

Abstract

Bachelor thesis explores the topic of victim-offender mediation. Its aim is to summarise theoretical and practical possibilities of using this method, its psychological potential and possible benefits and limits in relation to juvenile delinquents. The first part of the thesis consists of a literature review. First, it introduces a psychological profile of a juvenile delinquent from the viewpoint of Czech criminal law and developmental psychology. It also examines the occurrence of criminal behaviour in adolescence and its risk factors. Moreover, the concept of psychosocial maturity and its connection to antisocial behaviour is outlined. Apart from this, the thesis also deals with the concept of restorative justice and practical application of restorative programmes. The method of victim-offender mediation is described in detail and with special regard to juveniles. The text further discusses the psychological impact of mediation as well as its efficiency in dealing with crime. In the second part of the thesis, a theoretical research project is proposed. It attempts to determine whether juvenile's level of psychosocial maturity plays a role in mediation. A new approach to the assessment of efficacy of mediation is also established using attitude change as its indicator.

Key words: juvenile delinquent; juvenile delinquency; psychosocial maturity; restorative justice; victim-offender mediation