

## CIVIL IDENTIFICATION AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE STATE OF PARÁ, BRAZIL

### A IDENTIFICAÇÃO CIVIL COMO INSTRUMENTO DE PROTEÇÃO DOS DIREITOS DA CRIANÇA NO ESTADO DO PARÁ, BRASIL

### LA IDENTIFICACIÓN CIVIL COMO INSTRUMENTO DE PROTECCIÓN DE LOS DERECHOS DE LA NIÑEZ EN EL ESTADO DE PARÁ, BRASIL



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#### ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the civil identification of children as a strategic instrument for comprehensive protection in early childhood, with a focus on the State of Pará. The research adopts a qualitative approach, with exploratory and descriptive characteristics, grounded in a bibliographic review of theoretical works, legislation, institutional reports, and empirical studies on under-registration, child vulnerability, and public policies. Content analysis is employed to systematize categories related to identity, documentation, territorial inequalities, and protection mechanisms, allowing for the interpretation of discourses and regulations from an interdisciplinary perspective. The analysis shows that Pará presents high rates of under-registration and deep territorial inequalities, especially in rural, riverside, indigenous, and quilombola areas, where access to civil registration services is limited. The study also identifies weaknesses in the integration among maternity units, civil registry offices, health services, social assistance, and public security, which undermines the effectiveness of protection policies. Finally, it proposes guidelines to strengthen the civil identification of children, including the universalization of neonatal identification, the expansion of identity card issuance for children aged 0 to 6, the creation of a State Protocol for Child Identification, and permanent awareness campaigns. It concludes that civil identification is an essential public policy to ensure citizenship, prevent violence, and strengthen the Child and Adolescent Rights Guarantee System.

**Keywords:** Under Registration. Early Childhood. Civil Registration.

#### RESUMO

O artigo analisa a identificação civil de crianças como instrumento estratégico de proteção integral na primeira infância, com foco no Estado do Pará. A pesquisa adota uma abordagem qualitativa, de caráter exploratório e descritivo, fundamentada em levantamento bibliográfico de obras teóricas, legislações, relatórios institucionais e estudos empíricos sobre sub-registro, vulnerabilidade infantil e políticas públicas. Utiliza-se a técnica de análise de conteúdo para sistematizar categorias relacionadas à identidade, documentação, desigualdades territoriais e mecanismos de proteção, permitindo interpretar discursos e

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normativas sob uma perspectiva interdisciplinar. A análise evidencia que o Pará apresenta elevados índices de sub-registro e profundas desigualdades territoriais, especialmente em áreas rurais, ribeirinhas, indígenas e quilombolas, onde o acesso a serviços de registro civil é limitado. O estudo também aponta fragilidades na integração entre maternidades, cartórios, saúde, assistência social e segurança pública, comprometendo a eficácia das políticas de proteção. Ao final, propõe diretrizes para o fortalecimento da identificação civil de crianças, incluindo a universalização da identificação neonatal, a ampliação da emissão de carteiras de identidade para crianças de 0 a 6 anos, a criação de um Protocolo Estadual de Identificação Infantil e campanhas permanentes de sensibilização. Conclui que a identificação civil é política pública essencial para garantir cidadania, prevenir violências e fortalecer o Sistema de Garantia de Direitos da Criança e do Adolescente.

**Palavras-chave:** Sub-Registro. Primeira Infância. Registro Civil.

## RESUMEN

El artículo analiza la identificación civil de niñas y niños como un instrumento estratégico de protección integral en la primera infancia, con énfasis en el Estado de Pará. La investigación adopta un enfoque cualitativo, de carácter exploratorio y descriptivo, fundamentado en un levantamiento bibliográfico de obras teóricas, legislaciones, informes institucionales y estudios empíricos sobre subregistro, vulnerabilidad infantil y políticas públicas. Se utiliza la técnica de análisis de contenido para sistematizar categorías relacionadas con la identidad, la documentación, las desigualdades territoriales y los mecanismos de protección, permitiendo interpretar discursos y normativas desde una perspectiva interdisciplinaria. El análisis evidencia que Pará presenta altos índices de subregistro y profundas desigualdades territoriales, especialmente en áreas rurales, ribereñas, indígenas y quilombolas, donde el acceso a los servicios de registro civil es limitado. El estudio también señala fragilidades en la integración entre maternidades, registros civiles, salud, asistencia social y seguridad pública, lo que compromete la eficacia de las políticas de protección. Finalmente, propone directrices para el fortalecimiento de la identificación civil de niñas y niños, incluyendo la universalización de la identificación neonatal, la ampliación de la emisión de documentos de identidad para menores de 0 a 6 años, la creación de un Protocolo Estatal de Identificación Infantil y campañas permanentes de sensibilización. Concluye que la identificación civil constituye una política pública esencial para garantizar ciudadanía, prevenir violencias y fortalecer el Sistema de Garantía de Derechos de la Niñez y la Adolescencia.

