

# **The Family Meeting Model - A starting point for better coordinated services to children exposed to domestic violence**

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## Introduction

The starting point of the thesis is a professional development project at the Barnahus Oslo, called the Family Meeting Model. I have examined experiences child welfare workers have with the interaction between themselves, the police and workers at the barnahus after the completed investigating interviews and the introduction of the Family Meeting Model.

## Methods

The Master thesis is a qualitative study based on interviews with 6 informants who are employees in 3 different Child Welfare Services belonging to the Oslo police district.

The research question is:

How can the Family Meeting Model contribute to better the interaction between the various public bodies, and improve the safety and care for children exposed to domestic violence?

The research question is investigated through questions related to the challenges the Child Welfare Services employees experience in cases where there is a suspicion of domestic violence.

## Results

The thesis sheds light on the complexity domestic violence represents, and that it is important to have a contextual understanding of the phenomenon. The fact that there are many different public bodies emphasizes the need for clear guidelines and routines for the work. The thesis shows that there is a need to both develop new routines and to implement current routines related to communication and information flow, also after the interrogation day.

## Conclusions

The study provides no direct answer, but indicate that professional development projects such as the Family Meeting Model contribute in a positive way to a better understanding of roles, interest in more

collaboration, and a desire for more dialogue on professional issues. Which can be a good starting point for developing better and more coordinated services in the field.