ -adrenoceptors in patients with heart failure and some thyroid pathology (literature review and own observations)**

105 

Olena V. Lobova, Iryna V. Avramenko, Iryna I. Shpak







**COVID-19 associated anosmia in pediatric patients: subject publications review**

114 

Inha Samborska, Oleksandr Maievskyi, Larysa Podzihun, Victoriia Lavrynenko

**Features of immune reactivity of the spleen and mechanisms of organ damage under the influence of animal venom toxins including scorpions (review)**

120 

- Vira V. Navrotska, Oksana P. Horpyniuk, Halyna D. Boreiko  
**Abuse of right during application of coercive medical measures in criminal proceedings** 126 
- Nataliia M. Brechka, Volodymyr O. Bondarenko, Olena V. Shcherbak, Yeugenia M. Korenieva  
**D-hormone and its significance for function of prostate gland (literature review and personal observations)** 135 
- Inna M. Isaieva, Arsen M. Isaiev, Nataliia V. Korobtsova, Viktoriia V. Nadon, Iryna I. Puchkovska  
**Aggressive parenting: social, medical and legal aspects** 144 
- Nataliia Stepaniuk, Alla Stepaniuk, Nataliia Hudz, Iryna Havryliuk  
**The impact of mitochondrial dysfunction on the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis** 153 
- Oleksii Petiunin, Rostislav Shevchenko, Ostap Brek, Oleksii Kolomenskyi  
**Clinical classification of liver cirrhosis - a way to plan individual definitive treatment** 160 
- ## CASE STUDIES
- Olga Yepanchintseva, Vasyl Babenko, Vitalina Yarosh, Olga Golubovska  
**The course of COVID-19 in a multiple sclerosis: a case report** 166 
- Daryna B. Pylypiv, Boris M. Sharga, Olexandr A. Rishko, Vitalii Leshak, Elena Karbovanets  
**Relation of *Streptococcus Pyogenes* tonsillitis isolate to antimicrobial agents and its infection treatment** 171 



## Aggressive parenting: social, medical and legal aspects

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### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** To examine the impacts of aggressive parenting on physical, mental and emotional development; outcomes for society; possible ways of prevention of children's rights or health violation and responsibility of parents to optimize well-being of children.

**Materials and Methods:** The analysis of scientific data has been conducted on the basis of PubMed, Scopus and Web of Science databases in order to collect the existed results of researches about social and medical aspects of impact of aggressive parenting. The formal-legal method was used to interpret the provisions of legislation regarding the protection of personal non-property rights and responsibilities of parents and children.

**Conclusions:** Aggressive parenting affects children of all ages and is associated with chronic stress and long-term negative impacts on physical development, cognitive and behavioral dysfunction, socioemotional difficulties, social and psychological dysfunction in adulthood. Aggressive parenting triggers a child's aggressive behavior which is considered as a predictor of adult's criminality. From a legal standpoint, aggressive parenting is a form of violation of the responsibility of parents to educate a child, which is an element of family legal relations regulated by the norms of the family law institution known as «Personal non-property rights and responsibilities of parents and children». The definition of aggressive parenting has been defined with its legal features and characteristics. Effective prevention methods should be directed to predict possible further parental violence, intervention programs to reduce outcomes of aggressive parenting and to improve the ways of responsibility in procedural and material aspects of law.

**KEY WORDS:** Harsh parenting, children's health outcomes, ways of prevention, legal responsibility, Family law

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## INTRODUCTION

A parenthood is a key mission, significant condition and considerable social and psychological function of humans. The style of parenthood is the base for development of individual's qualities, influences the adaptation to surrounding conditions and eventually affects the society as a whole [1].

Mindful parenthood is the one of the complicated aspects of Psychology and Pedagogy, moreover Medicine and Jurisprudence due to an increase in an aggressive style of bringing up with numerous outcomes [2].

