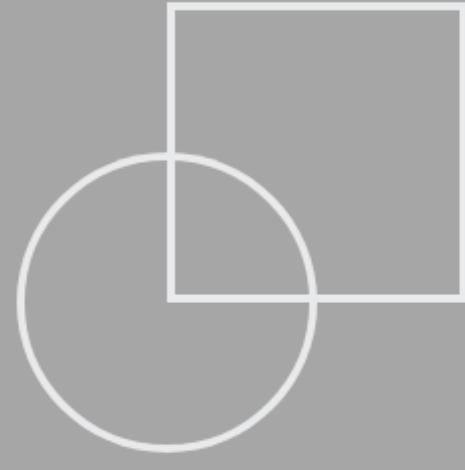


# The Fine Memo 0/15



LA LIGNE FINE

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## **Understanding child protection in France – Presentation of the series**

Series: Child Protection

Thematic Cluster: RIDS – International Relations, Defence and Security  
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# 1. Purpose of the series

This series of memos aims to offer a **clear, structured and accessible knowledge base** on child protection in France.

It is aimed at:

- professionals : social workers, health personnel, magistrates, specialized educators, family assistants, ASE executives;
- public **decision-makers** : elected officials, central and decentralised administrations, departmental councils, national agencies and bodies;
- as well as anyone (students, journalists, researchers, committed citizens) wishing to understand **how the French child protection system** is organized, governed and evaluated.

Each memo:

- focuses on **a specific theme** (a law, a device, an institution, a report, a cross-cutting issue);
- can be **read independently** of others;
- but is part of a **coherent whole**, conceived as a **path of progressive understanding**.

# 2. Why this series?

Child protection is at the crossroads of:

- **law** (civil, criminal, administrative, user rights);
- **social and health policies** ;
- **decentralization**, with a central role for the departments;
- and of **realities on the ground** that are often complex, sometimes invisible, and often little known to the general public.

For several decades, texts and measures have multiplied:

- major **reform laws** (2002, 2007, 2016, 2022, and recent adjustments);
- creation of national and local bodies (ONPE, CNPE, France Enfance Protégée, departmental observatories, CRIP, etc.);
- experimental or targeted **measures** (Pegasus, Protected Health, CIVISE, crisis centres, mental health structures for minors);
- successive reports, evaluations, plans and "compacts" on child protection.

The result is a landscape:

- **rich** in tools, texts and good intentions;
- but often **fragmented**, difficult to read, unevenly applied from one territory to another.

The objective of the series is therefore to:

- **to make** this accumulation of reforms legible;
- **situate** each law, device or body in a **chronology** and in an **institutional architecture** ;
- **show continuities and breaks** (e.g. before/after 2007, before/after 2016, before/after the Taquet law);
- **Highlight recurring issues** :
  - territorial inequalities linked to decentralisation,
  - articulation between **ASE and the health system**,
  - national governance and the role of the guarantor state,
  - mental health of protected children and young people,
  - places families, children themselves and professionals in the field.

### 3. Organizing the Memo Series

The series is constructed as a coherent **thematic cycle**. For information purposes, it will include:

1. **Timeline of Child Protection (1793–2025):** Key Dates, Laws, and Historical Turning Points.
2. **From Declarations to the Rights of the Child: International Construction:** Declaration of 1924, Declaration of 1959, International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989) and ratification by France (1990).
3. **From Public Assistance to Child Welfare (ASE):** Institutional transformation, creation of the ASE, role of the DDASS, articulation with PMI and school health.
4. **The turning point of the 1970s and 1980s**
  - 1970 Law on Parental Authority;
  - reform reports (including Dupont-Fauville);
  - laws of 1984 and 1986: family rights, limitation of abusive placements, increase in educational and psycho-social support.
5. **Decentralization and specialization**
  - Decentralization laws, transfer of competence to the departments;
  - creation of **CRIPs**, departmental observatories, evolution of reporting practices.
6. **Law 2002-2: users' rights and medico-social framework:** Strengthening of people's rights, contract with users, inclusion in the Code of Social Action and Families (CASF).
7. **The law of 5 March 2007: structural reform of child protection:** prevention, early detection, regular check-ups, CRIP, diversification of care methods.
8. **The law of 14 March 2016: project for the child and stability of pathways:** CNPE, PPE, referring doctor, ad hoc administrator, reform of simple adoption, stability of the pathway.
9. **The Taquet law (2022): governance and rights of young adults:** End of hotels, siblings, sponsorship/mentoring, 18–21 years old, right to return, person of trust, background checks, GIP France Enfance Protégée, strengthening of the PMI, etc.
10. **Current national governance:** CNPE, High Commission, GIP France Enfance Protégée, role of the State and departmental councils.
11. **Protected Health and Pegasus Systems:** Coordinated health pathway, entry assessments, limits and lessons.
12. **Mental health, sexual violence and CIVISE:** Crisis centres, specialised systems, CIVISE recommendations, ASE/health articulation.
13. **Major national reports (ONPE, CIVISE, Protected Health/Pegasus assessments):** What the reports say about the strengths, weaknesses and inequalities of the system.
14. **Family assistants and social professions:** Role, status, recognition: the invisible backbone of child protection.
15. **Decentralization and territorial inequalities:** What the diversity of departmental practices produces in terms of equal (or not) rights for children.

This list may be **supplemented, reordered or grouped** according to the progress of internal research and, where appropriate, legislative or regulatory news.

The **purpose of this Memo 0** is to give the reader the **general map** before entering the different territories of child protection.

The following memos will:

- to explore, one by one, the texts, mechanisms and reports that have shaped – and continue to shape – child protection policy in France;

- identify **structural tensions** (between decentralisation and equal rights, between declared ambitions and real resources, between prevention and emergency management);
- to prepare a broader work: **to think of fairer, more legible, more protective public policies** for children and young people entrusted to child protection.

The series is thus in line with the central ambition of La Ligne Fine – Institut: **to enlighten the public debate through demanding, structured analyses, and directly useful for action.**