**Palabras clave:** Subregistro. Primera Infancia. Registro Civil.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The civil identification of children is one of the fundamental pillars for the guarantee of human rights and for the construction of public policies for the protection of children. In the Brazilian context, especially in the State of Pará, the topic assumes marked relevance due to the high rates of under-registration (IBGE, 2018). Although the Federal Constitution establishes citizenship and the dignity of the human person as structuring foundations of the Democratic Rule of Law, these principles are weakened when children remain invisible to civil registration systems and official identification databases.

Identification, as an attribute of human identity, articulates philosophical, juridical and sociological dimensions. From the philosophical point of view, identity is essential to the theory of knowledge and is established as a logical absolute. It affirms a truth without the need for demonstration, because each thing is unique and distinct, not to be confused with others. This axiom, known as the Principle of Identity or Law of Identity, was enunciated by Aristotle in the three laws of thought as follows: "a thing cannot, at the same time, be and not be" (RABELLO, 2024, p. 10).

In the Brazilian legal system, identification as an essential attribute of human identity occupies a central position. It not only allows the formal recognition of the individual by the State, but also functions as an instrument for the protection of fundamental rights, accountability and legal certainty (BRASIL, 1988)

For Sociology, each and every identity is constructed. The question is how this construction process takes place, its origin, purpose and peculiarities, as Castells indicates.

The construction of identities makes use of the raw material provided by history, geography, biology, productive and reproductive institutions, collective memory and personal fantasies, power apparatuses and revelations of a religious nature. However, all these materials are processed by individuals, social groups and societies, which organize their meaning according to social trends and cultural projects rooted in their social structure, as well as in their time/space vision. (CASTELLS, 2008, p. 23).

Dominant institutions can also form identities when social actors internalize them, constructing their meaning based on this internalization. Castells (2008) presents, in addition to the individual, the collective identity and says that the social construction of identity occurs through power relations between forms and origins.

For Bauman (2005), identity goes through a continuous process of construction, thus always remaining incomplete. This is because modernity has generated a fluid world where identities easily unravel following the rhythm of liquid modernity: "The ease of getting rid of an identity when it ceases to be satisfactory, or ceases to be attractive due to competition

with other more seductive identities, is much more important than the realism of the identity sought or momentarily appropriated".

The civil identification of children, at the same time that it materializes the state's recognition of the child's existence, acts as an instrument of full protection, as determined by the Statute of the Child and Adolescent (BRASIL, 1990). The absence or fragility of these records, however, deepens inequalities and exposes children to violence, making it difficult to access essential public policies such as health, education, social assistance and security (LIMA, 2015). In the Amazonian context, geographical distances, difficulty in accessing notary services, poverty, and cultural aspects of traditional communities dramatically aggravate this scenario (BARROS, 2017; FONSECA, 2016).

In this article, we propose to analyze child civil identification as an instrument for the protection of children's rights in the State of Pará, articulating three axes: a) theoretical foundations on identity and identification; b) national and international normative framework aimed at civil identification and child protection; c) interdisciplinary analysis of the structural vulnerabilities of childhood in Pará, with emphasis on the relationship between underreporting, invisibility and violence.

In addition to discussing the current reality, the article presents recommendations for strengthening the state policy for civil identification of children, proposing guidelines that can be incorporated by public security, health, social assistance and education institutions, aligning with the System for the Guarantee of the Rights of Children and Adolescents.

## **2 IDENTITY AND IDENTIFICATION**

### **2.1 IDENTITY: PHILOSOPHICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL AND LEGAL BASES**

The concept of identity has a long theoretical trajectory and is present in several philosophical traditions. For Aristotle, identity is a fundamental logical principle, which establishes that each being is identical to itself and distinct from the others (RABELLO, 2024). This definition, although abstract, provides the initial framework for understanding individualization as an ontological phenomenon.

