

<https://www.polsatnews.pl/wiadomosc/2020-07-21/uciekli-do-polski-z-autystycznym-synem-jest-reakcja-ministerstwa/>

## They fled to Poland with their autistic son. There is a reaction from the ministry

today, 18:17Poland



Bartosz Lewandowski / Private archive

The matter of den Hertog is dealt with by Deputy Minister Michał Wójcik

- We are open to getting acquainted with this matter, examining the child's situation and analyzing whether his welfare has been infringed by the Dutch authorities - said the press officer of the minister of justice, Agnieszka Borowska, commenting on the case of parents who fled from the Netherlands to Poland with their autistic son.



## **Poland will not hand over to Sweden Lisow, who escaped with his daughters taken from a Muslim foster family**

Borowska informed that the deputy minister of the ministry, Michał Wójcik, got acquainted with the case of the parents who fled to Poland with 7-year-old Martin at a meeting with the family representative - Bartosz Lewandowski, attorney at law.

- We are open to getting acquainted with this matter, examining the child's situation and analyzing whether his welfare has been infringed by the Dutch authorities - said Borowska. - We are waiting for a formal motion of family representatives in this matter - she added.

We also asked the Ombudsman for Children Office about further steps in the case. "The Ombudsman is always guided in his activities by the best interests of the child. The files of this case are being analyzed in the Office of the Ombudsman for Children," informed [polsatnews.pl](http://polsatnews.pl).

### **"The policemen appeared in the foundation"**

On Monday, the representative of the family, Bartosz Lewandowski, informed [polsatnews.pl](http://polsatnews.pl) that a European Arrest Warrant had been issued for Conrad and Katya from the Netherlands.

The lawyer informed that the Warsaw policemen started looking for the family. - Officers appeared at the foundation with which I cooperate, asking employees to indicate the place where the wanted persons are staying - he said.

On Tuesday, information about the activities carried out was confirmed by [polsatnews.pl](http://polsatnews.pl) District Police Headquarters in the Warsaw Śródmieście district. - Due to the nature of this case, I cannot disclose details of our activities. I can only confirm that the policemen from KRP Warsaw I carry out such activities - he handed over to us. Robert Szumiata.

**SEE: He ran away with his daughters from Sweden, now he is coming back to Russia. Denis Lisow thanked the Polish authorities**

Lewandowski announced that the family from the Netherlands would not come forward until the police ceased their actions. - The parents of the 7-year-old want to voluntarily appear in the prosecutor's office and explain the whole case - Lewandowski assured.

Conrad and Katya want to avoid a situation where their officers will be detained and forced to take them to the prosecutor's office, and their son will go to a foster family.

The family representative recalled that in the case of the European Arrest Warrant for the Russian Denis Lisov, who fled to Poland from Sweden with his daughters, Lisow voluntarily appeared at the District Prosecutor's Office in Warsaw and answered it freely.

## **"The allegations made by the neighbors"**

The world heard about the case of 7-year-old autistic Martin in February 2018, when the boy was taken from his parents by Dutch social services in the middle of the night. He wrote about the case, among others Daily Mail and The Australian.

- The reason was accusations of alleged negligence on the part of parents formulated by neighbors - reported Bartosz Lewandowski.

**SEE: The court took four children from their parents and separated them. "6-year-old girl hardly speaks"**

The boy was born into an Australian-Russian family who had lived in the Netherlands for several years. Martin's father, Conrad, is an IT specialist, and the boy's mother, Katya, is a lawyer.

Martin grew up in the Netherlands, where he was diagnosed with severe autism through the efforts of his parents.

- The Dutch authorities, who became interested in the family due to signals from neighbors, ignored the developmental disorder diagnosed in Martin, including on the lack of age-appropriate communication with peers or uncontrolled outbursts of anger, ascribing their cause to parental neglect and alleged violence by the parents - explained Bartosz Lewandowski.

He added that after signals from the neighbors, the boy was urgently picked up from his family home in the middle of the night without the authorization of the relevant authorities and placed away from home.

## **They saw their son a few hours a week**

For the first 13 months, Conrad and Katya had limited opportunities to see their son.

- As a result of the fight for the child, the parents were allowed to see Martin a few hours a week. During meetings with his mom and dad, the boy showed great joy and made contact with them, which was not the case with other people. Due to the separation,

Martin experienced a significant developmental regression. During the meetings, the boy informed his parents that he wanted to escape, said Lewandowski.

Then Conrad and Katya decided to leave all their property in the Netherlands, take their son without notifying the authorities, and flee to Poland in order to provide him with rehabilitation and therapy, which was not provided by the Dutch authorities.

**SEE: He ran away with his daughters from Sweden, now he is coming back to Russia. Denis Lisow thanked the Polish authorities**

- In the Netherlands, all attempts to recover the son in court failed due to the unfavorable attitude of social welfare officials - informed Lewandowski.

He noted that currently the Dutch authorities are looking for Martin. He also emphasized that the boy's parents decided to flee to Poland to apply for asylum here and obtain appropriate legal protection.

- This is another case in which the Polish authorities are asked to grant protection to unjustly and unlawfully broken families from highly developed countries - said Lewandowski.

On Friday, the patron announced that he had submitted a formal asylum application for the den Hertog family. He added that he was counting on the support of the Ministry of Justice because this case "should be decided in favor of the parents."

### **"10,000 euros for care"**

Lewandowski emphasized that the parents decided to flee to Poland when "international information came to them that our country repeatedly sided with families that were unreasonably separated by highly developed countries".

**SEE: 11 children were to go to a foster family. They will stay with their mother for now**

As the second representative of the family, adv. Babken Khanzadyan and the den Hertog count on help from Poland.

- It cannot be that states use state instruments and institutions to separate the family. We knew how the parents looked after this child. The Dutch state, after placing the child in a boarding school, offered over 10 thousand. euro for his care. I wonder why these 10,000 the euro was not given to the den Hertog family to look after their child. The boy is very attached to his parents and recognizes only them. He has severely severe autism, said Khanzadyan.