

Abstract

Assisted suicide: Application of assisted suicide models in the Czech Republic

This diploma thesis deals with the topic of assisted suicide. The aim of the thesis is to analyze the current legal regulation of this issue in the Czech Republic and to outline models of assisted suicide in selected European countries, whose legal systems allow its performance in whole or in part. The author also deals with the possibility of application of these models or their parts in the Czech Republic.

The thesis is divided into four chapters. The author devotes the introductory chapter to the historical development of euthanasia and assisted suicide in Europe from antiquity to the present. This chapter describes how perceptions of this issue have changed and evolved over the years and which influences have affected it.

In the second chapter, the author presents the current legal situation of assisted suicide in the Czech Republic. The introduction of this chapter defines the basic terminology, the author then defines the crime of participation in suicide under which assisted suicide is punished in the Czech Republic and at the end of the chapter attention is paid to institutes that are closely related to assisted suicide.

The third chapter continues with the analysis of the legal regulations of assisted suicide in selected European countries, in which its performance is legal in various forms. The author focuses mainly on the legislation of Switzerland, in which assisted suicide has a long tradition, and on the legal models of the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, which were the main inspiration for recent bills that aimed to, in various forms, legalize assisted suicide in the Czech Republic.

In the fourth and final chapter, the author, based on the information she obtained during the processing of previous chapters, considers the research question of this thesis, that is whether it would be possible and/or desirable to apply aforementioned models of assisted suicide (or parts thereof) in the Czech legal system.

Key words: assisted suicide, assisted suicide models, legalization of assisted suicide in the Czech Republic