

## **Abstract**

### **Methodology of investigating specific homicides (focused on staged suicides)**

This diploma thesis deals with the methodology of investigating homicides and suicides, it determines the common and divergent traces left on a victim's body as well as on a crime scene and examines circumstances which motivate a perpetrator to stage a suicide. Last but not least, the thesis describes specific features of individual investigative acts.

The aim of the thesis is not to bring a summary of the methodology of homicide investigation but it aims to draw the attention to the procedures typical for the investigation of murders which appear to be suicides and describes the ways how to distinguish staged suicides from the real ones.

The thesis consists of six chapters. The first three chapters sum up the definitions of the terms homicide and suicide in criminal law and criminology, examine the circumstances prompting a murder perpetrator to stage a suicide, and describe the typical ways of committing homicides and suicides. The fourth chapter, which examines the important traces left on a victim's body and a crime scene, forms the core of the thesis. It brings the overview of the common and divergent traces in homicide and suicide cases and also the most frequently manipulated and faked traces in staged cases. The following chapter analyses the individual investigative acts and focuses on the differences between homicide and suicide case investigations. The theoretical parts of this thesis are illustrated by specific examples of the real criminal cases in the final chapter.

**Key words:** crime, homicide, suicide, methodology of investigating, criminological traces