

## **Assistance to victims of crime**

### **Abstract**

This master's thesis deals with the assistance to crime victims and it is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter is devoted to the theory of victims and defines its basic terms such as primary and secondary victimization. It also describes the history of the victim and points out the most common stereotypes in the area of attitude to victims.

The main part of the thesis describes the legislation. It deals particularly with the Victims of Crime Act which strengthened the victim's position in criminal proceedings and extended their rights. The aim of the thesis is to analyze the definitions of the victim and the vulnerable victim that are contained in the act. Consequently, the purpose is to compare the terms of the victim as a subject of a special care and the injured party as a subject to criminal proceedings.

The fourth chapter thoroughly analyzes the six fundamental rights of the victim, which are enshrined in the Victims of Crime Act. The thesis points out that the right to information, which on the other hand means an information duty for the Police of the Czech Republic, law enforcement authorities and entities registered in the register of aid providers, is not pursued sufficiently. The police authority provides victims with the police caution of several pages. The victim without any legal education usually does not understand this and thus is frustrated. The next aim of the thesis was to analyze the victim's right to protection against secondary harm and to get acquainted with their basic institutes, the trustee and the victim impact statement. One of the objectives of this thesis was to point out that these institutes help the victims to cope with traumas caused by the committed crime.

The following part of the work describes ways of assisting in answering the question where the victim can find psychological, social and legal help. It also deals with the register of providers of assistance to victims of crime. The thesis names restorative justice in the form of mediation as one of the ways to help.

The goal of the sixth chapter is to acquaint the readers with non-profit organizations providing assistance to victims, especially the White Circle of Safety, which is the oldest organization of its kind in the Czech Republic. The author simultaneously discusses her visit to the Probation and Mediation Service in Tábor, where she examined the treatment of the victims and how the victims are assisted, for example, if they decide to declare the victim impact statement.

The content of the last chapter is a description of *de lege ferenda* proposals in the field of victim assistance.

**Keywords: victimology, victim of a crime, assistance**