

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to highlight the criminal liability of physicians, medical staff and soon also medical service providers as legal entities. The human life and health enjoy the highest level of protection. A patient has the right to make autonomous decisions regarding their informed consent and concerning free choice of treatment, including rejection of any treatment. While being required to respect the patient's autonomy at all times, a physician has to require legal certainty to ensure that they are not penalised for respecting this autonomy. Criminal law and healthcare are closely connected, in particular as regards care for patients in view of their autonomy, interventions into the patient's bodily integrity or handling their medical records. A healthcare professional or provider of medical services is the subject of a criminal offence, while in particular human life, health, foetus, as well as personal data or interest in medical intervention *lege artis* are the object of a criminal offence. Selected criminal offences relating to the performance of a physician's profession include crimes against life and health, crimes threatening woman's pregnancy, crimes against freedom and rights to the protection of personality, privacy and privacy of correspondence, and crimes relating to unauthorised handling of human tissues and organs, human embryos and human genome. Criminal liability also applies to legal entities.

Key words:

criminal law, healthcare, criminal liability