

Abstract (in English)

The diploma thesis focuses on the position of a personal assistant providing personal assistance to a client with mental disabilities in a household shared with other family members. Space is given to the perception of the position of the personal assistant in the family, the topic of inter-relationships, boundaries in the relationship and how the presence of the personal assistant affects the family, its privacy. The qualitative research is based on semi-structured interviews with personal assistants and representatives of families, where personal assistants provide personal assistance services to clients with mental disabilities. 10 research participants – 5 personal assistants (women) and 5 family members – participated in the research. The data was analysed through thematic analysis. The conclusions of the data analysis showed that the relationships within personal assistance are very close and differ from those formed in other social services. However, the importance of maintaining a professional relationship is perceived, especially by the personal assistants. The research participants opinions on the perception of the position of the personal assistant in the family are different. Overall, personal assistance is perceived as beneficial even if the privacy is invaded.

Key words

Personal assistance, personal assistant, client, intellectual disability, family environment, boundaries of the professional relationship