

The Specifics of Children Interrogation

Summary

The diploma thesis deals with interrogation of children, which means person under 18 years old, as witnesses, or even victims of crimes. The interrogation of child witnesses should be approached with special care, as children are very vulnerable to their unfinished mental and psychological development and have a higher risk of secondary victimization.

The graduate aims to provide the reader with a comprehensive set of information on the issue of questioning child witnesses. The issue has an interdisciplinary character, so the work contains criminal, forensic, psychological, and victimological knowledge. At the same time, on the basis of research and interviews with police officers and social workers, the graduate evaluates the legal regulation and interrogation practice, identifies shortcomings and tries to present possibilities for their solution.

The first part of the thesis contains the definition of basic terms with which the graduate works in the work. These are the terms child, victim and particularly vulnerable victim, victimization, witness, interrogation and testimony.

The second part of the work is focused on the legal regulation of the issue. The graduate mentions international and EU documents, but pays more attention to the regulation in the Criminal Procedure Code and the Act on Victims of Crime.

The third chapter takes a closer look at the specifics of the interrogation of child witnesses, focusing in particular on the person of the child and the external aspects that play a role in the examination. At the same time, the third chapter provides insight into the course of the interrogation.

In the fourth chapter, the graduate evaluates the legislation and interrogation practice. In the case of identified shortcomings, the graduate also provides her proposal for a solution, based, inter alia, on the case law of national courts and the European Court of Human Rights.

Key words: interrogation, child, specifics