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**Baby boxy – etická dilemata plošného
zavádění schránek na odkládání dětí v ČR**

Diplomová práce

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V Havlíčkově Brodě, dne 3. 12. 2013

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Abstract

Baby box is a box for anonymous postponement of unwanted newborns. The existence of baby boxes is being justified by its declared purpose – saving human lives. Newborn's life is the highest good and even just delivered newborn is a bearer of human rights. The work discusses the claim of saving the life of the newborn within the context of the best interests of the child and within the context of the incidence of neonaticide. The best interests of the child as a fundamental principle of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, could be defined as the right to life and the right to harmonic development.

The law of the Czech Republic does not define clearly the term “deferred child”. Abandonment of a child, on the other hand, is a criminal offense according to § 195 of Act No. 40/2009 Coll., of the Criminal Code. In the history, the existence of such a “baby box” for an unwanted or illegitimate child was important, because it protected both mother and the child.

Statistics monitoring the incidence of neonaticide clearly show, that despite the implementation of baby boxes, the incidence of neonaticide is not decreasing. These newborn children are being killed due to maternal alteration of consciousness and psychopathology related with childbirth. If it is not true that the baby box saves newborn lives, then the baby box is not “good” for baby, because it doesn't respect the best interests and basic rights of the child. Controversial is also the possibility of postponement a child older than the age of the newborn.

Baby boxes are misused by unilateral offer of irreversible solution for the mother in a difficult situation and stressed out.

In this work it is discussed the benefits and limits of the possibility of leaving anonymous child in baby box. The work is raising the question whether a promotion and nationwide implementation of baby boxes in the Czech Republic may have any adverse effects for the child as the bearer of human rights.

The aim of this work is to answer the question whether the baby box, if not being used to save the life of a newborn, does not violate the basic human rights of a newborn and an older child, and whether serves to protect the best interests of the child.

Keywords

Baby box, value of human life, mother, newborn, abandoned children, infanticide, covert birth, law of the Czech Republic, human rights, the best interests of the child, Convention of the Rights of the Child, media manipulation

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