



Review article

Possibilities for using the DOORS tool in social work in the Czech Republic: Inspiration from Australia and Sweden

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Abstract

The aim of this scoping review is to map the use of the FL-DOORS (Family Law Detection of Overall Risk Screen) screening tool in the context of family law disputes in Australia and Sweden, and to assess its applicability in Czech social and legal child protection. The FL-DOORS tool was developed in Australia as a three-level system for the early detection of risk factors in families, with an emphasis on child safety, the occurrence of domestic violence, and the mental health of parents. In Sweden, this tool was piloted in interdisciplinary projects that highlighted its potential and limitations, particularly in the expert interview phase. The overview includes seven publications from 2015–2023 identified on the basis of a systematic search according to the PRISMA methodology. The findings show that the effective use of the tool is conditional on sufficient training of staff, institutional support, and clearly structured follow-up services. In the Czech environment, there is still no validated tool for the systematic assessment of risks in conflict families, but OSPOD has experience with methodological tools and an emphasis on interdisciplinary cooperation. Based on foreign experience, the authors recommend pilot testing the FL-DOORS tool within the OSPOD system to improve the quality and consistency of decision-making in child protection.

Keywords: Assessment; Australia; Child protection; Divorce; FL-DOORS; OSPOD; Risk; Screening; Sweden

Introduction

The pre-divorce period is usually accompanied by increased emotional tension in the family. This typically manifests itself in impaired communication between parents, repeated conflicts, and a limited ability to cooperate for the benefit of the child. Although these manifestations are, to a certain extent, part of the normal dynamics of a breaking relationship, their excessive intensity, frequency, or severity can seriously jeopardize the healthy development of the child. In such cases, the factual basis of Section 6 (Act No. 359/1999 Coll.) may be fulfilled, which establishes a legal reason for the intervention of the social and legal protection of children authority (OSPOD).

OSPOD intervention during a family crisis is one of the most professionally demanding activities, placing high demands not only on parents and children, but also on SPOD workers themselves. Timely, systematic, and professionally qualified identification of risk factors plays a crucial role both in supporting the child and family and in subsequent court proceedings concerning care.

A number of methodological and assessment tools are used in the Czech Republic to support qualified decision-making in

the field of social and legal protection of children. A key document in this regard is the Methodological Recommendation (Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, 2009), which focuses primarily on children at risk as a result of difficult social situations. This document provides a structured framework for assessing the risk to a child and proposing appropriate protective or supportive measures.

Another frequently used tool is a form (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, 2020), which allows for the analytical processing of information about the family situation, including the identification of risks and the needs of the child. As a supplementary tool, the publication Assessment of Children's Needs (Racek et al., 2014) is valued in professional practice, offering a comprehensive set of tools for individual work with children and the whole family, including examples of specific risks for different age groups of children.

These tools are not only used to identify risk and protective factors. The Ministry's methodological recommendations are primarily intended for use in situations of acute danger, while the tools in the Lumos publication allow for broader use in preventive and support activities. All of these tools contribute to a professionally conducted dialogue between the OSPOD worker and the family in a difficult life situation.

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However, it should be emphasized that the current tools commonly used in the SPOD system are not primarily intended for the systematic assessment of the degree of parental conflict. The evaluation of these aspects often takes place on an individual basis, which places a considerable degree of responsibility on individual workers. Although this approach offers flexibility, it carries the risk of differing interpretations and inconsistent procedures in similar situations (Pemová et al., 2024; Solařová et al., 2018).

In contrast, some foreign systems commonly use standardized tools in the form of questionnaires or screening protocols in similar situations, which help to objectify the assessment of risk and standardize the professional approach (Solařová et al., 2018).

These include the Australian FL-DOORS tool (McIntosh and Ralfs, 2012), which is used for comprehensive screening of risk factors in the family in the context of divorce and post-divorce conflicts. This tool includes a self-assessment section focused on parents (DOOR 1), a structured interview between a professional and a parent (DOOR 2), and a detailed risk analysis in cases where it is indicated (DOOR 3). FL-DOORS allows for the systematic assessment of factors such as the presence of violence, the degree of parental cooperation, the mental state of the parents, and concerns about the child's safety, thereby significantly assisting in the planning of professional interventions (McIntosh and Ralfs, 2012).

