

## **Criminalistic study of crime victims (criminalistic victimology)**

In this thesis I try to briefly outline some of the most important issues and topics concerning criminalistic victimology. I address both how the victim affects the crime itself and its investigation, but also how the crime investigation affects the victim. When investigating a specific criminal act, there are two major conflicting goals we try to achieve; to investigate as thoroughly and effectively as we can, and to avoid secondary victimization of the victim. Both professional and attentive approach is vital to criminalistics as a whole, not just criminalistic victimology. A successful investigation depends in many cases greatly on whether and how the victim cooperates, and that in turn depends on how the victims and the general public view the police, the courts, and other criminal justice authorities. It is therefore necessary to understand the victim, to comprehend their role in the formation of the criminal act, and to ensure their confidence in the criminal justice.

This thesis opens with a brief summary of the subject's history, afterwards it explains the key concepts and expressions found in the paper. It then carries on to deal with the victim's part in the creation and preservation of evidence and in reporting the criminal act. The biggest emphasis is then on the chapter addressing the victim's role in the investigation itself.

Statistics show us that the majority of the population has fallen victim to a crime at least once in their life. Practically every one of us has either been a victim or has known one in their immediate vicinity. That makes victimology an important topic with a great impact on the society. I feel that this area has not been getting as much attention as it should have, though recently some substantive steps have been made towards a better understanding of the victim and the victim's part in crime investigation. I can only hope that this trend continues.