

Assisted suicide in the context of Czech criminal law

Abstract

The topic of this diploma thesis is the issue of assisted suicide in the context of criminal law in the Czech Republic. Assisted suicide and euthanasia are not currently legal in the Czech Republic. For this reason, the work transcends the ethical level and many other levels, such as the historical, cultural and religious context. The work is divided into several chapters, which describe in detail the individual topics that relate to assisted murder and are related to it. The first chapter defines the terms assisted suicide as such, its legal aspects and historical development in the Czech Republic and in the world of free will, voluntary, unaccompanied, direct and indirect euthanasia, assisted dying, the doctrine of double effect and eubiosia. It also describes the historical development of suicide, from antiquity to modern history and development in the Czech Republic.

Subsequently, the topic of assisted suicide is placed within the framework of valid Czech law. Due to the fact that assisted suicide is not currently legal in the Czech Republic, there are the mentioned legal regulations that are currently in force and which are related to the topic of assisted suicide. These include informed consent, negative reverse, medical law, and by-laws related to assisted suicide.

Arguments for and against legalization of suicide are described and utility problems are described. Examination of these arguments led to a comparison of the arrangements within the legal systems of selected countries such as the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, Switzerland and the USA. Last but not least, space is devoted to the possibility of legalization in the Czech Republic, both from the point of view of public opinion and from the point of view of legislators. It is concluded that the biggest concern of euthanasia lies in the fear of possible abuse, on the other hand, the biggest argument for legalizing euthanasia is the argument of personal freedom, where everyone has the right to decide on their life or death.

Key Words:

Assisted suicide, euthanasia, end of life, legalization