The Family Law – Detection of Overall Risk Screen (FL-DOORS) tool was selected on the basis of a previous scoping review, which aimed to systematically map and critically evaluate available foreign tools designed to assess parental conflict and related risk factors in the context of divorce. The scoping review identified FL-DOORS as a comprehensive, empirically validated screening tool that reflects the multidimensional nature of risks in families undergoing conflictual divorce and, at the same time, enables the early identification of a child's support or protection needs. The selection of this tool was further supported by its use in international practice and the availability of evaluation studies from both Australian and European contexts, making it a suitable candidate for assessing its application potential in the Czech environment.

While there is currently no similar validated tool for assessing conflict between parents in the Czech Republic, international experience shows that the implementation of structured screening methods can significantly contribute to increasing the effectiveness and consistency of procedures for protecting children at risk of conflict between parents.

This scoping review aims to map the use of the FL-DOORS tool for risk assessment in the pre-divorce phase and assess its applicability in the context of Czech social work. It focuses in particular on comparing experiences with the DOORS tool in Australia and Sweden, with the aim of contributing to the development of uniform standards for decision-making in child protection and supporting professional discussion on the effective linking of prevention, intervention, and support for families at risk of conflict.

Conflictual divorce in the social and legal protection of children (SPOD) system

In the SPOD system, conflictual divorce is viewed as a situation that can significantly jeopardize the fulfillment of a child's needs and healthy development, especially if there are long-term disputes between parents or manipulation of the child. This can be included in the initial assessment of risk factors in the form (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, 2020). If, during the divorce, circum-

stances arise that indicate the child is at risk under Section 6 (Act No. 359/1999 Coll.), the OSPOD is obliged to intervene. In highly conflictual divorces, the risk may also be fulfilled if there are ongoing intense disputes between the parents that prevent the child from having safe contact with both parents or disrupt their emotional stability.

FL-DOORS

The Family Law Detection of Overall Risk Screen is a comprehensive three-level screening tool designed for professionals working in the field of family law and related psychosocial services. Its main objective is the systematic identification of risk factors in families after the separation or divorce of parents, with particular emphasis on the safety of children and the presence of domestic violence. The tool was developed in Australia in 2012 in response to findings that the family law system at the time did not adequately reflect the dynamics and incidence of violence in post-separation relationships (McIntosh et al., 2016a).

FL-DOORS is based on the assumption that risk is multifactorial, variable over time, and requires continuous monitoring. For this reason, it is designed as a multi-stage tool that combines a standardized self-assessment questionnaire, a subsequent structured interview, and a professional framework for further analysis and intervention. Specifically, it consists of the following three components:

- DOORS 1: an introductory self-report questionnaire completed independently by the parent, which serves to preliminarily map areas of risk such as domestic violence, mental health, parenting skills, and socioeconomic insecurity.
- DOORS 2: a tool for professionals that provides guidance for conducting a follow-up interview focused on elaborating on the risk areas identified in the questionnaire.
- DOORS 3: a supporting set of resources and information that enables a more in-depth professional assessment of specific situations and assists in planning further intervention (McIntosh and Ralfs, 2012).

This structure supports a professionally consistent yet flexible approach to risk assessment that is adaptable to the needs of the client and the context in which the intervention takes place. Furthermore, the repeatability of the assessment allows for ongoing monitoring of changes in the family situation and flexible adaptation of intervention strategies (McIntosh and Ralfs, 2012).

After its creation in 2012, a pilot project was launched, which ran from 2013 to 2015. 94.3% of respondents found it beneficial to complete the form, and 68.3% said it was easier for them to provide personal information than to disclose it in person to a professional, while 92.6% were convinced that this information would help the professional involved (Lee and Ralfs, 2015).

Currently used methods

Australia

For the purposes of screening and risk assessment in family law disputes, the Australian government agency Attorney-General's Department recommends the use of the Family Law Detection of Overall Risk Screen tool. The tool is used in practice mainly in the context of Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) and its purpose is to support qualified decision-making by professionals and ensure the safety of all parties involved, including children (Australian Government, Attorney-General's Department, Screening and assessment in family dispute resolution n. d.).

Furthermore, some jurisdictions apply the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework, which supports interdisciplinary cooperation in identifying and managing risks, especially those associated with domestic violence and child endangerment. This framework provides a methodological basis for the systematic assessment of safety threats, the planning of appropriate interventions, and the sharing of information between institutions involved in the family dispute resolution process (Australian Government, Attorney-General's Department, Obligations when conducting family dispute resolution, n. d.).

