

Methodology of investigation of sexual offences

Key words: child abuse, investigation, examination

Summary

This diploma thesis deals with issues in investigation of sexual crimes, particularly child sexual abuse. Sexual criminality is a very extensive topic, so I decided to aim the thesis for specifics of investigation related to abused children.

The aim of the work is to characterise investigation regarding specifics typical for sexual offences. There is difference between adult and child victims. This must be considered in the process of investigation. Each person taking part in investigation should have achieved at least basic course in psychology. It is necessary to apply considerate approach to restrain from secondary victimization.

The first chapter describes the term of sexual abuse, fundamental definitions and forms. Current legal regulations in the Czech Republic are analyzed there.

The second part is devoted to criminological characteristics. This chapter is about offenders, victims and typical ways of commission. I compare the situation in which the perpetrator comes from the family with the situation of the perpetrator out of the family. Graphs based on police statistics serve for illustration.

The next part (chapter 3 – chapter 8) concerns especially the beginning of investigation, initiatory acts, investigative situations and versions. In more detail I present the possibility of calumny. The cases of calumny are described in casuistic chapter.

I pay the greatest attention to examination of an accused and of a child. It is very important to follow main rules of questioning a child victim. I emphasize the convenience of a special examination room which can help establish contact with an abused child. The appropriate psychological approach of the investigator plays a substantial role.

The last chapter briefly mentions commercial sexual abuse of children and international approach to the problems of child abuse.