A term "parenting" has many varieties of definitions aimed to developing the complete individual in all the aspects of human being and refers to a process of raising children providing them with protection in order to promote well-being such as support of physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual and social development and achieved by certain parental style [3]. A parental style, meanwhile, is considered with characteristic attitude of parents toward the children. It is important to note that many factors can affect style of parenting

like cultural, religious, social, political, economic, etc. [4]. Moreover, numerous studies have shown the psychiatric effects of the military deployments on adults, families and children [5-8].

Child development is influenced by different factors in both positive or negative ways, in the same time, the mental health of adults largely depends on family environment at which they have been as children [9].

Aggressive parenting is considered as style using threats or different kinds of punishments such as psychological or physical to keep a child under control or pressure to obey. However, the standardized definition of aggressive parenting doesn't exist and most of interpretations are focused on physical aggression which refers to actions with intention of causing physical pain or injury.

Regarding physical aggression, it is associated with wide range of aggressive behavior such as kicking, spanking, hitting with a fist, slapping on the face, beating up, burning or scalding, grabbing or choking around the neck, threatening with a knife or gun, pinching,

or shaking children, thus including everything from severe physical injuries to culturally acceptable kinds of punishments [10].

Nevertheless, psychological aggression is considered as a persisting pattern of behavior making children to feel that they are unloved, worthless, unwanted, and is the most common form of aggressive parenting behavior including all kinds of psychological control such as guilt induction, yelling, cursing, threatening or name calling and other, used to pressure and to manipulate behavior and thoughts of children [11].

Moreover, researchers have found that psychological aggressive parenting, rather than physical, was a more powerful predictor of depression and self-esteem [10].

In the legal context, we deal with one of the Institutions of Family Law «Personal non-property rights and responsibilities of parents and children». These are the rights that a person cannot refuse and the observance of which can be demanded from everyone [12]. According to art. 150 «Parental Responsibilities in respect of the Child's Education and Development» of the Family code of Ukraine, the parents shall educate the child in the spirit of respect for the rights and freedoms of the others, love to his/her family and relatives, people and Motherland. The parents shall have the duty to care of the child's health, his/her physical, spiritual and moral development. The parents shall pay respect for the child, ensure that the child obtains full general secondary education and shall prepare him/her to his/her own life [13, 14]. From this point of view, aggressive parenting can be considered as a non-fulfilment or improper fulfillment of the parental responsibility of the child's education.

Taking in account the current martial law in Ukraine, as an additional possible factor initiating aggressive parenting, it is impotent and relevant to be aware of the seriousness of Russia-Ukrainian war outcomes.

## AIM

The aim of the study was to examine the impacts of aggressive parenting on three aspects of personality development such as physical, mental and emotional; outcomes for society; possible ways of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of children's rights or health violation and responsibility of parents to optimize well-being of children, and consequently, well-being of future adults or to provide perspectives for healthy nation; issues of legal responsibility for aggressive parenting.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This article has been written using a range of scientific methods that have facilitated an objective and

comprehensive examination of the issues covered by the research purpose. The analysis of scientific data has been conducted on the basis of PubMed, Scopus and Web of Science databases in order to collect the existed results of researches about social and medical aspects of impact of aggressive parenting. Synergistic method provides the collaborative interdisciplinary research. Bringing together experts from medicine and legal fields, let us combine unique perspectives, methodologies, and expertise to tackle multifaceted problems of aggressive parenting and generate integrative approach to push the boundaries of knowledge. The formal-legal method was used to interpret the provisions of legislation regarding the protection of personal non-property rights and responsibilities of parents and children. Logical methods of analysis and synthesis have allowed for the derivation of comprehensive knowledge about the essential characteristics of aggressive parenting in social, medical and legal aspects, particularly, comparative legal to compare legal regulation of subject in different jurisdictions, statistical to collect and process the necessary data and other [15].

## REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Numerous studies showed a relationship between childhood environment and long-term neurobiological and psychological development, where environmental factors may produce the risk of different psychiatric disorders development, disorders of physical development, also can affect functions of visceral organs resulting in cardiovascular disorders, adult obesity and diabetes, thus early-life environment impacting the adulthood [16].