In addition to federally recommended tools, however, it is also necessary to take into account the specific national policies of individual Australian states and territories, which implement their own risk assessment frameworks in the area of child protection. Important tools in this regard include:

- Signs of Safety – an approach based on family participation and the creation of safety plans in collaboration with the child and their environment, used for example in the Northern Territory.
- Structured Decision Making (SDM) – a set of tools combining analytical algorithms with professional judgment, implemented mainly in Queensland.
- SAFER Children Framework – a comprehensive approach applied in the state of Victoria, which focuses on the systematic assessment of the child's needs and the planning of interventions, including prevention and risk management (Garttoulou and Butler, 2024).

These tools represent a comprehensive set of methods for assessing risks in the family and create a framework for targeted and effective interventions by multidisciplinary teams. Their use not only supports safety considerations, but also considers the best interests of the child and promotes long-term protection and stability.

Sweden

Unlike in Australia, where certain tools for assessing risks in the area of family law and child protection are officially recommended by government institutions, Sweden does not yet have a standardized tool for assessing risk factors in families. Government institutions such as *Myndigheten för familjerätt och föräldraskapsstöd* (MFoF, n. d.) only provide general recommendations and support materials focused on assessing risk areas in the context of social and legal child protection, particularly in relation to investigation and intervention procedures (Vårdnad, boende och umgänge).

The absence of an officially established methodology is also reflected in current empirical findings. According to a survey of social workers conducted as part of an evaluation of interdisciplinary cooperation in family law matters, up to 70.27% of respondents do not use any specific tool for risk assessment. Only 16.22% of respondents said they use any of the following tools in their practice (MFoF, 2021):

- BBIC (Barns Behov i Centrum) – a Swedish adaptation of the British child-focused Framework.
- FL-DOORS (Family Law Detection of Overall Risk Screen) – an Australian screening tool applied in pilot projects.
- SARA (Spousal Assault Risk Assessment) – a tool focused on assessing the risk of repeat violence between partners.
- IRISK – a Swedish tool for assessing the risk of violence.
- FREDa – a set of tools for identifying and documenting violence in close relationships.
- Signs of Safety – a model focused on involving the family and child in safety planning.

- PATRIARCH – a structured tool for assessing the risk of honor-motivated violence.

At the same time, half of the respondents (50%) expressed interest in introducing a methodological framework that would enable systematic and uniform assessment of risk factors in practice, especially in cases of divorce and post-divorce disputes where there is suspicion of domestic violence or other forms of child endangerment (MFoF, 2021).

The results highlight the need for increased professionalization and standardization in risk assessment, including the broader implementation of validated tools and methodologies within social practice in Sweden. The continuing inconsistency of approaches can lead to inequalities in the assessment of similar cases and reduce the effectiveness of protective measures.

Materials and methods

The research method used was The PRISMA Statement for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (Page et al., 2021). Studies were identified in the WOS and SCOPUS databases, with additional sources coming from the websites of the Australian government's AIFS (The Australian Institute of Family Studies) and Sweden's MFoF (The Authority for Family Law and Parental Support). The following English terms were searched for in the title, abstract, and keywords of the articles and the Boolean operators were used AND, OR: (DOORS OR FL-DOORS) AND (Sweden OR Australia) AND (Tool OR Assessment OR Screening).

