

PROBLEMS OF INVESTIGATION OF STAGED HOMICIDES

Abstract

The presented diploma thesis deals with the issue of investigation of staged homicides. The primary aim of the thesis is to point out the specifics and problems that investigation of staged homicides entails. The thesis places particular emphasis on the unusualness of the crime scene search that comes with the investigation of staged homicides, then on the importance of use of the forensic expertise, and, finally, on selected problems related to this type of investigation. In addition, the thesis aims to confront the theoretical part with practical knowledge obtained from people participating in the investigation. Furthermore, the thesis also aims to provide an evaluation of the current practice.

The thesis consists of seven chapters apart from the introduction and conclusion. In the first chapter, the concept of staging is generally defined, and further attention is paid to homicide staging and reflection on foreign studies. The second chapter is devoted to the legal definition of homicide and its criminalistic characteristics. The third chapter contains brief characteristics of individual staging methods that may appear in criminalistic practice.

The fourth chapter deals with the actual investigation of staged homicides, especially the aspects of crime scene search, identifying negative circumstances and delineating the investigative version of homicide staging, as well as examining the indispensability of using the knowledge of forensic expertise. The fifth chapter is devoted to individual cases of staged homicides. Most of the presented cases are then accompanied by case studies that complement the theoretical explanation. The sixth chapter deals with a case study of a double homicide with a mercenary motive.

Finally, the seventh chapter is focused on the specific practice of investigating staged homicides, where the outcomes obtained through research from selected prosecutors of regional prosecutor's offices and medical examiners, as well as a description of the procedure of investigating murders in the territory of the capital city of Prague, are evaluated. At the end of this chapter, the disputable aspects of the investigation of staged homicides are summarized, with suggestions for further improvements of the practice.

Key words

- staging, homicide, crime scene search