

Criminological aspects of euthanasia

Abstract

The subject of this thesis is the analysis of euthanasia in a criminological context. The thesis aims to present euthanasia in all its forms and to prove that despite the very different qualifications of these individual forms in the Czech criminal law, from the ethical and especially from the criminological point of view, these acts should not attract its attention if the defining features of euthanasia, such as the voluntary nature of this choice and full mental capacity for this decision, are observed.

The thesis is divided into five chapters, with the first chapter defining the terms with which the thesis is concerned. The second chapter deals with euthanasia in the context of the Czech legal system. The third chapter introduces the theory of criminalization, which is then applied to euthanasia. The fourth chapter is devoted to the applicant for euthanasia and focuses on the reasons for the request to end one's own life; this consideration is made objective based on the quality-of-life theory. The final fifth chapter focuses on the euthanasia performer and the motivation for complying with the request despite the possible criminalization of such an act, even though it is often based on an imprecise distinction between acts and omissions or culpability.

Key words: euthanasia, theory of criminalization, quality-of-life