

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the assistance to crime victims, mostly in terms of Czech legislation, its compliance with the European legislation and its application in real life, it does, however, provide historical and theoretical explanation about crime victims. The thesis reflects the legislation, that is in effect at the time.

The main aim of the thesis is to offer a comprehensive view on the issue of assistance to victims, to analyse and evaluate the legislation of victims' rights, especially under the Victims of Crime Act, and to assess the benefits of its first major amendment. The last goal of the thesis is to evaluate the current quality of assistance provided to crime victims. The thesis consists of five parts, in addition it also contains an introduction and a conclusion.

The first part offers historical and international insight into the assistance of crime victims and details how this field has evolved over the last hundred years. It also places the issue into historical context while analysing international requirements laid down by the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations.

Part 2 explains legal terms “victim” and “injured party”, providing a comparison of these two terms with a view toward their use in subsequent chapters of this thesis.

Part 3 contains theoretical treatise on crime victims in terms of criminology, respectively, victimology. With regard to the thematic focus, this chapter describes only various typologies of crime victims, victimization process and its types. The following chapter defines types of harm the victim might suffer.

In part 4, various types of assistance provided to victims in practice, regardless of the existence of relevant regulations, are analysed.

The core of the thesis, however, is in the final part that deals with legislation of assistance to crime victims, its analysis and evaluation. The first chapter is dedicated to several provisions in the Penal Code, protecting victims (the right to choose an attorney, prosecution with consent from the injured, preliminary injunctions, the victim's claim in collateral proceedings and the victim impact statement). The second chapter deals with the Victims of Crime Act. Further division of the chapter is in accordance with the systematic of the Victims of Crime Act. The author emphasizes problematic provisions and *de lege ferenda* proposals are being submitted. It also includes an evaluation of the quality of the assistance to crime victims, based on the experience of victim support services.

At the conclusion, the achievement of the goals set forth in the introduction is evaluated and key findings are summarized.