

Abstract

The subject of this diploma thesis is „Methodology of Murder Investigation (Selected Problems)“. Because this is a very wide subject, it is not within the diplomate's reach to cover the matter completely enough for a diploma thesis and the thesis therefore focuses on the methodology of the investigation of serial murders.

The first chapter is devoted to defining the term „serial murder“ and the differentiation between serial, mass and spree killers is explained. The legal classification of serial killing within Czech criminal law is briefly outlined.

The second chapter focuses on criminal character. It examines the typical characteristics of serial killers, their biological and social preconditions, the psychology behind a first murder and the profile of the serial killer. Further, the separation of serial killers into the organized and unorganized is shown, including characteristic features. From the perspective of criminal characterization, the work further discusses victims of serial killings, with an emphasis on themes of the methods of perpetration. Within this, differences between the terms ‚modus operandi‘ and ‚signature‘ are explained. The individual phases of killing are determined. Murder weapons, as well as classifications of the scenes of crimes and serial killers according to mobility are treated. Further, motivations are discussed from the particular perspective of criminal characterization.

In the third chapter, which focuses on investigations as such, the progression of investigation is defined, as well as certain specifics in which investigations of serial killings differs from those of common murders. Emphasis is given to certain tasks that must be executed properly and thoroughly for a successful investigative procedure, e.g. inspection of the scene of the crime, body examinations and autopsy. In cases of investigated serial murders, planning and organization of the inquiry play an important role. In a discussion of follow-up procedures, the physio-detective examination and psychology of interrogation are examined in detail. Further space is allowed for expert activities, particularly those from the fields of psychiatry, sexology and psychology.

The next-to-last chapter of this diploma thesis is devoted to behavioral analysis as a tactical criminalistic method, which examines the relationship between the consequence of the criminal act and the culprit's characteristics, with his or her identification as the goal. Besides the general procedure of behavioral analysis, additional discourse focuses on the ViCLAS system.

In the final chapter, the theoretical portion of this diploma thesis is supplemented by specific examples from criminal practice.