

Delinquency and criminal penalties of youth

The aim of my thesis is to focus on juvenile delinquency and analyze it as a whole especially from the perspective of the causes, evolution, structure and control of delinquency and subsequent penalties for young offenders. The thesis is comprised of five chapters, each divided into sections. Chapter one follows the Introduction and defines basic terms which occur throughout the thesis.

Chapter two is divided into two sections specifying basic indexes of youth delinquency. The second section provides a statistical support for these with a description of youth delinquency evolution since the late 20th century until now.

The third chapter focuses on the causes of delinquency of youth and is thematically divided into two sections. The first one deals with the internal factors of crime, as opposed to the second section, divided into three subsections in accordance with the external factors - namely family, school and leisure time.

The fourth chapter deals with the control of youth crime, and is again divided into two sections. Whilst the first refers to the importance of preventive control, the second section focuses on its equally important counterpart, the repressive component.

The fifth chapter is divided into three sections and summarizes the sanctions that are available to impose on youth offenders in accordance with the applicable law. The first section presents some of the important principles that are present in the whole process due to the specific feature of the young age of offenders. The second part lists various actions and their detailed specification. The last part then points out the difference of imposing sanctions on children under fifteen years of age.

The summary of findings and results is presented in the final chapter of the thesis. These results show a significant need for a greater specialization, systematics and faster operation of the whole structure that is helping young offenders.