## CHARACTERIZING PARENTAL STYLES

Currently the following parenting styles are used in psychology, including authoritative, authoritarian, permissive and neglectful or uninvolved, based on two aspects of parents' behavior – demanding and responsive.

The results of researches have shown that authoritative style promotes positive well-being of adolescents, they are less likely to be with externalizing disorders, also less involved in drug abuse or criminal activity [17]. Additionally, it has been revealed that children with authoritative style of parenting have lower levels of depression and anxiety and with higher level of self-estimation and life-satisfaction [18].

Authoritarian style is associated with verbal abuse and psychological control [19]. Adolescents with authoritarian style have been shown to have negative

psychological effects, poor social skills, reducing self-esteem, psychological flexibility and maturity, moreover can lead to depression and mania [20].

Adolescents with permissive style frequently show substance use, low self-esteem, school misconduct, low extrinsic motivational orientation and less positive orientation to school [21].

An uninvolved style is considered to have the most negative effect on personality development [22]. Adolescents have been shown to have trouble controlling emotions, academic challenges, problems with maintenance of social relationship [23]. Also, researchers have found the association between uninvolved parenting style and delinquent acts such as vandalism, theft, attack and rape, more frequently they are found to drink alcohol, smoke, drug use, have high risk of depressive symptoms [21].

As it is seen from the data of researches, the parenting style has a great impact on the development of anxiety and depression which is characterized by aggressive behavior and violence [18, 23, 24].

In turn, anxiety is connected to fear and oriented to cognitive, affective, physiological and behavioral responses for the preparation to anticipate the threatening [25]. It is important to mention that the manifestations of anxiety and fear in the body are the same [26]. Some researchers revealed the evidence and strong correlation between aggression and anxiety based on neuroendocrine and neurochemical mechanisms [27]. Individuals with anxiety disorders often show intensive anger and aggression, in same time, they are characterized by social phobia associated with violent behavior [28].

The uninvolved and authoritarian styles of parenting are positively related to the development of depression symptoms, as it has been shown in research, conducted by Brittany N. Hearne (2015) [29]. Additionally, author concluded that parental style affects educational achievements and educational progress though mental health.

## IMPACT OF STRESS ON COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS

Parental aggression is also linked to stress, at same time, stress is a most significant cause of depression. Stress initiates release of adrenocorticotrophic hormone, stimulated by corticotrophin-releasing hormone from hypothalamus, that results in secretion of glucocorticoids (GC) by adrenal cortex, providing elevated concentration in blood and cerebrospinal fluid [30]. Additionally, chronic stress maintains elevated basal concentration of GC [31]. Normally, negative feedback

mechanism suppresses secretion of corticotrophin-releasing hormone via GC receptors in the hippocampus thus normalizing concentration of GC, however in case of depressive disorder the lack of negative feedback leads to the continuation of elevated GC level [30]. Chronic stress with elevated basal level of GC induces atrophy of hippocampal neurons with respective alteration of functions such as learning and memory [32].

Among widespread systemic effects of GC on visceral organs and stress-adaptation they are also involved in learning and memory, cognitive functions and reward-related behaviors [33].

Glucocorticoids change synthesis and metabolism of neurotransmitters and neuromodulators, such as serotonin, dopamine, glutamate and GABA, altering the physiological level of their receptors [34]. In the other hand, the listed above substances play a crucial role in the pathophysiology of depression.

Deficiency of serotonin and impaired receptors lead to depression, anxiety and other mental health disorders, moreover, researchers revealed that social isolation and hypercortisolemia are the causes of serotonin receptors alteration [35].

