

# **Rights of the victims of crimes and options of their employment during the criminal proceedings**

## **Abstract**

This master's thesis inquires into crime victims' rights, their status in the criminal proceedings and actual employability of their guaranteed rights. It contains a brief history of development of the legislative concerning the topic. My thesis comes to a conclusion that especially in the last fifty years, the status and range of crime victims' rights has been constantly improving. Crime victim is becoming less and less just a bearer of evidence of the crime and is more and more becoming an active subject of the criminal proceedings, on which they also have their interest. With the passing of the new Crime Victims' Rights Act, the Czech legal system was enriched by a wide array of victims' rights that provides special care and approach from the state and its authorities. In the heart of the new act is the victim as a target of an undeserved attack in the form of a crime and as such is entitled to help. Necessary help provided to the victim is not only specialized psychological and social assistance, but also straightforward financial help and a kind and understanding approach.

One of the main goals of the Crime Victims' Rights Act is prevention and protection from the secondary victimization, which is caused by insensitive approach of the investigative, prosecuting and adjudicative bodies, the media, the perpetrator and the victims' surroundings. The impact of the primary victimization is thus deepened and the harm that it causes may outweigh even the harm caused by the crime itself. The act is in effect only for a short time as of yet, however, it already has a positive impact on the status of the victim in the criminal proceedings and outside of it. But there is still much room for improvement, especially concerning the rights of the victim in the criminal proceedings. At the end of my thesis I have contemplated a few ideas, how specifically can the legislation be further developed for the better. Focusing on the legislation alone is, however, not enough, because the problem also lies in the actual practice, which doesn't correctly keep up with the development of the law. In this regard it is necessary to educate all the persons, who get in contact with crime victims and vigilantly oversee and enforce due employment of crime victims' rights.

## **Key words**

Crime victim, secondary victimization, actual employability of victims' rights