Forensic odorology

Abstract

The topic of this thesis is forensic odorology. Attention is paid mainly to the method of olfactory identification, which uses the olfactory abilities of service dogs. This method allows to achieve individual identification of a person and therefore it is currently the only method of odour identification used by law enforcement authorities in criminal investigations and is also recognised as a means of evidence in criminal proceedings.

The aim of this thesis is to describe and analyse the method of odour identification, both from a criminalistic and criminal law perspective. The thesis has two sub-objectives. The first sub-objective is to describe, analyse and critically evaluate the procedures used in the securing of scent traces, in the taking of an odour sample of a person and in the comparison. The second sub-objective is an analysis of the legal regulation of the method of odour identification as a means of evidence in criminal proceedings, a critical evaluation of this legal regulation and also an analysis of the court case law concerning the method of odour identification. The research methods used in this thesis are mainly description and analysis.

The thesis is divided into four parts. The first part deals with the concept of forensic odorology, its classification within criminalistics and methods of odour identification. The second part is devoted to odour and scent traces. In the case of scent traces, the thesis deals not only with their concept, characteristics, origin and retrieval, but in particular the attention is focused on securing of scent traces. The third part of the thesis deals with the method of odour identification of persons. In particular, it devotes to the taking of an odour sample of a person and the comparison of this sample with the secured scent traces. Last but not least, the question of reliability of the method of odour identification is discussed. The fourth part of the thesis focuses on the issue of legal regulation of the method of odour identification and then mentions the case law dealing with this method.

Key words: forensic odorology, scent trace, method of odour identification