Habermas (1988) expands this view by stating that human identity is dialectically constructed between self-identification and the identification recognized by others. For the author, identity is processual, the result of social interactions and the subject's self-understanding. This perspective is close to the contemporary sociological notion, according to which identity is not fixed, but a permanent social construction (CASTELLS, 2008; WOODWARD, 2000).

Bauman (2005) contributes by conceptualizing "liquid modernity", in which identities become fluid and unstable, shaped by dynamic social and cultural contexts. Although such reflections are mainly directed to adult life, they also help to understand the construction of children's identity, which develops in the midst of intense social flows, marked by digital culture and family and community transformations.

In the legal field, identity has material relevance. It represents an attribute of personality and a requirement for the exercise of civil, social, cultural and political rights (SANTOS, 2018). The civil registry, in this sense, ceases to be a mere bureaucratic procedure and assumes the character of legal-existential recognition. It is the act that inaugurates the legal presence of the child in the world of law.

## 2.2 IDENTIFICATION: TECHNICAL AND APPLIED DIMENSION

If identity is the essence of the individual, identification represents the technical process that allows recognizing this essence through objective attributes. Vanrell and Borborema (2019) highlight that identification involves the determination of individual anatomical, morphological, physiological, or biometric elements capable of distinguishing a person from others. Figini (2012) differentiates objective identification (biological and biometric elements) from subjective identification (self-image, name, personal history), emphasizing that both are essential for human individualization.

Biometrics, especially fingerprints, neonatal plantar prints and facial recognition, have been consolidated as the main identification instrument in the field of public security since the seventeenth century, with the observations of Malpighi (FIGINI, 2012), and later with the development of scientific methods by Bertillon and Galton. Today, automated biometric recognition technologies are part of civil and criminal identification systems in several countries (JAIN; ROSS; PRABHAKAR, 2004).

In Brazil, the responsibility for civil and criminal identification is the responsibility of the Identification Institutes. In Pará, this assignment is performed by the Directorate of Identification "Enéas Martins" (DIDEM), the directorate of the Civil Police of the State of Pará responsible for issuing the Identity Card and for criminal identification procedures and papiloscopic expertise.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

The present research is characterized as a qualitative study, of descriptive and exploratory character, aimed at analyzing the civil identification of children as an instrument of integral protection in the State of Pará. According to Gil (2019), exploratory research is

appropriate when the objective is to provide greater familiarity with a problem, making it more explicit and allowing the construction of new analytical perspectives. In the same sense, Marconi and Lakatos (2017) state that the qualitative approach is appropriate for studies that seek to understand complex social phenomena, especially those related to human rights, public policies, and social vulnerabilities.

The choice for the qualitative approach is justified by the need to interpret meanings, institutional practices and socio-territorial contexts that influence the civil under-registration and invisibility of children in Pará. As Gil (2019) points out, this type of approach allows capturing subjective and structural dimensions that cannot be reduced to numerical data, being essential to understand social phenomena in depth.

From the point of view of technical procedures, this is a bibliographic research. Bibliographic research consists of the survey, selection and analysis of works, scientific articles, legislation, institutional reports and official documents that deal with the theme of identity, civil identification, child protection and public policies (MARCONI; LAKATOS, 2017). This procedure enabled the construction of the interdisciplinary theoretical framework that underlies the study, articulating contributions from Philosophy, Sociology, Law and Public Security.

As for the objectives, the research is descriptive, as it seeks to characterize phenomena and relationships between underreporting, vulnerability and child protection. Gil (2019) explains that descriptive research has as its main purpose the description of the characteristics of a certain population or phenomenon, which suits the purpose of analyzing the reality of Pará and its territorial inequalities. In addition, the study assumes an explanatory character, as it seeks to identify factors that contribute to documentary invisibility and the exposure of children to risks, as advised by Marconi and Lakatos (2017).

The method of analysis used was content analysis, as proposed by Bardin (2016), applied to the bibliographic material collected. This technique allowed the identification of thematic categories related to identity, underreporting, vulnerability, public policies, and full protection. Content analysis, according to Lakatos and Marconi (2017), is suitable for qualitative research that seeks to interpret discourses, documents and legislation, enabling the construction of systematic inferences and interpretations.

Finally, the research adopts an interdisciplinary perspective, articulating theoretical and empirical elements from different areas of knowledge. Gil (2019) highlights that interdisciplinarity is fundamental in studies involving complex social phenomena, as it allows for the integration of multiple dimensions of reality. In the case of child civil identification, this

approach makes it possible to understand the phenomenon not only as a legal issue, but also as a sociological, cultural, territorial and public security problem.

