

## Abstract

The thesis deals with legal aspects of euthanasia with special focus on criminal law context. It is divided into four broad chapters.

First chapter defines terms that need to be understood perfectly for further work on the topic. Therefore, it deals with the term “euthanasia” and its division into active and passive euthanasia, direct and indirect, requested and unsolicited. There are also mentioned some related institutes such as dysthanasia, palliative and hospice care and assisted suicide. Last but not least, this chapter presents some arguments for and against euthanasia.

Second chapter is devoted to legislation in foreign countries where euthanasia (or assisted suicide) has been legalized. Wider context of foreign legislation is important for realizing the consequences that possible legalization of euthanasia in the Czech Republic would bring. It can be clearly seen on the example of individual foreign states what legalization of euthanasia entails, how stringent the conditions that a request for termination of life has to meet are, and ultimately, we can decide whether we tend to endorse the legalization of euthanasia or go in the opposite course.

Third chapter focuses on the merit of the matter, which is the legal regulation of euthanasia in the Czech Republic and the context of international, civil, constitutional and especially criminal law. Within this crucial chapter, some related institutes such as informed consent or previously expressed wishes need to be analyzed in detail as they have a significant impact on the criminal assessment of the conduct of a physician acting on their basis. For the general view, some of the opinions of the Czech Medical Chamber are also incorporated in this context since euthanasia is not only a matter of law. The physicians' opinion on this issue is essential and it would be a mistake to assume that physicians are only waiting to be presented with specific legal regulation of termination of life on request.

Last chapter presents repeated *de lege ferenda* efforts to anchor euthanasia in Czech legislation, namely by a separate Death with Dignity Act. There is given a detailed description of the draft of the Act. Its analysis shows above all the fundamental flaws of the draft. The final part deals with author's *de lege ferenda* proposals.