

This diploma thesis deals with the problems of the father's role in families of mentally handicapped adults. The theoretical part starts from demonstrating the situation of the families mentioned above, then the definition of the basic concepts relating to mental retardation, adulthood and handicapped children's families follows, as well as the description of fatherhood transformation in historical context. The father's relation to the child and the child's mother (or his partner) are rendered too.

In the practical part, the results of the qualitative survey on the basis of semistructured interviews with handicapped children's fathers are stated. This part of the thesis particularly records the fathers' subjective experience, which is the base for subsequent suggestions for intervention possibilities.

The aim of this thesis is to map the difficulties mentally handicapped children's fathers face, and on the basis of these findings to suggest intervention possibilities.