Legal aspects of abortion, sterilization and assisted reproduction

Summary:

The thesis deals with the three topics from the field of medical law, particularly abortion, sterilization and assisted reproduction. The issue of giving birth is the key here. The new Special Medical Services Act regulating, *inter alia*, some aspects of sterilization and assisted reproduction came into effect in April 2012. The previous regulation of these matters was outdated and some legal issues were not tackled at all.

The first part of the thesis focuses on legal regulation of abortion, which is contained in the act from 1986 and in the implementing legislation. Especially the conditions of intervention itself, payments and intervention on juveniles (under 18) and foreigners in the Czech Republic are tackled. The regulation of other countries is mentioned and compared as well.

The second part of the thesis deals with the legal regulation of sterilization, conditions of sterilization and contraindication as well. The specific problem of illegal sterilizations of gypsy women in the second half of the twentieth century is pointed out. These disputes were present even before the European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The methods of assisted reproduction, as a modern way of resolving female and male infertility, are described in the last part of the thesis. The ethical issues connected with the usage of embryonic cells from donors are also pointed out.

The rapid development in medical sciences suggests that the regulation of other specific issues will be a necessity (e.g. regulation of surrogate motherhood).

Keywords: abortion, sterilization, assisted reproduction, artificial insemination