There is evidence that stress with elevated basal GCs level during adolescence can affect brain development leading to maladaptive changes later in life impacting behavior and stress responsiveness. Particularly, stress hormones can change dopamine neurotransmission thus alter dopamine-mediated cognitive function and behavior during adolescence. It has been revealed that chronic stress induces dopamine-related changes in the prefrontal cortex (PFC), namely decrease basal dopamine level, expression of receptors and binding, leading to abnormal behavior like increased aggression, anxiety-like behavior and decrease social interaction. Obtained results allowed to suggest that chronic stress during adolescence may affect dopaminergic circuits resulting in long-term molecular and behavioral maladaptation in adulthood. Adolescence is a period of development of the body and brain, any trigger, particularly stress, affecting brain maturation, lead to disturbance of adaptive behavior, which normally facilitates adolescent's independent development, tolerance to psychosocial stress, inhibitory control, long-term planning and abstract problem solving which are necessary to handle with variety of cognitive and social requests during adulthood. However, abnormal brain maturation at adolescence may play a critical role in mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar illness, depression and drug abuse [36].

Another important and the major excitatory neurotransmitter of the healthy brain is glutamate, moreover, most neurons express at least one type of recep-

tors for glutamate. Glutamate plays an important role in variety of neuroplasticity mechanisms, that is crucial in all areas where neuroplasticity is essential for adaptation to environmental stressors such as cognition, learning, memory and mood. At the same time, chronic stress impairs glutamate system and reduces neuroplasticity. It was revealed that in the hippocampus chronic stress increases glutamate release, affecting long-term potentiation, causing atrophy of apical dendrites thus disturbing learning and memory. In contrast to hippocampus, in PFC and amygdala chronic stress decreases glutamate release resulting in impaired attention and anxiety. Researchers have proposed that the listed outcomes are due to neuroinflammation, affecting both intracellular and extracellular signaling pathways [37].

Regarding GABA, which is the main inhibitory neurotransmitter in brain circuits, and necessary for keeping the balance between neuronal excitation and inhibition processes [38]. Additionally, GABA is well-known regulator of physiological response to stress via regulation of hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal axis function [39]. Numerous studies indicate the direct relationship between stress and GABA-modulation in the amygdala – a part of brain responsible for emotional aspects of learning and behavior.

There is evidence that early-life stress produces alteration in GABA-receptors expression inducing long-term changes in behavior and stress response thus providing molecular basis for the effects of early-life stress on adulthood anxiety [40].

## THE IMPACT OF AGGRESSIVE PARENTING ON PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONALITY

In a healthy organism a physical development is mainly provided by environmental, dietary, socioeconomic, behavioral, metabolic, biochemical, and mainly genetical and hormonal factors. In our review we discussed the hormonal aspect of physical development and its alterations caused by aggression. The following substances are vitally important to provide physical development such as growth hormone, insulin-like growth factor 1, sex steroids, and thyroid hormone.

Growth hormone is crucial for children' physical development with progressive rise of its level during childhood and peak that occurs in puberty. Meanwhile, infants, children and adolescents represent the period of aging with increased vulnerability to environmental stressors .

Existing results of studies show the negative effects of chronic stress on growth, where high cortisol suppresses growth hormone-insulin-like growth factor 1, hypo-

thalamic-pituitary-gonadal and thyroid axes leading to visceral obesity, a decrease in lean mass, inhibition of osteoblasts activity with high risk of osteoporosis and induction of insulin resistance. Additionally, during sensitive growth periods, chronic stress can affect body morphology, increasing risk of short stature and obesity. It also has been found that neglectful parenting style is associated with an increased risk of obesity in childhood, adolescence and adulthood, long-term emotional abuse leads to growth failure.

## IMPACT OF AGGRESSIVE PARENTING ON MENTAL DEVELOPMENT

There is numerous scientific evidence that positive parenting style in childhood has benefits for mental health and preventing adolescents psychiatric and behavioral problems. Relatively to mental health and development it has been revealed that positive parenting is widely protective against internalizing and externalizing behavioral problems, in contrast, aggressive style or harsh discipline including screaming, cursing, threatening and physical punishment, is associated with higher level of the symptoms of internalizing and externalizing behavioral problems, and is considered to be detrimental to children's socioemotional development. Whereas, internalizing behavioral problems are associated with own self focus and expressed by withdrawal, anxiety, depression and emotional problems; externalizing behavioral problems occur in interaction with the social environment result in aggression, impulsivity, deviance and hyperactivity. Moreover, in respect to sex differences, it has been also revealed that among girls positive parenting was associated with lower expression of physical, social aggression, and suicides. Further, other results of researches have shown that parents-adolescents' conflicts are related to higher adolescents' anxiety, depression, aggression, lower school satisfaction and lower self-esteem; at same time, positive parenting, which is expressed in parent support, education support and parent-child future orientation, is associated with less depression and higher self-esteem, future optimism and school satisfaction.

