

# **Interrogation in Criminal Proceedings**

## **Abstract**

This thesis focuses on interrogation in criminal proceedings, as it is one of the most often used procedures in investigation of crimes. The first chapter addresses interrogation in the context of the current legislation, i.e. how is this procedure regulated at the statutory level. In relation to the person against whom the proceedings are being conducted, it deals with the right to a formal defence, and then with the right to a material defence and its various aspects. In relation to the witness, the thesis addresses the right of the witness to be represented, the right to refuse to testify and the specifics of interrogation of certain witnesses, including a confidential witness. The second chapter addresses interrogation as a discipline of forensic science, describing how the actual interrogation is conducted in all its phases, i.e. the phase of preparation, the actual interrogation and the subsequent documentation of the interrogation. The author has not forgotten to address the specifics of conducting interrogation by means of videoconference, including quantitative research on the frequency of its use by selected courts in the Czech Republic, as well as qualitative research in the form of individual interviews with attorneys practicing criminal law on the topic of the use of videoconference interrogations from the perspective of the defence. At the end of the second chapter, the author presents two selected alternative interrogation methods, the polygraph and the brain fingerprinting method, which both try to detect false testimony of the interrogated person by detecting various physiological manifestations of the person, although results of these methods are not yet accepted as evidence in Czech criminal proceedings. In the last chapter of this thesis, the author presents various psychological techniques and methods of conducting interrogation, according to which interrogators should proceed and psychologically influence the interrogated in order to obtain a complete and truthful statement. The author defines when it is appropriate to apply each technique in an interrogation, also with regard to the possible conduct of an interrogation via videoconference, and finally analyses the legality and effectiveness of use of the individual techniques.

**Key words: Interrogation, psychology of interrogation, video conference.**