

REVIEW OF THE RANGE OF CERTAIN METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH IN THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF POLICE CORRUPTION

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Summary: It is the fact that law enforcement officers must abide by the law in performing their official tasks. This obligation results logically from the police function itself. Since they are in charge of law enforcement, the officers must be representatives of its upholding. The reality, however, too often proves this rule wrong and there are many various forms of unlawful behavior of police officers to be the evidence of it. The majority of these conducts are represented by police powers overstepping, or the powers are used contrary to legal basis or without sufficient reason. These are actually the cases of police powers misuse that are most frequently the consequence of police officer's negligence. However, police practice records also classic cases of misused powers, in other words the misuses of police power for the purpose not allowed by regulations, which are not related to the fulfillment of an official task or the goal of the use of the power is even contrary to the interests of the service. In considerable number of cases the question is actually of malicious misuse of police powers or even its use in order to achieve primarily personal interest. Corruptive behavior of police officers is singled out as a typical form of police powers misuse. The dangers and consequences that police corruption causes at both individual and social level undoubtedly attract attention of the expert public representing at the same time the key cause for the study of this phenomenon. The study of police corruption phenomenon is of huge scientific importance since it contributes to spreading the knowledge of the phenomenon shrouded in secrecy. Due to the lack of precise police corruption indicators, the conclusions on this phenomenon base primarily on the impressions from either personal experience or media representation. Personal experience, however, may be an exception rather than a rule, while media burdened by sensationalism usually approach the problem superficially and selectively. In order to prevent reaching final judgments based on lump estimates, it is necessary to analyze the problem of police corruption using the appropriate methods and respecting the principles of scientific perspective. This, on the other hand is not at all an easy task. Everyone who decides to engage in this endeavor soon becomes aware of that it is necessary to overcome a series of conceptual, methodological and practical obstacles. We have made an attempt in this paper to suggest all problems and limitations, offering practical advice at the same time which every researcher should bear in mind when designing a plan of police corruption study and by sticking to this plan they could at least partially avoid mistakes and increase the value of the results obtained.