

Abstract

The main topic of this thesis is understating the life situation of divorced fathers, who actively participate on raising their children. As a group of interest I define fathers, who have reached joint custody. I try to understand their specific situation by making three half-structured interviews, during which I examine different spheres of their life. Because of the he lack of interviews I've combined this information with the data from online discussion for divorced fathers. To understand this topic in a more complete way I've also made interviews with two experts – Lukáš Talpa and one of the workers of the Authority for Social and Legal Protection of Children. The theoretical background of this essay is an active fatherhood and a life-course perspective. By thematic analysis I discovered a few mutual patterns. First of these patterns is disadvantaging fathers during the custody courts. This topic is very specific and hard to prove. Also, there are not enough expert studies, so I analyzed mostly my own data. Even though the experiences of the fathers are mostly negative, the experts claim that there is no global discrimination during the custody courts and the chances for men and women to achieve the after-divorce custody care they prefer are equal. Next of the common patterns is a characteristic of the fathers, by which I mean their socio-economic status and their job. The most important aspect, as the experts claim, is the good relationship between parents after divorce and also the position of the father in family before the divorce, by which I understand the level of caring for the children. The next common pattern for these men is the perception of the positive and negative aspects of joint custody. As the most positive aspect they describe the great amount of time they can spend with their children and also participating on raising them. On the other hand the most negative aspect for these men was the lack of free time due to caring of their child. The last common pattern was the possibility of raising the number of fathers who actively participate on raising their children after divorce. The opinion of the experts and fathers who got the joint custody is very different from those who are in the middle of the custody court. While the experts are convinced that the fathers already have the same rights as women and it depends on them, whether they use this chance or not, the fathers who are working on getting the joint custody very often feel disadvantaged.