#### **4 CIVIL IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN AND THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD PROTECTION**

The civil identification of children in Brazil is one of the normative pillars of the full protection of children and is supported by an articulated set of constitutional, infra-constitutional and international norms. At the center of this framework is the Statute of the Child and Adolescent (ECA), Law No. 8,069/1990, which enshrines the child as a subject of rights and imposes on the State, the family and society the duty to ensure, with absolute priority, the realization of these rights (BRASIL, 1990)

Article 10 of the ECA establishes that hospitals and other health care establishments for pregnant women, whether public or private, are required to identify the newborn through the collection of plantar or fingerprints, as well as the identification of the mother, and such information must be included in the Certificate of Live Birth (DNV). The DNV is the prior and indispensable document for the civil registration of birth, as regulated by Ordinance No. 116/2009 of the Ministry of Health, and represents the link between biological birth and the legal recognition of the child's existence (BRASIL, 2009).

The obligation of civil registration of birth is reaffirmed in article 9 of the ECA, which determines that legal guardians must promote registration in the first civil registry office, within the legal deadline. The absence of this record constitutes a form of violation of rights, as it prevents access to essential public policies such as health, education, social assistance and legal protection. As Santos (2018) points out, civil registration is more than a notarial act: it is the legal recognition of the child's existence as a subject of rights.

In addition, the ECA typifies conducts related to the subtraction, concealment and irregular delivery of children as crimes, in articles 237 to 239, recognizing the seriousness of these practices and their direct relationship with the absence of official documentation. The lack of civil identification makes it difficult to promptly locate missing children, weakens the accountability of perpetrators of crimes, and compromises the performance of bodies such as the Guardianship Council, the Public Prosecutor's Office, and the Civil Police (INTERID, 2023).

The centrality of civil identification in full protection is also expressed in the absolute priority of children's rights, provided for in article 227 of the Federal Constitution of 1988, which imposes on the State the duty to ensure, with primacy, the right to life, health, identity, family and community life. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), ratified by

Brazil through Decree No. 99,710/1990, reinforces this commitment by establishing, in its article 7, that every child has the right to a name, nationality and, as far as possible, to know his or her parents and to be cared for by them (UN, 1989)

The absence of civil registration, therefore, is not only an administrative omission, but a violation of human rights, which compromises the dignity of the child and its full insertion in society. As Lima (2015) observes, underreporting is a phenomenon that disproportionately affects populations in situations of social and territorial vulnerability, such as indigenous, riverside and quilombola communities, especially in the northern region of the country.

Child civil identification should be understood as a transversal public policy, which articulates the fields of law, health, social assistance and public security. Its implementation requires integration between maternity hospitals, registry offices, information systems, and protection agencies, as guided by the National Policy for the Search for Missing Persons (Law No. 13,812/2019), which recognizes identification as an essential element for locating missing children (BRASIL, 2019).

In summary, child civil identification in Brazil is supported by a robust normative framework that recognizes its structuring function in the full protection of children. However, its effectiveness still faces operational challenges, especially in contexts of territorial inequality and social exclusion. Overcoming these barriers requires not only compliance with legal standards, but also the strengthening of intersectoral public policies aimed at eradicating under-registration and guaranteeing the right to identity from birth.

## **5 THE CONTEXT OF PARÁ: UNDER-REGISTRATION, VULNERABILITY AND CHILD INVISIBILITY**

The reality of the State of Pará reveals a scenario marked by structural inequalities, vast geographical areas of difficult access, traditional communities in a situation of socio-territorial isolation and persistent gaps in the supply of public services. Such conditions accentuate vulnerabilities historically associated with childhood in the Amazon, such as the difficulty in obtaining civil registration, the lack of personal documents, and the difficulty of integration between protection, health, assistance, and public security systems (PARÁ, 2023).

According to the IBGE (2018), Pará has one of the highest rates of under-registration of births in the country, reaching between 14% and 16% of children without registration in the first year of life. Several factors contribute to the underreporting of birth records in Pará. Among them are the lack of access to notary offices in remote regions, economic difficulties

for families, lack of information about the importance of civil registration, and cultural barriers in some indigenous communities (BARROS, 2017).

According to Fonseca (2016), the scarcity of infrastructure and public services in the most remote areas further aggravates this situation. The absence of civil registration has serious consequences for children, who are deprived of basic rights such as access to education, health, and social protection. They are also more vulnerable to various forms of exploitation and abuse.