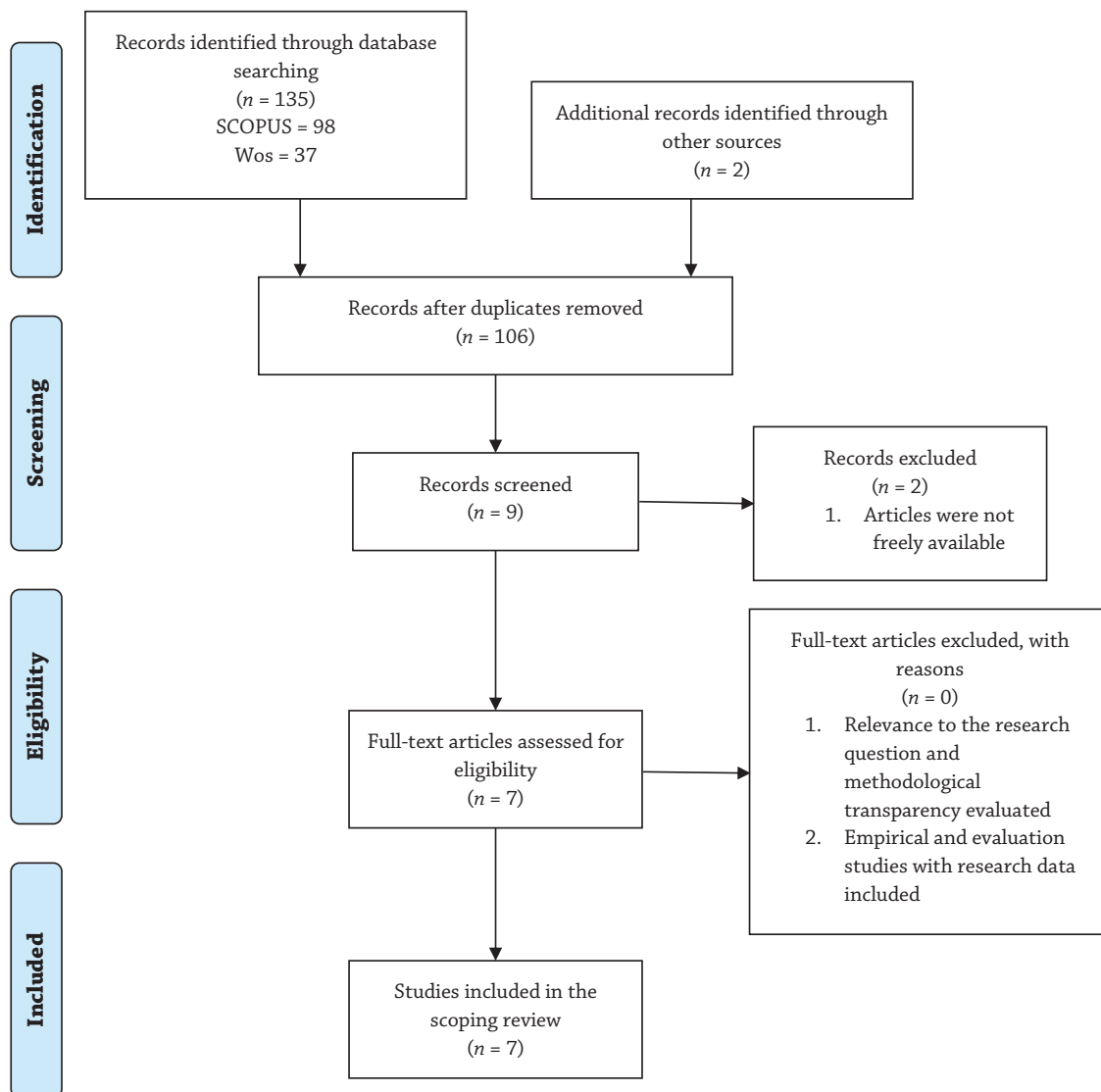
The search was further refined to studies 1) in Swedish and English, 2) articles devoted to the DOORS tool, and 3) the time period 2015–2023. The search and exclusion process is shown in the Prisma flow diagram (Diagram 1).

The aim was to map the use of the FL-DOORS tool for risk assessment in the pre-divorce phase and to assess its applicability in the context of Czech social work. It focuses in particular on comparing experiences with the DOORS tool in Australia and Sweden with the aim of contributing to the development of uniform standards for decision-making in the field of child protection and supporting professional discussion on the effective linking of prevention, intervention, and support in families at risk of conflict.

In accordance with the scoping review methodology, a basic critical assessment of their relevance and methodological quality was carried out for all included studies. The assessment did not focus on formal quality scoring, but on verifying the suitability of the studies for answering the research question. Only studies that were thematically related to risk assessment in the context of family law disputes and conflictual divorces, contained empirical or evaluative data, and demonstrated sufficient methodological transparency were included in the analysis. In particular, the clarity of the research design, the description of the research sample, the method of data collection and analysis, and the comprehensibility of the presentation of results were evaluated.

Results

A basic search using the above criteria yielded a total of 135 articles. Subsequently, 31 duplicates were excluded and 106 articles were screened. A total of nine met the criteria and seven were freely available (Booth et al., 2023; Bruno and Eriksson,



Source: Moher et al. (2009)

Diagram 1. Prisma flow diagram

2023; Eriksson and Gabrielsson, 2019; Kaspiew et al., 2015; Lee et al., 2021; McIntosh et al., 2016a; MFoF, 2021).