## AGGRESSIVE PARENTING INITIATES A DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD' AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR

It is known that child aggressive behavior is one of the best predictors of adult's criminality. The results of conducted studies showed that aggressive children are less intelligent, less popular, have parents who use different physical punishments, and less likely to express guilt.

Moreover, aggressive children express more family disharmony and are most at the risk for arrest. Besides, the level of aggression at age eight is considered as the best predictor of criminal events over the next 22 years, thus prevention methods have to be targeted on risk factors of early aggression development. The severity of aggression, emotional dysregulation and social isolation is a potent and direct predictor of violent crime; thus, adolescents' socialization plays a special role in predicting nonviolent and violent crime.

Existing results of conducted researches have shown that the military personnel deployed in war are at a high risk of mental health disorders, especially posttraumatic stress disorder, with following affection of family members, particularly children.

As psychological difficulties in adults may affect parenting capabilities so that posttraumatic stress disorder can cause negative changes to an individual's behavior such as anger and reactivity and social withdrawal resulting in psychological, social and emotional difficulties in children. Moreover, parental posttraumatic stress disorder is associated with increased level of parental stress, expressed in detrimental effects to parenting satisfaction, parent-child relationship and acceptance of negative parental practices. Parents with posttraumatic stress disorder have an effect on internalizing and externalizing symptoms of children, including depression, social emotional adjustment, increased anxiety in early childhood.

Therefore, numerous studies show that children who grow up in environment with aggressive parenting may be more prone to be engaged in behaviors that can lead to criminal activity and break the law. In turn, the prevention of aggressive parenting will result in a decrease in juvenile delinquency as well as the overall crime rate in society.

## THE WAYS OF PREVENTION

In prevention of child abuse, it is crucial to identify the probability of aggressive parenting style use, the term known as child abuse potential and linked to abusive physical discipline and harsh, authoritarian parenting. Aggressive parenting and child abuse potential collectively termed as parent-child aggression risk. Researchers attempted to identify the processes involved in increasing the risk adapting the Social Information Processing theory, i.e., a third theory of conduct problems which is focused on processing of information in the social situations. The evaluation controlled for parents' level of personal vulnerabilities such as psychopathology, substance use, domestic violence and resiliencies like social support, partner satisfaction and

copied in order to define the predictive value of Social Information Processing theory.

*Primary prevention* has to be aimed at reducing risks or threats to health thus it is crucial to assess the tendency to aggressive parenting prenatally, for example, after marriage registration, or while planning for pregnancy, such comprehensive approach gives opportunity to detect specific problematic areas for family. The correction of possible parents' harsh behavior may include enriching the emphatic skills, improvement of emotion regulation skills, frustration tolerance. The improvement and correction of parental skills could be performed individually for particular family or universally, through a more public health by widely spread programs of aggressive behavior correction preparing the adults to mindful parenthood.

*Secondary prevention.* As secondary prevention underlines early detection of pathological changes so that it has to be done in different forms of screenings in order to reveal the degree of depression, anxiety, poor work performance, inability to learn, substance abuse, quality of life and worry. In achievement of this goal, it is crucial to assess the psychological flexibility which refers to ability of individual to react properly to different circumstances and emotional demands in order to achieve goals and related to self-control, self-regulation, and emotion regulation. Thus, psychological flexibility measures adaptation to fluctuating situational demands, ability to reconfigure mental resources and to balance competing desires, needs, and life domains. For purpose to assess the psychological flexibility the Acceptance and Action Questionnaire can be used which has been adapted to specific population and psychopathologies including psychic symptoms (Voice Acceptance and Action Scale), social anxiety (Social Anxiety – Acceptance and Action Questionnaire), Avoidance and Fusion Questionnaire for Youth and Child and Adolescent Mindfulness. The analysis of the associations between psychological flexibility, psychological and social impacts allowed for researchers to reveal that low psychological flexibility is linked with psychopathologies and is greatly influenced by parenting style.

