

Sexual Predators on the Internet - Criminal Law, Criminological and Criminalistic Aspects

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the topical issue of the sexual abuse of children on the internet. The theoretical part analyses this phenomenon from the view of the three fields – criminal law, criminology and criminalistics. The author of the thesis firstly presents the actual phenomenon of the sexual abuse of children on the internet and the extent of this issue in the society, and then she considers which forms it takes. The online sexual abuse can have form of the sexual harassment when the predator suggests unsolicited sexual activities to the child, it can also take a form of a communication about the intimate or even sexual topics. The very dangerous form is cybergrooming in which the predator is continually building confidential relationship with the child so he can later sexually abuse him in a real life. The fourth form is sexual exploit involving child pornography and prostitution. In this thesis attention is also given to the offenders who commit these crimes. They form a varied group involving perpetrators with or without sexual deviation, people with intelligent above average and mentally disabled, people with academic degree or with vocational education. Secondly the author analyses what's the impact on victims's lives according to the newest studies and what's the best way to prevent children being victimized. The criminal law chapter studies what crime is the offender committing. Criminalistics concentrates on the typical investigation leads – especially the digital ones including those from the other countries. The typical investigation and what leaded to the start of investigation is described. The practical part of the thesis consists of qualitative research in which the author analyses the decisions of the judges and with the help of the grounded theory method is searching for the answer the three academic questions: Who is the typical criminal who is being judged for this particular crime. What crimes is being committed by sexual abuse of child in the Cyberspace. And what punishments are being given in such cases.