These articles were further divided according to country of origin. Four articles (Booth et al., 2023; Kaspiew et al., 2015; Lee et al., 2021; McIntosh et al., 2016) focused on Australia and three articles (Bruno and Eriksson, 2023; Eriksson and Gabrielsson, 2019; MFoF, 2021) on Sweden.

Australia

The first publication is a report from the Australian Ministry (Kaspiew et al., 2015), which conducted an extensive cross-sectional study examining the practices and experiences of professionals in the Australian family law system following the introduction of legislative changes in 2012 in the context of domestic violence. The research involved 653 professionals, including judges, lawyers, family counselors, and other experts, as well as 2,473 parents. The study also mapped the extent to which tools for identifying and assessing risks in cases involving violence between partners are used. The authors found that most experts accepted the legislative changes and

support the redefinition of domestic violence, but despite its high prevalence, there is no unified and systematic approach to screening. Practitioners conduct investigations when relevant, but this is not done uniformly. When conducting investigations, they often rely on their own judgment or informal assessments, which can lead to overlooking risks or underestimating the severity of violence. The results for DOORS were mixed, with the emphasis that the tool was not widely used at the time of the research. Positive feedback was received mainly from non-legal professionals, but concerns were raised about its usability in everyday practice due to its length and complexity, the availability of training on the tool, or its limited effect, etc.

In response to this report, the authors of the FL-DOORS tool published an article (McIntosh et al., 2016a) that directly addresses the criticism contained in the previous report (Kaspiew et al., 2015) and draws on current data obtained from a sample of more than 6,000 respondents. Among the responses were comments on the alleged complexity and time-consuming nature of the tool (Kaspiew et al., 2015).

McIntosh states that completing DOOR 1 takes approximately 15 minutes. She also demonstrated the high validity and reliability of the scales, which have been supported by several validation studies. Another comment was the lack of clarity in the terminological distinction between screening and risk assessment. The author emphasizes that FL-DOORS is a structured screening framework aimed at early identification of risk factors, with more in-depth risk assessment indicated only on the basis of the results of the initial screening. Concerns were also raised about the degree of structure of the tool. While DOOR 1 is a standardized tool with closed questions, DOOR 2 and DOOR 3 allow professionals to conduct flexible and adaptable interviews with clients. Research data and professional literature show that structured questioning increases the likelihood of detecting safety risks, and therefore the combination of standardization and flexibility within the FL-DOORS framework is considered an effective approach. This is related to the lower psychological barrier to sharing sensitive information in a structured questionnaire than in a face-to-face interview, which may also contribute to a higher degree of truthfulness in their responses (McIntosh et al., 2016a).

Another study also provides positive evidence of the effectiveness of universal risk screening in working with families. In this study, Relationships Australia South Australia documents its ten years of experience with implementing the DOOR 1 tool, which was applied to 28,087 client cases during that period. Reflection on practice led the organization to recognize that existing approaches did not adequately capture relevant risk factors in clients' lives. This resulted in the need to find a standardized, behaviorally anchored tool. In collaboration with the author of the DOORS system, Professor McIntosh, the tool was adapted and gradually introduced into the organization's services. According to the authors, it is a multidisciplinary tool that offers a number of benefits, including the systematic detection of patterns of risky behavior. At the same time, however, the study reflects the limits of screening – no tool can cover all risks, and its effectiveness depends mainly on how it is implemented. Incorrect application of the tool can have counterproductive effects and lead to destabilization of the family system. The introduction of the system required a review of the services provided, a redistribution of resources, and the introduction of professional training, supervisory structures, and planning mechanisms. A key advantage of the system is the concept of shared responsibility and clearly defined professional roles within the organization, which support a consistent and interdisciplinary response to identified risks. The results of internal evaluations showed that the introduction of DOORS had no negative impact on client satisfaction. On the contrary, most respondents perceived the tool as beneficial, facilitating the communication of sensitive information, and considered it a natural part of the administrative process. However, in its reflection, RASA also points to implementation difficulties, in particular insufficient knowledge of the initial attitudes of employees and clients towards the planned changes. With hindsight, the organization states that it would place greater emphasis on targeted communication of changes, systematic support for employees, and the active involvement of "change agents" in the process of implementing the tool (Lee et al., 2021).

