

Abstrakt anglicky

The aim of this diploma is to describe the role of an expert psychologist witness in criminal trial and to define purpose of forensic psychological assessments. It also tries to answer current questions related to the field of psychological expert opinions.

The psychological forensic expert witness is appointed in the same way as other legal expert witnesses. That means he has the same rights and obligations as them. The first chapter is therefore devoted to connoisseurship in general. It deals with the historical development of expert witnesses, current applicable legislation and upcoming legislative changes in this area.

The second chapter approaches other expert witnesses in court too. It includes number of forensic experts in various fields and compares expert psychologists to psychiatrists, who often provide their opinions alongside psychologists'. The main part of the chapter is left to expert opinions. It clarifies terms such as personality, intellect, memory, motivation and dangerousness of the offender, that are the most commonly evaluated aspects. Conclusion of second chapter summarises the expert opinions in selected EU countries and the USA.

The final chapter is devoted to the expert report as evidence in criminal proceedings. In addition to the description of expert witnesses this chapter also contains frequently discussed contemporary issues such as violations of the principle of free evidence evaluation, overuse of expertise, lack of experts in certain fields and formal and content errors in expertise. The practical research, which was conducted by study of court files and interviews with contracting authorities, builds on the previous theoretical description of connoisseurship.

This diploma summarises relevant information about psychologist expert witnesses in criminal proceedings. It continues to describe general rules of connoisseurship and specific attributes of expert opinions in the field of psychology. Most of the work was devoted to only one type of experts and could be extended in many ways by descriptions of expert opinions in another fields.