

Abstract: Social protection of families experiencing the death of their child before and after birth

The thesis analyses the issue of social protection of families who are facing the loss of their infant. This includes stillborn children, children who died immediately or shortly after birth, fetuses after miscarriage and after artificial termination of pregnancy.

The thesis is divided into three main parts. The first chapter places the whole issue in the context of the present time. It discusses the terminology closely related to the topic, including its development over time. At the same time, this part also mentions the directions taken by foreign legislation and, last but not least, the scope of the cases analysed is defined.

The second part, the core of the text, contains a detailed analysis of the applicable institutes that can be applied in the framework of social security law in the defined cases. Taking inspiration from the social system of the Czech Republic itself, this chapter is also divided according to the first and second pillar: into social insurance benefits and state social support benefits. Given the interconnectedness of the institutes, labour protection and its scope are also mentioned. In order to get a comprehensive overview of the possible support, the chapter also includes care provided by social services, services provided within the health care system, health insurance and ethics of health care professionals. Special attention is given to the right to bury a fetus after an abortion, which has been one of the more visible recent steps towards protecting the families concerned. At the end of the first and second part, their contents is summarized and enriched with possible suggestions for discussion and de lege ferenda considerations.

In the practical part, a qualitative questionnaire survey method is used to interview six respondents, leading them to reflect and answer what direction the support of the families concerned could lead to. Varying the professional competence of each respondent and asking questions of a complementary nature ensures that the answers provide deeper insight into the systemic set-up of care for the families concerned, thus bringing theory closer to practice.

Key words: perinatal loss, stillbirth, fetus after abortion, artificial termination of pregnancy, social protection of families