In the latest article from Australia (Booth et al., 2023), the author of the tool, Jennifer McIntosh, addresses the question of whether FL-DOORS can be used as a repeatedly applicable tool for monitoring changes in risk areas related to domestic violence. The study was conducted on a research sample of

67 parents who completed the tool upon entering mediation services (time point T1) and then again after eight weeks (T2). The research assumption was based on the hypothesis that FL-DOORS could not only capture changes in parents' self-assessment of risk behavior over time, but also already act as a therapeutic mechanism during the first contact with the service. The findings showed a significant decrease in some risk indicators, especially among male respondents, for example in areas such as concern for their own safety or risk behavior. In contrast, no significant changes were observed in other areas, such as parental stress or children's psychological discomfort. According to the author, some areas may require a longer intervention period before positive changes become apparent. Based on these data, she formulates cautious conclusions about the potential of FL-DOORS as an intervention tool that can contribute to risk reduction based on initial screening. At the same time, she points out the limitations of the research, in particular the small sample size and short follow-up period, and recommends further longitudinal research to verify the predictive validity of the tool in different contexts (Booth et al., 2023).

Sweden

The first publication is a report from the pilot evaluation of the FL-DOORS tool. Based on an initiative by the Swedish Ministry of Social Affairs, the Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden carried out a research project between 2014 and 2017 aimed at verifying the effectiveness of an interdisciplinary approach to supporting families in conflict situations. The project took place in four municipalities and one city. It focused on four main objectives: strengthening interdisciplinary cooperation, pilot testing the FL-DOORS tool in a local context, providing targeted support to vulnerable families, and increasing children's participation in decision-making and intervention processes. A total of 115 children and 118 parents were actively involved in the project, with 454 children forming the reference group. As part of the screening, 101 DOOR 1 questionnaires were completed and 68 semi-structured interviews were conducted according to the DOOR 2 protocol. The version of the questionnaire used was a direct translation of the original English version without any significant content changes. The results of the research confirmed that interdisciplinary cooperation has a positive impact on the entire process of providing assistance, contributes to more effective targeting of services, and promotes coordination between professionals from different fields. At the same time, it was found that the FL-DOORS tool is suitable for use in the context of family conflicts, as it effectively assists in risk mapping and identifying the support needs of children and parents. In addition, the tool created a structured basis for counseling and other intervention work (Eriksson and Gabrielsson, 2019).

Another document is a report by the Swedish authority from 2021. This is an important analytical document aimed at mapping and assessing needs in the area of family law, with a particular emphasis on promoting interdisciplinary cooperation between entities operating in this area. The study was commissioned by the Swedish government and was based on a quantitative survey conducted in the form of a questionnaire distributed across Swedish municipalities. The questionnaire contained fourteen targeted questions focusing on the structure, needs, and challenges of working with families in contentious or conflict situations. The findings of the study pointed to a number of systemic and practical challenges. One of the most significant was identified as the absence of a uniform, functional, and effective tool for assessing risks and needs

within family law. This need was articulated across municipalities as a key condition for ensuring high-quality and coordinated support for families, especially in the pre-trial phase. In connection with the FL-DOORS tool, different opinions emerged in the feedback. Some respondents considered this tool to be a useful and effective way to establish dialogue with parents, map their situation in a structured way, and facilitate the mentalization process, i.e., the ability of parents to view the situation from the perspective of others. These experts described FL-DOORS as a supportive tool for conducting interviews and assessing risks. On the other hand, other respondents expressed reservations, describing the tool as not very functional or difficult to apply in practice. Criticism was directed at its effectiveness, the specific challenges of implementation, and the degree of practical usability in diverse local conditions. The report thus reflects not only the potential of FL-DOORS as part of a structured assessment in family law matters, but also its limitations, which need to be further analyzed and taken into account in any standardization and wider implementation in Swedish practice (MFoF, 2021).

