

Summary

Domestic violence and its prevention

The thesis is concerned with the problematics of domestic violence and its prevention. The aim of the thesis is to analyze the legal institutes that are provided by the Czech legislation for protection against domestic violence. The thesis is divided into six chapters each of which addresses special aspects of the problematics.

The first chapter introduces the phenomenon of domestic violence. It tries to define the notion of domestic violence, describe its features and forms so that these pieces of information can be used in further parts of the thesis. Subsequently, it deals with theories that try to explain the causes of domestic violence.

The second chapter is concerned general characteristics and personal traits of the perpetrator. Attention is also dedicated to gender aspects.

The third chapter concentrates on general characteristics of the victim and addresses the process of victimization, i.e. the transformation of a potential victim into a real one. Primary, secondary and tertiary victimization are to be distinguished. The next part describes the mental consequences of the victim of domestic violence. Special attention is given to individual groups of victims – men, children, seniors, women.

The fourth chapter surveys the relevant Czech legislation and legal institutes which have been established for the protection of victims against domestic abuse and violence. The attention is centered at the work of the police who actually deal with the cases of domestic violence. Apart from that, the necessity of their professional education in this area is emphasized.

The fifth chapter is concerned with the protection provided by the criminal law as a means ultima ratio. It surveys selected crimes and analyzes the institute of injured party's consent to the criminal prosecution. Furthermore, it is concerned with the proposal of the Act on Victims of Crimes.

The last chapter focuses on prevention of domestic violence that has so far been at the margin of attention. Apart from the government and its activities, the cooperation with non-governmental institutions is a necessary component of prevention.