

Selected criminal law aspects of youth criminality

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to point to selected aspects of criminal law, which distinguish prosecution and sanctioning of youth offenders from general provisions applicable to adult offenders.

Youth offenders can be divided into two groups according to the Act No. 218/2003 Coll., on Liability of Juveniles for Illegal Acts and on Juvenile Justice. The first group consists of children, i.e. those offenders who do not reach fifteen years of age at the time of the offense. The second group consists of adolescents, i.e. those offenders who reach fifteen years of age but do not reach the age of eighteen at the time of the offense. These two groups of offenders are treated somewhat differently than adult offenders in the criminal proceedings, and the system of sanctions used to punish these offenders is also different from sanction schemes imposed on adults. In this thesis, the author outlines these differences and discusses selected aspects in more detail.

The thesis also provides a historical excursion into the Czech criminal law that regulated the juvenile justice on the territory of the Czech Republic before the Act on Juvenile Justice came into force. Moreover, the thesis provides an overview of the minimum age for criminal responsibility in the Czech Republic compared to selected European countries.

The thesis is supplemented by relevant case law and by professional opinions about applicability of the statutory framework in practice.