

My thesis is focused on the interrogation of children, who are in the position of victim or witness. Statement of a child as well as an adult may serve as the significant evidence within the criminal proceeding. During this challenging action, which the interrogation of child certainly is, many specificities and difficulties are involved. These specificities and difficulties distinguish an interrogation of a child from an interrogation of an adult.

In the first part I described the term „interrogation“, in particular general grounds of it. To reveal specificities and difficulties of the interrogation of children, it is necessary to become familiar with the interrogation in its traditional form. In the parts of my thesis, where I wrote about a child, it shall be considered that the term “child” has the meaning as stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, i.e. every human being under eighteen years of age. I consider the chapter dedicated to the assurance of any statement of child to be one of the fundamental chapters. In opposition to the past ages there is a major believe within the modern society that children are capable of giving as quality statement as adults.

The second part is focused on a special regulation of interrogation, which is provided by certain sections of the Penal Order. Besides needs to adapt an instruction of a child as a witness to his age, intellectual and moral maturity, I mentioned major changes, which the Act No. 45/2013 Coll., the Victims of Crimes Act brought to the Penal Order. With respect to the topic of my thesis, in my opinion, the most significant change in this area is an increase of the age limit of children for a provision of greater protection from original fifteen to current eighteen years of age. Furthermore I processed the issue of privy persons, re-interrogation and related possibility of reading a protocol about interrogations of child. I decided to dedicate one entire chapter to the legal regulation within the Victims of Crimes Act, which I consider to form a very positive amendment improving a status of children victims. I intended to highlight principles, on which the above mentioned act is constituted, and inter alia also the rights, which are granted to victims of crimes. A suggestibility, issue of secondary victimisation and specificity of children perception, memory and speech abilities are difficulties, which underline speciality of interrogation of children.

The final part deals with the interrogation of children itself. Whereas the most sensitive and specific are interrogations connected with the abuse, maltreatment and neglect of children, my thesis is oriented on interrogation of traumatised children from these reasons. In the chapter named “Preparation of an interrogation” I described the peculiarity of interrogation environment as well as interrogation tools used during an interrogation of

abused or otherwise damaged children. Concerning the “Interrogation process” is considered, I reminded particularly the importance of education of the interrogator.