

Abstract of the thesis

This thesis describes some of the problems that criminal law and criminal justice over children and teens has to challenge. All the problems come from the fact that childhood and adolescence are special periods of time with characteristics that are very different from those of adulthood. Among the other ones, the susceptibility is especially accented, pointing out that children and teens rather easily, in contrast to adults, fall for criminal career. Criminal law generally does not offer applicable rules for concerned age groups due to the fact that legislator is aware of the issue as well as the necessity of a special legislation for juvenils only.

In the first chapter, there is a basic description of problems. One of the main problems criminal law and justice over youth have is a need for special responsibility conditions, as general law is too severe towards youth. Second problem is the problem of labelling (or stigmatization) that occurs frequently as a consequence of a criminal action. Another thing is that family often fails its nurturant duty to children and teens. Then the government must assume responsibility for education and care of them. The challenge here is – how much respect to family should be taken before intervention is necessary and of what intensity can the intervention be. First chapter terminates with the problem of reacting to illegal acts of teens in order to educate them to become decent people and not to fall for criminal career (if it is so easy).

The following chapter shows a review of some crucial criminal law standards used towards youth in various times in history. There are also described two basic attitudes on dealing with young delinquents.

The third chapter generally explains the basis of criminal liability in law of the Czech Republic today – that means it shows liability conditions separately for all the different age groups that our criminal law recognizes.

The last chapter concentrates on comparison of criminal law and justice under the Act on Criminal Justice over Youth no. 48 from 1931 and contemporary law under the Act on Juvenile Responsibility for Illegal Acts and on Justice in Youth Matters no. 218/2003 Collection of Law which is our special regulation for criminal law over juvenils. This law concentrates on procedure regardful of teens' susceptibility, it offers

broad range of measures (instead of only sanctions) and accents educational function of criminal law and justice over youth.