

This thesis discusses the alternatives to unsuspected sentence of imprisonment, as only they can in the long run solve an acute and currently very topical problem of the prison overcrowding. The aim of this thesis was firstly the theoretical definition of alternatives to unsuspected sentence of imprisonment with regard to the Czech legislation and, secondly, an analysis of alternatives that Czech law provides.

The introductory part focuses on the importance of alternative punishments in the system of sanctioning institutions. The thesis is divided into two main chapters with regard to the two objectives it focuses on. The first chapter, dealing with the definition of "alternatives to unconditional sentence of imprisonment", is divided into four subchapters. The first subchapter, on the background of the current concept of alternatives available in the Czech doctrinal environment, seeks a theoretical definition through the criteria on the basis of which it is possible to consider a specific institute as such an alternative. The second subchapter explains the preference for alternatives to unsuspected sentence of imprisonment. The third subchapter is devoted to the development of Czech criminal policy towards alternative punishments. Subsequently, in the fourth subchapter, the author explains contemporary problems associated with alternative forms of unsuspected punishment. In the second chapter, which is also divided into four subsections, the author provides an analysis of alternative punishments, which the author finds to be genuine alternatives to the unsuspected sentence of imprisonment. The first such subchapter deals with house arrest and given that this is a newly established institute, its analysis is much more comprehensive than the three following subchapters. This subchapter (i) describes the meaning of house arrest and its relation to the prison sentence, (ii) sets this form of punishment in the Czech historical context, (iii) provides characteristics of the current form of house arrest in Czech legislation, (iv) describes experience with this type of sentence abroad, and (v) presents temporary experience with house arrest in the Czech Republic. The second subchapter dealing with community service order has two parts. The first part of this subsection is devoted to the importance of community service order and its position in the system of criminal sanctions, and the second part describes the current form of punishment in the Czech legal system. The third section focuses on the contemporary form of financial penalty in the Czech legal system, and also attempts to find the reasons for the decline in its imposing. The fourth section is subdivided into two parts. The first part introduces the reader to the current form of suspended sentence and suspended sentence with supervision, while the second part describes the differences between these two forms. Each section containing the statutory definition of the

form of a punishment also includes a mention of the relevant case law, and also a comment regarding the enforcement of a sentence. The final section of the thesis contains a summary of advantages and disadvantages and the application-related problems, if any, with some ensuing proposals *de lege ferenda*.