

CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATUS OF MINORS WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

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Summary: The position of minors in the modern criminal law has its genesis in the earliest legislative “interventions” and the accompanying theoretical concepts and schools of criminal law in the past. In fact, one of the major issues regarding the status of juveniles in the criminal law is certainly the question of their criminal responsibility. Although many authors, in their professional work and discussions dealt with the historical development of criminal liability of minors and the accompanying models, we think it is especially important to handle this issue further in this paper. In fact, the issue of development of the criminal responsibility of minors will be processed parallel at two levels. We would first draw attention to the theories and orientations dealing with criminal status of minors in a society based on the need for their “special” legal status. Parallel to these discussions, we shall point to changes in the position of minors in criminal law, highlighting particularly the manifestations and models in the criminal justice status of minors. Finally, we consider the problems of development of the criminal responsibility of minors need to be observed, among other things, according to the criminal status of minors within a relevant legislation. At the same time, we shall point out the special treatment of juveniles in selected international instruments.