

Abstract

This diploma thesis entitled *Transformation of Substitute Foster Care in the Czech Republic. The View of the Street-level Bureaucrats* is devoted to socio-legal protection of children. As well as placement of the youngest children in the institutional care. It deals with significant changes of previous amendments in 2006 and 2012 and describes the current amendment No. 363/2021, which entered into force on January 1st 2022. This amendment enact the limit of three years for placement in an institutional facility.

In the research, therefore, the attention was paid to children in the age group 0 – 3 years.

The issue directly affects street-level bureaucrats as they work directly with families and children. These workers submit motions to the court, keep file record and also maintain an emergency. They are part of the state administration and are affected by some of the conflicts that are present in their daily routines. For example the inflexibility of the system or the mistrust and lack of motivation of some of their clients.

The research was based on theory of Street-level bureaucrats by Michael Lipsky. The respondents confirmed with their answers that they experienced chronically inadequate resources, time-consuming nature of work and lack of staff at the offices.

The research is also focused on the foster care and the foster care of the relatives. Research has shown a cyclical problem of dysfunctional families. The research also showed the skepticism of the workers towards the limitation of the residential care for the youngest children, pointing to the lack of capacity for foster care and psychological and psychiatric care for children.