The literature points out that children without birth registration are deprived of access to fundamental public policies, such as vaccination, school enrollment, assistance programs and social benefits. In addition, they become invisible to the State, hindering public planning and depriving the System for the Guarantee of the Rights of Children and Adolescents itself of essential information for the monitoring and prevention of violence (LIMA, 2015).

In the field of public security, document invisibility has even more serious consequences. Children without civil identification are more likely to be victims of abduction, disappearance, trafficking and other forms of exploitation, since the absence of official data weakens both the search process and the accountability of the perpetrators. International studies demonstrate a strong relationship between lack of documentation and recruitment for forced labor, illegal adoptions, and transnational trafficking (ECPAT INTERNATIONAL, 2020; UNICEF, 2018).

## **6 CIVIL IDENTIFICATION AS A TOOL FOR PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING FULL PROTECTION**

### **6.1 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DOCUMENTATION AND PREVENTION OF CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN**

Civil identification of children plays a crucial role in the strategy for preventing violations, especially with regard to the disappearance and abduction of children. As observed in the database analyzed in the State of Pará, young children, especially between 0 and 6 years old, constitute the most vulnerable group to this type of crime, representing more than 70% of the victims registered between 2013 and 2023 (SEGUP, 2024).

The lack of official documents, such as birth certificates and identity cards, makes it difficult to promptly identify the victim, making the stages of investigation, location and restitution to family life more complex. In some cases, children who have been abducted may remain for years without correct identification, making it difficult for the Guardianship Council, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Civil Police, and social assistance organizations to act (INTERID, 2023; ESCÓSSIA, 2021).

The literature highlights that adequate civil identification is a decisive factor in reducing the risk of human trafficking, irregular adoption, and illegal international displacement, considering that biometric documents hinder forgery and allow greater control by border agencies (ILO, 2017; JAIN; ROSS; PRABHAKAR, 2004).

## 6.2 NEONATAL IDENTIFICATION AS A STRATEGIC PUBLIC POLICY

The Statute of the Child and Adolescent (art. 10) establishes the obligation to record the newborn's plantar and fingerprints, in addition to the mother's identification. However, in practice, this stage still faces challenges in maternity hospitals in Pará, especially in the more inland regions, where medical infrastructure is limited and the integration between health and civil identification is incipient (BRASIL, 1990; PARÁ, 2020)

The lack of standardization between hospital units results in inconsistencies or even non-existence of neonatal impressions, leaving gaps for errors, baby changes and future identification difficulties. The literature shows that biometric procedures performed in the first 48 hours of life, when properly recorded and stored, are highly reliable and can accompany the individual throughout life (FIGINI, 2012). In addition, the World Health Organization and UNICEF advocate the integration between maternity hospitals and civil registration systems as an essential strategy to prevent violence against newborns and young children (UNICEF, 2019).

In Pará, the civil identification of children also faces the challenge of the lack of interoperability between databases. Maternity hospitals, registry offices, police units and Guardianship Councils often operate in a fragmented manner, limiting the capacity for institutional response to urgent cases.

The Directorate of Identification "Enéas Martins" – DIDEM, has a central role in the state policy of civil and criminal identification. However, the absence of immediate integration with municipal health and social assistance systems prevents the continuous monitoring of newly documented children and limits the effectiveness of the protection flow. Positive experiences in other states demonstrate that the secure sharing of biometric data between health, safety, and justice significantly enhances the prevention and solution of cases of child disappearance (SILVA, 2021).

## 7 PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENING CHILD CIVIL IDENTIFICATION IN PARÁ

From the interdisciplinary analysis carried out, it becomes evident that the civil identification of children is a strategic element to prevent the abduction of children, reduce rights violations and strengthen the investigative capacity of the State. In view of the scenario observed in Pará marked by under-registration, gaps in institutional integration and structural vulnerabilities, the following guidelines are proposed.

### 7.1 FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF NEWBORN IDENTIFICATION IN MATERNITY HOSPITALS

The full implementation of neonatal identification in maternity hospitals remains a challenge in Pará. Although this obligation is provided for in the Statute of the Child and Adolescent (BRASIL, 1990), the procedure is not yet universalized in the state. To overcome this gap, it is essential to standardize the collection of plantar and fingerprints in the first 48 hours of life, ensuring that this data is automatically integrated into the Declaration of Live Birth (DNV) and the state civil identification system.

