



The “Care Shift”

From the State to the Family (?)

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The Care Shift

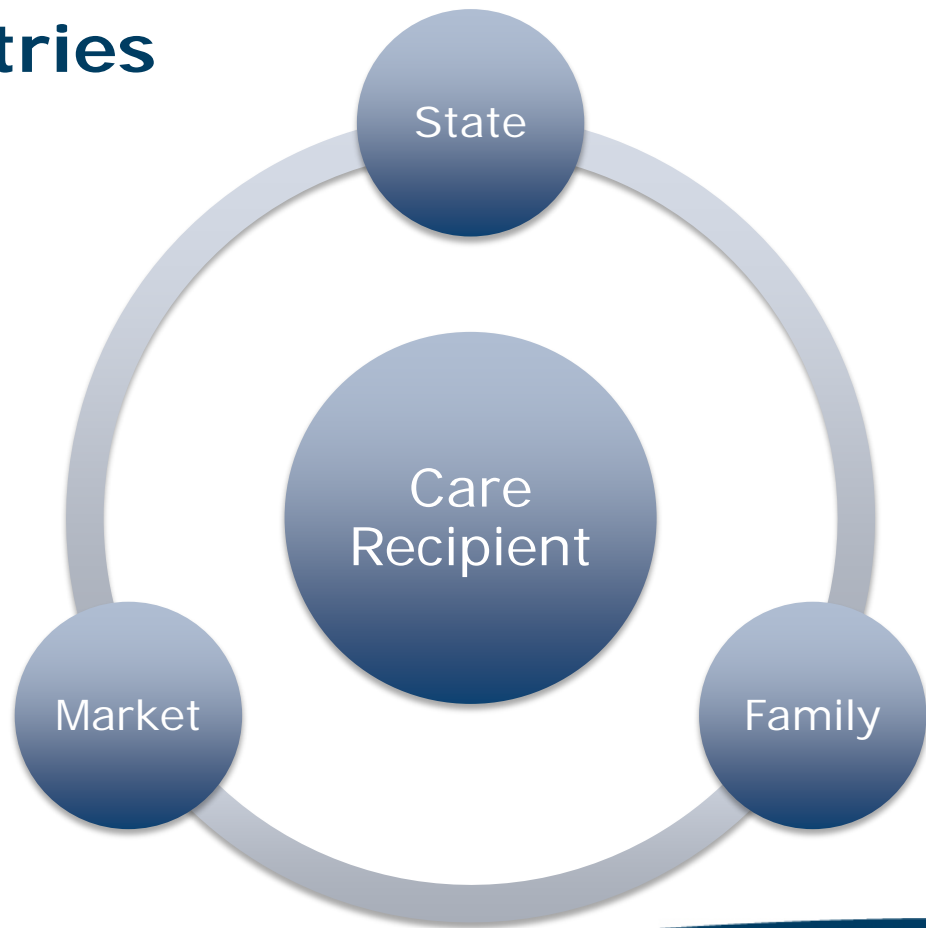
Family Dynamics & Care (FAMCARE)

- University of Antwerp Centre of Excellence
- Interdisciplinary: sociology, law
medicine, health sciences
- Project 1. Intergenerational care for the elderly in the Low Countries
- Project 2. Informal care by LGB in Flanders/Québec



The Care Shift

Intergenerational care for the elderly in the Low Countries





The Care Shift

Intergenerational care for the elderly in the Low Countries

- Allocation of care
- Varieties of familialism
- Necessity of care shift from State
- Towards family?
- Conclusion



The Care Shift

Intergenerational care for the elderly in the Low Countries

F Swennen and L Verhaert

27(3) Child & Family Law Quarterly 2015



The Care Shift

Allocation of care

- Pension provision and income support
- Formal and informal (health) care schedules
- Effects when living with a family member
- From perspectives of care recipient and of carer



The Care Shift

“Varieties of familialism” (Leitner)

- Flanders: State (rather than Family) Oriented
- Netherlands: Family (rather than State) Oriented



The Care Shift

“Varieties of familialism” (Leitner) (ctd)

- Maintenance obligations subordinate to State and Market in B (to a lesser extent in NL)
- Usual and informal help is deducted from entitlements in NL



The Care Shift

“Varieties of familialism” (Leitner) (ctd)

- Career Leave & Breaks in B 74 months, NL 8 weeks
- Further compensation of carer stronger by State in B and by family in NL
- Stronger tax shelters in B than in NL for maintenance & when living with a (grand)child



The Care Shift

Necessity of Care Shift from State

- Sustainability of social security system
- Double ageing
- Preference for family surroundings

- NL: Wmo and Wlz as from 2015
Shift from State to municipalities
- B: private care insurances



The Care Shift

Towards the Family?

- *Liberté, égalité, fraternité*
- Ideological stance towards reform?
- Informal care and QoL
- Family Law Exceptionalism
Example: compensatory *lump sum* in NL



The Care Shift

Conclusions

- Further care shift away from State necessary
- Currently inconsistent patchwork regulations
Negative impact on QoL of “Gen Sandwich”
- Support informal care
- Support autonomy
- Support functional family/citizenship
- Do not apply market rationale (?)