

Abstract

Historical development of legal regulation of register keeping and surnames in the Czech lands

This thesis examines the legal regulation of register keeping and surnames in the Czech lands from the start of keeping records and the use of surnames up until the current legal regulation, Act No. 301/2000 Coll., on Civil Registers, Names and Surnames and on Amendments to Certain Related Acts (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Civil Registers of 2000"). In terms of historical legislation, the thesis focuses in detail on the Imperial Patent of 20 February 1784, on keeping registers of births, marriages and deaths by parish authorities (hereafter referred to as the "Registries Patent of 1784"); Act No. 268/1949 Coll., on Civil Registers (hereinafter referred to as the "1949 Act on Civil Registers") and Act No. 55/1955 Coll., on the Use and Change of Names and Surnames (hereinafter referred to as the "Names and Surnames Act of 1950").

The first part of the thesis provides a definition of the terms 'register' and 'surname.' The second part describes the development of the concepts of registers and surnames. The third part of the thesis gives an explanation of the legal regulation of registers and surnames in the period of church dominance, i.e. until the year 1784, and deals exclusively with church regulations. The fourth part of the thesis focuses on the period of the state authorities' increasing influence from the year 1784 to 1950, with an emphasis on the reign of Emperor Joseph II. This thesis deals most extensively with the Registry Patent of 1784. This part of the thesis also deals with the phenomenon of so-called 'noble surnames.' The fifth and sixth parts are devoted to the period from 1950 to the present day, when the administration of civil registers came under state governance. The fifth part of this thesis is the most comprehensive. It describes not only the legal regulation of the 1949 Registry Act, but also the 1950 Act on Names and Surnames, their discussion in the National Assembly as well as related implementing legislation and subsequent amendments to both laws. The sixth and final part is focused on current legislation - the Registry Act of 2000. It chiefly describes the differences between the new and previous legislation and concludes with a basic overview of numerous amendments to the act.

Key words:

- registry
- surname
- historical legislation