



**University of Łódź**  
**Doctoral School of Social Sciences**  
**Faculty of Law and Administration**

**Tasks and competences of self-government administration  
in the field of counteracting domestic violence in family  
with alcohol problem**

**Summary**

**Monika Wilanowska**

Doctoral dissertation prepared under the  
supervision of Professor Monika A. Król,  
prof. UŁ in the discipline of legal sciences

Łódź 2025

Domestic violence in families with alcohol problems constitutes a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, exerting a profoundly destructive impact on the lives and functioning of family members. These individuals are confronted not only with the daily consequences of living in an alcohol-dependent environment but also with various forms of domestic violence. Family members living in households affected by alcohol abuse are frequently subjected to a persistent state of fear, anxiety, and psychological strain, which may result in serious physical and mental health issues, as well as diminished capacity for social functioning. Such individuals often develop codependent behaviours, reflected in their reluctance to detach from the perpetrator and their tendency to treat ongoing dysfunction as a private matter, rather than a situation warranting external intervention. This mindset frequently discourages them from seeking institutional assistance or pursuing meaningful change. Nonetheless, such behaviour on the part of victims does not relieve the state of its legal and moral obligation to intervene. The protection of core individual rights — including the right to life, health, dignity, and liberty — remains a fundamental responsibility of the legislator. Estimations provided by public administrative authorities in Poland indicate that this issue may affect several million individuals across the country.

It should be emphasised that the effective execution of tasks and competences by self-government units in counteracting domestic violence linked to alcohol problems is crucial for protecting victims. According to the principles of decentralisation and subsidiarity, self-government authorities bear the primary responsibility for most public duties of a local and regional nature, including preventing alcohol-related problems and combating domestic violence in affected families. Municipalities, as the basic units of local self-government, are best positioned to assess the scope of these social issues within their territories and to tailor legal measures to local needs. Therefore, this dissertation focuses on analysing the tasks and competences entrusted to self-government administration in this area.

The scientific purpose of this doctoral dissertation is to conduct a comprehensive legal analysis of the statutory tasks and competences of self-government administration in the field of counteracting domestic violence in families with alcohol problems, with particular emphasis on the extent to which the current legal framework ensures adequate protection for individuals experiencing such violence within this fundamental social unit. Through the application of appropriate research methods and techniques, this dissertation seeks to identify the shortcomings and limitations of the existing legal regulations, as well as the deficiencies and inconsistencies observed in their practical implementation.

The central research hypothesis of this dissertation posits that the current legal regulations in force in Poland, governing the duties and competences of self-government administration in the area of counteracting domestic violence in families with alcohol problems, as well as the practice of their implementation, do not provide adequate protection for individuals subjected to such violence. It was assumed that, to reduce both the level of alcohol consumption and the number of incidents of domestic violence associated with alcohol abuse — which, in turn, would indirectly improve the effectiveness of victim protection — it would be necessary to revise numerous existing legal provisions and to propose new legislative solutions capable of being incorporated into the Polish legal system.

An additional objective of this dissertation is to examine the axiological underpinnings of the legal regulations aimed at counteracting domestic violence in families struggling with alcohol problems. It should be emphasised that the creation of effective legal norms in this area is of particular importance, as acts of domestic violence perpetrated in such circumstances often constitute a violation of fundamental human rights and the inherent dignity of individuals within the family structure. The inherent relationship between law and axiology is particularly pronounced within the framework of the present research. Law, in its normative function, serves to protect values that are fundamental to the proper functioning of the individual, society, and the state. In the context of legal norms designed to combat domestic violence linked to alcohol abuse, the protection of the rights and freedoms of victims must be recognised as both a legislative imperative and an axiological priority.

Given the complex and multifaceted nature of the subject matter addressed in this dissertation, as well as the significant social importance of the issue of domestic violence in families affected by alcohol abuse, it was determined that achieving the research objective required the application of multiple methodological approaches. These included the formal-dogmatic method, the method of literature analysis and critique, the diagnostic survey method, the document analysis method, the comparative legal method in its horizontal dimension, and the historical method. Accordingly, the empirical material was derived from the analysis of Polish and foreign legal regulations, a critical review of the relevant academic literature, a study of survey data, as well as statistical and digital reports.

The doctoral dissertation is composed of six chapters, preceded by an introduction and followed by a conclusion containing *de lege ferenda* recommendations. The subject of analysis concerns domestic violence in families affected by alcohol abuse, with a particular focus on the legal framework governing the tasks and competences of self-government administration. The

research addresses the legal, social, and axiological foundations of state action in this area, examines the specific dysfunctions characteristic of alcohol-affected families, and evaluates existing legal instruments for the protection of victims. Particular attention is given to the dual preventive and intervention roles performed by self-government administration authorities. The study also includes comparative legal analysis involving selected European jurisdictions, aimed at identifying effective regulations and developing *de lege ferenda* proposals applicable to the Polish legal system. Additionally, empirical data gathered through a diagnostic survey provides practical insight into the functioning and limitations of current legal solutions.

The analyses conducted in this dissertation made it possible to formulate conclusions and recommendations regarding the amendment of numerous existing legal provisions and the development of new legislative proposals relating to the tasks and competences of self-government administration in the area of counteracting domestic violence in families with alcohol problems. These measures are intended to enhance the effectiveness of protection afforded to victims of such violence. The conclusions are presented and discussed in the final part of the dissertation.