

## **Abstract**

This bachelor's thesis focuses on life at the Retirement home with a special regime in Břevnice for clients with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia during one year, which was captured by documentary photography. The institution is located near Havlíčkův Brod. About twenty clients in different stages of dementia and Alzheimer's disease live there. A team of nurses and an activation worker take care of them. The thesis pursues evolution and ethical problems of social photography, in which documentary from institutional environment belongs. It introduces selected authors of world-class and Czech social documentaries. In the following part, this thesis inquires under which conditions can be taking photographs of mentally ill people ethical. Eventually, it explains the usage of photography in relation to mental disorders. It describes the creations of the photographers who suffer from mental illnesses, the usage of photography during diagnostics of patients in mental hospitals, and photography as a method of art therapy. The main, practical part of the thesis is a photo book containing a set of documentary photographs portraying the everyday life of the clients and personnel at the retirement home. Those photographs are accompanied by images captured by one of the seniors from Břevnice.