*Tertiary prevention.* Tertiary prevention aims to reduce the effects of the aggressive parenting and can be directed to both children and parents. Existing results of studies reported that some coping strategies (processes of executing a cognitive response to threat), such as avoiding contact with aggressor or disclosing violence to confidant, make victims feel better [11]. However, complete assessment of family members with individual approach for both parents and children, who facing the violence is a crucial. In this step

it is important to examine children's vulnerability, the degree of psychological and physiological changes, and stress tolerance. Interventions directed to parents have to be based on improvement of parental practice and sensitivity, learning effective parental skills with recommended programs by social services and to adopt an authoritative style of parenting which is considered as the best style, warm and responsive. Regarding children, the respite care might be helpful in order to improve cognition, self-esteem and social skills; group therapy is also proved useful and motivating for victims of parental violence.

#### *The ways of responsibility.*

As we mentioned earlier, in the legal context, aggressive parenting can be considered as a non-fulfilment or improper fulfilment of the parental responsibility of the child's education.

The current family legislation of Ukraine defines the education of a child as the responsibility of their parents, it's according with the fundamental principles of international conventions. According to par.1 art. 18 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, participating states make every effort to ensure the recognition of the principle of shared and equal responsibility of both parents for the education and development of the child. Parents or legal guardians bear the primary responsibility for the education and development of the child. The best interests of the child are the subject of their primary care.

In the theory of family law, the parental responsibility of the education of a child is defined as the measure of proper behavior, manifested through personal influence on the child, comparing one's actions with the requirements of pedagogy, moral norms, and morality, as well as the law to raise them in a spirit of loyalty to the homeland.

The legal definition that approximates the concept of aggressive parenting is the definition of "cruel treatment of a child" which encompasses any forms of physical, psychological, sexual, or economic violence against a child, including domestic violence, as well as any illegal actions concerning the child, such as recruitment, transportation, concealment, transfer, or receipt of a child, committed for the purpose of exploitation, using deception, blackmail, or the vulnerable state of the child. This definition is broader than aggressive parenting phenomenon as it: (1) encompasses actions that do not have the characteristics of parenting and; (2) applies not only to parents or other authorized persons responsible for the parenting, but also to any other individuals resorting to cruel treatment of the child.

Considering all, from a legal point of view, aggressive parenting can be regarded as a non-fulfilment

or improper fulfilment of the responsibility of child education, manifested in a negative influence on the child, which contradicts the principles of morality, law, and the best interests of the child.

Legal responsibility for aggressive parenting should occur depending on the nature of the actions of the subject of parenting. According to paragraph 4 of Art. 155 of the Family code of Ukraine, evasion of performance of parental responsibilities constitutes the ground for bringing parents to responsibility prescribed by law. In particular, the court may deprive the mother or the father of parental rights if he/she: (1) evades parental responsibilities to educate the child; (2) behaves with child violently; (3) use different ways of exploitation, involves him/her in begging and vagrancy (par. 2, 3, 5 art. 164 of the Family code of Ukraine).

If aggressive parenting has signs of an administrative offense, then the parent has to be brought to administrative responsibility in order to Art. 184 «Non-fulfilment by parents or persons replacing them of their responsibilities regarding to the education of the child» of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses.

In some cases, aggressive parenting can take the form of a criminal offense. For example, the Art. 304 «Engaging minors in criminal activity» of the Criminal Code of Ukraine provides criminal responsibility for engaging minors in criminal activity, drinking alcohol, begging, or gambling.

However, the legal regulation of responsibility for aggressive parenting can be enhanced. Such enhancement should encompass both procedural and material aspects of responsibility.

