

Legal regulation of the provision of spiritual care for the benefit of members of the police, fire brigades and victims of crime and disasters

Abstract

This thesis deals with the legal regulation of the provision of spiritual care for the benefit of members of the police and fire services and victims of crime and disasters.

The aim of the thesis was to analyse the legislation, treaties, as well as other legal acts currently in force in the Czech Republic, which regulate the provision of spiritual care to the above mentioned groups and, based on a comparison with other European countries, to identify theoretical models of legal regulation of the provision of spiritual care and the possibilities of their application in the implementation of spiritual care in some public institutions of the Czech Republic.

The legal regulation of the provision of spiritual care to the above-mentioned groups is insufficient in the Czech Republic. Spiritual care for members of the Fire Brigade and victims of disasters is provided only externally on the basis of the personal involvement of some clergy and other entities and any legal regulation of the provision of spiritual care to victims of crimes is lacking. Concrete steps, formulated in the conclusion of the thesis, which could be taken by the Czech Republic, the Police of the Czech Republic, the Fire Brigade of the Czech Republic or other public institutions to ensure that there is sufficient legal regulation of the existence and functioning of the spiritual service for the benefit of persons relevant to this work are, in particular, entering into appropriate contractual relations with religious communities or, in the best case, concluding an appropriate international agreement with the Holy See, on the basis of which a body would be established, following the example of Slovakia, to provide spiritual care in the Ministry of the Interior.

As a very first step, however, it is necessary to include spiritual care for victims of crime in the activities of at least one of the currently functioning bodies providing spiritual care, i.e. to extend the scope of either the spiritual service of the Police of the Czech Republic or the post-traumatic care teams of the Fire Brigades.

Key words: spiritual care, public institutions, victims of crimes and disasters