

## **Abstract**

The topic of the thesis is serial murder and its investigation. The aim of the text is to provide a more comprehensive view on the issue of serial murder.

Nowadays, the incidence of serial murder is decreasing worldwide. Nevertheless it is still a very topical phenomenon, as it is capable of significantly disrupting the stability of society.

The thesis first examines the phenomenon of serial murder from the perspective of internationally accepted definitions and current Czech law. The individual components of the definitions, the distinction between different types of multicide and the historical development of the phenomenon are then analysed. Using two fundamental typologies, the perpetrators of serial are classified based on their behaviour at the crime scene and their motive for the murders. Victims are examined both in terms of general victimology and in terms of the predispositions to become a victim of serial murder. The method of committing serial murder is divided into two components, which are the external observable manifestations of the perpetrator and the psychological processes taking place in his mind. The difference between the modus operandi and the signature of the perpetrator and their importance in the investigation is explained. The investigation of serial murder is examined using special techniques adopted mainly from abroad. The communication and relationship between the police, the media and the public and how this can affect an ongoing investigation is discussed in detail. Three of the most important problems that can arise during an investigation are presented, namely the linkage blindness, data management and the intervention of the media in the investigation. The thesis concludes with a focus on the case of the Czech heparin killer Petr Zelenka, which is analysed using the insights gained in the thesis.

The thesis is supplemented with real life examples, which facilitate the orientation in the issue and enable the understanding of individual chapters.

**Key words:** criminal law, serial murder, investigation