The biometric registration of the mother is also essential, ensuring the mother-baby bond from birth, in addition to the continuous training of nursing and obstetrics professionals responsible for these stages. Both public and private hospitals must adopt uniform protocols and submit them to periodic audits, in order to prevent failures, reduce risks and avoid situations of error or exchange of newborns.

### 7.2 EXPANSION OF IDENTITY CARD ISSUANCE FOR CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 6 YEARS

The expansion of the issuance of the Identity Card for children from 0 to 6 years old is an essential measure to strengthen full protection in early childhood. For this to occur effectively, it is important to promote annual child identification campaigns in schools, daycare centers, health units, CRAS and traditional communities, expanding the reach of actions and reducing territorial barriers. It is also strategic to carry out coordinated joint efforts between DIDEM, the Department of Health and the Guardianship Councils, ensuring intersectoral action and capillarity in care.

Issuance should be simplified for low-income families, ensuring that socioeconomic status is not an obstacle to access to basic documentation. In addition, the inclusion of biometric data compatible with the age group contributes to greater accuracy in identification. The early issuance of the RG for children, especially when associated with biometrics, reinforces the Rights Guarantee System and expands the State's capacity to protect children in vulnerable situations.

### 7.3 STATE PROTOCOL FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN

The State may institute an Institutional Protocol for the Identification of Children, consolidating in a single normative instrument all the essential steps to guarantee the right to identity from birth. This protocol can establish neonatal identification in maternity hospitals as an initial and mandatory step, followed by the first civil identification up to 12 months of life, ensuring that no child exceeds the first year without basic documentation. It can also provide for the periodic updating of the child's ID every five years, in order to monitor physical development and ensure greater biometric accuracy.

Another fundamental axis is the creation of a unified flow for action in cases of disappearance, allowing faster and more coordinated responses between the bodies of the Rights Guarantee System. The document may also include a specific action guide for Guardianship Councils, guiding procedures and standardizing referrals, in addition to defining uniform criteria for child biometric collection throughout the state. To acquire normative force and administrative effectiveness, this protocol must be formalized by means of a SEGUP Ordinance or by State Decree, ensuring its mandatory adoption by all institutions involved.

### 7.4 PERMANENT AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Permanent awareness-raising campaigns should play a central role in promoting the right to identity and preventing violations affecting children. They need to emphasize the importance of civil registration as a gateway to all other rights, warn about the risks associated with the absence of identification, and reinforce practices to prevent child abduction and disappearance. It is also essential that these actions reach schools, daycare centers, health units and community leaders, expanding awareness and strengthening local protection networks. Indigenous, riverside and quilombola communities must receive special attention, with bilingual materials and itinerant teams capable of dialoguing with the cultural and territorial specificities of these groups, ensuring that information arrives in an accessible and effective way.

## 8 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This article demonstrated that the civil identification of children is one of the most important instruments for the protection of children's rights, especially in contexts of high social vulnerability. The theoretical, normative and empirical analysis shows that the absence or fragility of civil records significantly increases the risks of subtraction, disappearance and other forms of violence against young children.

The study reinforces that civil identification is not a merely bureaucratic step, but a mechanism to guarantee citizenship, full protection and public safety. The full implementation of neonatal identification, the early issuance of identity cards and the adoption of a state protocol are necessary measures to strengthen the System for the Guarantee of the Rights of Children and Adolescents.

The civil identification of children, although often treated as a notarial procedure, represents a transversal axis of public policies for the protection of children. It articulates legal, sociological, technological, and public security dimensions, being able to reduce structural vulnerabilities. In Pará, the intersection between under-registration, territorial inequality and children's invisibility creates an environment conducive to serious violations. Therefore, civil identification cannot be understood only as a bureaucratic instrument. It is the first state protection mechanism, essential to ensure that children have a name, history, belonging, identity, and access to rights (SANTOS, 2018).

From a sociological point of view, child identity should be understood as a relational construction, influenced by family, community and institutional dynamics (CASTELLS, 2008; BAUMAN, 2005). The absence of state recognition materialized in the civil registry constitutes a form of symbolic and structural violence, as it deprives the child of being fully recognized as a subject.

In the field of public security, early identification reduces the risks of trafficking, disappearance, irregular adoption, and subtraction (ECPAT, 2020). From a forensic point of view, it strengthens the investigation, as it provides reliable biometric elements for location and recognition (JAIN; ROSS; PRABHAKAR, 2004). Interdisciplinarity, therefore, reveals that the civil identification of children should be treated as a strategic human rights policy.

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