

Abstract

In my thesis I am concentrating on family policy in relation to families after divorce or separation. I am focusing on problems which single-parent families have to deal with. Specifically, I am analysing current forms of child custody of under-aged children after the divorce. I have examined circumstances which lead to award the custody of the child and risks of these arrangements. Every single form of child custody is enriched by a case study. In connection with maintenance obligation I have investigated latest political instruments which are used for maintenance order. Furthermore I have looked into newly emerging policy of the maintenance backup plan. The aim of the thesis was accomplished by desk research and primarily evaluation of data which I collected by qualitative research interview, concretely semi-structured interviews with experts in this field. Based on main theoretical ground my research I concluded that single-parent families are considered as group of “dependents”. Another theory I have worked with in my thesis is the theory of material and psychological deprivation. Material deprivation is related to not paying maintenance by a parent. This is causing that single-parent families, typically single mothers, find themselves in suffer hardship which can endanger the life and development of a child. Not paying maintenance is one of the biggest burning problems nowadays. Moreover there is no effective political instrument which would help solved this situation. The second deprivation – psychological – is connected with the form of custody after the parents’ divorce. The child’s healthy psychological development can be put at risk. This could be caused by persisting conflicts of divorced parents on the newly formed situation. In Czech Republic almost nobody pays attention to this problem. This could be illustrated even by lack of instruments of current family policy. There is no welfare benefit which would be aimed at these single-parent families. Magnitude of this problem I see in adherence to child’s welfare.