

ABSTRACT

The issue of births outside a medical facility is currently a controversial topic between specialists as well as in the public sector. While the specialists concur in refusing home births, the society is divided. There are voices that refuse home births but there are also plenty of people who support the right of mothers to give birth outside of a medical facility. Very sensitive topic is the legal and ethical aspects of the protection of unborn children and the issue of a safely conducted delivery. In the last decades, the life value of an unborn child has been seen as an ethical problem. The right to life is one of the fundamental human rights, which is enshrined in the constitutional system of the Czech Republic and also in the international human rights conventions. Because there are different opinions regarding this issue, it is necessary to establish a view that is widely accepted so that legal standards can be approved provided that the opinions of minorities are being respected.

The main objective of this presented dissertation was to ascertain why are people losing confidence in a doctor's role during delivery and what is the reason for some of the mothers being unsatisfied with current institutional system of obstetrics. On the basis of these factual findings, which emerged during the interviews with the birthing assistants, I believe that the choice for a home birth is a private matter of each woman, who is solely responsible for this choice. The majority of the interviewed as midwives believe that the safest choice is an outpatient birth (hospital delivery). We would need to know the specific reasons for the mother decisions, so that we could evaluate her decision, which is very unusual in the Czech society. The conclusion of this research unequivocally shows, that considering safety and quality of health care for the mother and newborn, the safest place for a childbirth is a medical facility.

KEY WORDS

safety of birthing mothers, safety of newborns, safety of obstetricians, ethics, physician's ethics, gynaecology, importance of breastfeeding, history of obstetrics, home birth, hospital birth, midwife, birthing facility, obstetrics, the rights of unborn children, the rights of pregnant women, education of midwife