

Abstract

This thesis deals with juvenile justice and focuses mainly on procedural issues of punishment of juvenile criminality, which considerably differs from punishment of adult offenders. The need for specific treatment of youth comes from experience with mental development of adolescents which is not fully finished at their age, and that is why we need to approach them carefully as they need greater care and protection. A number of international documents also call for a more prudent approach to juvenile offenders. Juvenile criminal law presents the sum of deviations from the general arrangement that can be used only in relation to juvenile delinquents and whose aim is to protect them against criminal future and guide them into finding suitable social position.

Czech Republic regulates juvenile criminal liability, its sanctioning and procedures of solution to criminality by Juvenile Justice Act No. 218/2003 Coll. This Act divides the youth into not criminally liable children under the age of fifteen and criminally liable juveniles in the age between fifteen and eighteen. Criminal proceedings against juveniles and proceedings for unlawful action committed by children under the age of fifteen differ from each other, but also differ from criminal proceedings as covered by the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The introductory part of this thesis answers general questions of juvenile criminal law and presents international documents relating to delinquent youth. It is followed by brief excursion to history of juvenile criminal law in our country. The main part of this thesis focuses on analysis of individual specifications of criminal proceedings against juveniles and points out differences from general legislation of criminal proceedings as covered by the Code of Criminal Procedure. Another part of this thesis presents proceedings in the matters of children under the age of fifteen and analyses its criminal law aspects. The last chapter is dedicated to short introduction of selected foreign legislations in relation to juvenile criminal law.

The aim of this thesis is to present Czech valid regulation of criminal proceedings against juveniles and proceedings in the matters of children under the age of fifteen, to evaluate regulation of both types of proceedings and eventually to suggest changes to help overcome some of its deficiencies.