

Abstract

The topic of my thesis is the methodology of murder investigation. The thesis deals with trace evidence formed during commission of the crime of murder, typical investigative situations faced by crime investigators, and some of the subsequent acts. The aim of this thesis is to familiarize with the offense of murder and the specifics of crime scene investigation. Furthermore, this work provides a summary of the knowledge obtained through the study of monographs, articles in professional journals, and some of the court relevant decisions. Finally, the work further outlines some selected questions and points out the potential problems related to crime scene investigation.

The thesis consists of five chapters, which are further divided in to subchapters.

Following the introduction, the first chapter describes the murder under criminal law and outlines the various classifications of murder, which include plain murder, murder committed with forethought or prior consideration, and manslaughter. Moreover, the chapter discusses the legislation pertinent to the concept of murder, and explores its roots under the criminal law of England and Wales.

The second chapter describes the various disciplines of criminalistics. Additionally, the chapter provides an assessment of murder investigation by exploring relevant examples in literature.

The third chapter, related to trace evidence formed during the commission of murder, is focused on the issue of biological traces associated with the National DNA database. Furthermore, the chapter is dedicated to smell traces and recognition of smell traces as evidence in criminal proceedings.

The fourth chapter is devoted to typical investigative situations and initial acts. This chapter introduces the issue of searching for missing people and the crucial initial step – crime scene investigation, which is a vital prerequisite to the success of following steps in the investigation.

The fifth chapter characterizes some of the subsequent acts connected with murder investigation, including the polygraph examination. This chapter also points out some examples from practice, where performance of recognition and investigative experiments fundamentally helped to clarify the murders and punish the offenders.

The final chapter summarizes the findings obtained during the research conducted for my thesis, and highlights some of the problematic issues that may arise during the investigation of a crime of murder due to faulty forensic work of criminologists.