The last document analyzed is a study (Bruno and Eriksson, 2023) that aimed to examine social workers' approaches to fathers who had been accused of, or had committed, violent behavior, while also verifying the practical applicability of the FL-DOORS tool. The study is based on a pilot program implemented between 2014 and 2017, with the research sample reduced to 12 of 28 interviews with fathers, where violence or suspected violence directly occurred. The study's results confirm previous research findings that interactions between professionals and parents can be fraught with tension, both in terms of relationships and in terms of specific professional roles and decision-making processes. Responses to the topic of violence varied in the interviews analyzed and revealed different communication strategies on the part of both respondents and professionals. The FL-DOORS tool was validated within the pilot program primarily in the first phase (DOOR 1), i.e., through a self-assessment questionnaire. However, in the second phase (DOOR 2), based on a structured interview with an expert, significant limitations were identified, particularly in relation to the ambiguity of the professional role (support vs. control) and the limited tendency to explicitly name and address violence in interviews with respondents. Overall, however, the authors of the study consider FL-DOORS to be a suitable option for risk detection (Bruno and Eriksson, 2023).

Discussion

The issue of standardized risk assessment in the context of custody proceedings prior to divorce is gaining importance in Czech social work, particularly with regard to improving the quality of services, standardizing decision-making procedures, and promoting interdisciplinary cooperation. Although tools for general assessment of a child's situation exist in the Czech environment (e.g., the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs methodology or the structured child assessment tool), there is still a lack of a validated and effective tool focused on assessing specific risks in the family law context, especially in the pre-divorce or post-divorce phase.

This scoping review analyzed seven relevant publications (Booth et al., 2023; Bruno and Eriksson, 2023; Eriksson and Gabrielsson, 2019; Kaspiew et al., 2015; Lee et al., 2021; McIntosh et al., 2016a; MFoF, 2021) containing elements of the FL-DOORS tool evaluation, four of which originate from Australia and three from Sweden.

In Australia, the DOORS tool was piloted between 2013 and 2015, with the first evaluation study published in 2015 (Kaspiew et al.). The results showed a polarized response from the professional community – some experts welcomed the tool as a useful systemic tool for risk assessment in family law, while others criticized it, particularly for its time-consuming nature, structural complexity, uncertainty as to whether it was a screening or assessment tool, and the absence of certain domains (e.g., the child's perspective).

The main author of the tool, Jennifer McIntosh, who also led a series of validation studies (McIntosh et al., 2016a), subsequently responded to these reservations. Among the most significant publications are:

- *Development and Validation of the Family Law DOORS* – validation of the tool on a sample of 660 respondents (McIntosh et al., 2016b).
- *Re-examination of the Family Law DOORS: Establishing Fitness for Purpose* – extensive verification on a sample of 5,429 individuals (Wells et al., 2018).
- *The Family Law DOORS as a Repeated Measure* – longitudinal monitoring of changes in 67 respondents (Booth et al., 2023).

All of these studies confirmed the usefulness of the tool for the early detection of risk factors related to domestic violence, mental health, substance abuse, and child endangerment. Subsequently, the FL-DOORS tool was officially recommended by the Australian government as a key screening tool in family law.

Australian courts currently use a tool within the government's Lighthouse program that allows FL-DOORS to be completed electronically when filing for custody proceedings. If an increased risk is detected, the client is placed on the Evatt List and their case is handled by a specialized investigation team. Low-risk clients are referred to mediation or counseling services (Lighthouse overview, n. d.).

One Australian publication states that the FL-DOORS tool is also being tested abroad, but the only available results are from Sweden, where the tool was piloted between 2014 and 2017. According to the authors of the study *Supporting Children and Parents in Sweden through Collaboration Teams* (Eriksson and Gabrielsson, 2019), the tool was perceived as useful, but challenges were mentioned, such as the absence of a child's perspective and the difficult application of the second phase of the tool (DOOR 2), which requires direct questioning about experiences of violence.

These limitations are also confirmed by a report from the Swedish government, which further points out (MFoF, 2021):

- low level of training for staff;
- uncertainty about the steps to take after identifying a risk;
- low uptake of the tool in practice;
- time-consuming nature and systemic barriers.

An important common conclusion of both the Australian and Swedish studies is that the successful use of FL-DOORS is conditional on the targeted training of professionals, the creation of a clearly structured follow-up system of services, and the provision of organizational and time capacities. Both countries also point to difficulties in communicating directly about violence, especially in the DOOR 2 phase, and the absence of institutionally embedded protocols for follow-up intervention. For these reasons, widespread use of the tool in both countries appears to be difficult to implement, both systemically and economically.