The material aspect is associated with the establishment, at the legislative level, of new additional corpus delicti of administrative and criminal offenses, which should take into account specific forms of aggressive parenting and the corresponding negative consequences that have occurred for the child and social relations.

The procedural aspect can be associated with a broader and mandatory involvement of relevant specialists, such as psychologists, educators, doctors, and child protection workers, in the process of considering civil, administrative, or criminal cases. Involving these experts will contribute to the effective protection of the rights and legitimate interests of children who have experienced aggressive parenting. Furthermore, it is deemed appropriate to establish courts for minors and juveniles in Ukraine.


International experience supports the existence of separate jurisdiction courts specializing in cases related to children and the concept of juvenile justice in Ukraine is in the process of implementation.

## CONCLUSIONS























Analysis of scientific data allowed to conclude the following:

1. Among all parental styles the authoritative style promotes positive well-being of adolescents, with higher level of self-esteem and life-satisfaction and lower levels of depression and anxiety and. In contrast to authoritative, permissive style results in frequent substance use, low self-esteem, school misconduct, low extrinsic motivational orientation. An uninvolved style is also considered to have the negative effects on personality development such as trouble controlling emotions, academic challenges, problems with maintenance of social relationships, delinquent acts like vandalism, theft, attack and rape, more frequently they are found to drink alcohol, smoke, drug use, have high risk of depressive symptoms. Authoritarian style is associated with verbal abuse and psychological control, adolescents have poor social skills, low self-esteem, psychological flexibility and maturity, moreover this style can lead to depression and mania.
2. It has been determined that aggressive parenting, from a legal standpoint, is a form of violation of the responsibility of parents (or other authorized persons) to educate a child. This responsibility is an element of family legal relations regulated by the norms of the family law institution known as «Personal non-property rights and responsibilities of parents and children”.
3. Early-life adversities caused by aggressive parenting are associated with chronic stress and long-term negative effects to physical development, cognitive and behavioral dysfunction, socioemotional difficulties, social and psychological dysfunction throughout the lifespan. In turn, elevated basal glucocorticoids level change synthesis and metabolism of serotonin, dopamine, glutamate and GABA, altering the physiological level of their receptors leading to depression, anxiety and other mental health disorders, abnormal behavior like increased aggression, decrease social interaction. Moreover, chronic stress during adolescence may result in long-term molecular and behavioral maladaptation in adulthood, additionally, abnormal brain maturation at adolescence may play a critical role in mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar illness, depression and drug abuse. High cortisol suppresses growth hormone-insulin-like growth factor 1, hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal and thyroid axes leading to visceral obesity, a decrease in lean mass, inhibition of osteoblasts activity with high risk of osteoporosis and induction of insulin resistance. During sensitive growth periods, chronic stress can affect body morphology, increasing risk of short stature and obesity.
4. Aggressive style is associated with higher level of the symptoms of internalizing and externalizing behavioral problems, and is considered to be detrimental to children’s socioemotional development. Aggressive parenting is a trigger of child’ aggressive behavior which is one of the best predictors of adult’s criminality. Aggressive children are less intelligent, less popular, and less likely to express guilt, express more family disharmony and are the most at the risk for arrest. The severity of aggression, emotional dysregulation and social isolation is a potent and direct predictor of violent crime. Military personnel deployed in war are at a high risk of mental health disorders, especially posttraumatic stress disorder, with following affection of family members, particularly children.
5. The definition of aggressive parenting has been formulated, defining its legal features and characteristics. Specifically, aggressive parenting should be understood as non-fulfilment or improper fulfilment of the responsibility of child education, manifested in a negative influence on the child, which contradicts the principles of morality, law, and the best interests of the child.
6. Aggressive parenting affects children of all ages. Prevention of aggressive parenting will result in a decrease in juvenile delinquency as well as the overall crime rate in society. Effective prevention methods should be directed to predict possible further parental violence, intervention programs to reduce outcomes of aggressive parenting and to improve the ways of responsibility in procedural and material aspects of law.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Authors declare no conflict of interest

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