

## **Abstract: Social protection of single-parent families**

The diploma thesis deals with the issue of social protection of single-parent families, which consist of a solo parent and his/her dependent children. The thesis focuses on the social protection provided to these families by the state through cash benefits. The aim of the thesis is mainly to point out some weak points of social protection provided to incomplete families and to try to make the suggestions for its modification.

The thesis is divided into four main parts. The first part is devoted to a more general introduction to the issue of incomplete families and provides an introductory definition of the concept of incomplete families, an outline of the development of incomplete families over time, the causes of their formation and their economic and social situation. The second part of the thesis is briefly devoted to family policy in the Czech Republic applied in relation to incomplete families. The third most comprehensive and main part of the thesis focuses on the most common type of incomplete family, which is the divorced single mother with children. This typical example of an incomplete family is then used to describe selected instruments of social protection for incomplete families. In particular, the legal regulation of selected relevant benefits of the state social support system, substitute maintenance, material need assistance benefits and some sickness insurance benefits is critically assessed. The author's reflections and possible *de lege ferenda* proposals are also expressed in the context of the critical evaluation of the legal regulation. The last part of the thesis describes the conclusions obtained on the basis of structured interviews conducted with two employees of non-profit organizations dealing with the issue. The interviews were conducted in such a way as to provide insight into the respondents' experiences, opinions and attitudes towards the issue of social protection of single-parent families.

The thesis highlighted several problems in the field of social protection of incomplete families. For each of the discussed areas of social protection of incomplete families, its legal regulation and how it is manifested in practice and how it is perceived by the concerned and professional public is critically evaluated. On the basis of this analysis, suggestions are then made for possible adjustments to the current set-up of individual benefits.

Overall, it has been found that the current system of social protection for single-parent families often fails to respond quickly and effectively to the specific situations and needs of single-parent families, and therefore it is necessary to reassess the approach to social protection and to focus any changes on the key areas where the system is failing the most. The thesis thus recommends both adjustments to individual benefits and broader, more comprehensive changes.

**Key words: social protection, single-parent families, single mother, solo mother, benefits**