In the Czech context, the use of the FL-DOORS tool could be primarily focused on families going through separation or divorce, especially in cases where there are signs of escalating parental conflict or potential risk factors threatening the child. This definition is based on the fact that, to date, empirical research validates the use of the FL-DOORS tool primarily in the area of family law disputes and conflictual separations, while its use in other types of vulnerable families (e.g., in the context of addiction or domestic violence outside of divorce proceedings) has not yet been sufficiently empirically verified.

In comparison with the Swedish environment, it can be said that the social and legal protection of children system in the Czech Republic already has previous experience with the application of standardized methodological procedures throughout the system. As in Sweden, the Czech environment emphasizes early risk detection, preventive intervention, and interdisciplinary cooperation. The potential implementation of the FL-DOORS tool could contribute to increasing the effectiveness of the work of the OSPOD, which is currently overburdened in terms of personnel and capacity, while also supporting decision-making based on objective data.

On the other hand, it should be emphasized that the introduction of a new tool of this type would likely place an additional burden on the system in terms of personnel and finances. Furthermore, given the repeated challenges associated with the application of the second phase of the tool (DOOR 2) in both countries, its widespread use cannot automatically be considered effective or problem-free. In order to determine the real usability and acceptability of the tool in the Czech context, it would be necessary to carry out a pilot project within the OSPOD system.

The introduction of another methodological tool into OSPOD practice could potentially lead to increased uncertainty among social workers when deciding which tool is most appropriate in a given situation, especially if its role is not clearly defined methodologically. However, this risk is not related to the existence of the FL-DOORS tool itself, but rather to the manner of its possible implementation.

FL-DOORS can also be understood as a complementary screening tool that can be linked to existing methodologies. A key prerequisite for its meaningful use is therefore a clear methodological foundation, the definition of criteria for its use, and the provision of systematic support and targeted training for social workers. Only under these conditions can the risk of confusion in the methodological framework be minimized and, at the same time, the quality and consistency of decision-making processes in OSPOD practice be strengthened.

This scoping review has its methodological limitations. The studies included are not homogeneous in terms of research design – they are a combination of quantitative and qualitative studies, or expert or evaluation reports. For this reason, it is not possible to make direct comparisons between individual outputs at the level of methodological rigor. In addition, it is necessary to take into account the different legislative and institutional frameworks in Australia and Sweden, which influence both the use of the tool itself and the interpretation of its benefits. Findings regarding the failure of the DOOR 2 phase cannot therefore be generalized to other contexts, including the Czech Republic, without further investigation. In the case of Australian studies, there is also a potential conflict of interest, as the main author of the tool is listed as a co-author of most publications, which may influence the interpretation of the results. The risk of bias cannot be ruled out in the translation and localization of the tool, which is particularly relevant

in relation to the analysis of Swedish sources that were not available in English.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be said that the FL-DOORS tool represents an innovative approach to standardized risk assessment in the context of family law. It has the potential to contribute significantly to the effectiveness, consistency, and timeliness of interventions in the area of child protection and family work, specifically by increasing the effectiveness of OSPOD's work, in particular by enabling faster initial orientation in complex and conflictual cases. The tool offers a structured framework for the systematic collection of information across key areas of family functioning. At the same time, a unified tool could contribute to improving communication and coordination between the various actors involved in resolving family law cases (e.g., OSPOD, courts, counseling services). Finally, the use of a standardized screening tool could lead to greater transparency and comprehensibility of the reasoning behind professional procedures and decisions in OSPOD practice.

However, the results of Australian and Swedish studies clearly show that the effective use of this tool is conditional on systemic prerequisites, such as sufficient capacity of professional staff, their specific training, institutional support, and the provision of follow-up services.

In terms of the possibility of implementing the tool in the Czech environment, it is appropriate to consider its pilot testing within the OSPOD system. The Czech context has certain structural advantages, including the established practice of methodological tools and an emphasis on interdisciplinary cooperation. However, it is also necessary to realistically take into account the current overload of the system, the personnel and financial demands associated with implementation, and potential obstacles to the cultural or institutional adaptation of the tool. Given the methodological heterogeneity of available studies, differences in legislative frameworks, and the risk of interpretative bias, foreign findings cannot be transferred to the Czech environment without further research verification. Implementation should therefore be conditional on the creation of a pilot program to test the applicability of the tool in the specific conditions of Czech social and legal child protection.

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Ethical aspects and conflict of interest

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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