

SUMMARY

The subject of the doctoral dissertation is the analysis of alternative solutions in the field of burial in the context of funeral rights and emphasizing the need to adapt legal provisions to dynamically changing social and cultural needs. These considerations include, in particular, examining the evolution of burial forms in response to changing social values and growing ecological awareness.

The main research goal is a comprehensive analysis of legal norms regarding alternative forms of burial in relation to funeral rights, articulating the connections between traditional and modern funeral practices.

In achieving the main goal, auxiliary goals were also used. First, the evolution of funeral traditions and their impact on contemporary funeral practices and laws in various cultures and historical eras, from ancient to modern times, was examined. Secondly, alternative burial methods were analysed, in particular resomation, promession, *capsula mundi*, composting and biodegradable coffins and urns. Thirdly, funeral rights were highlighted in the light of applicable legal standards, with particular emphasis on the principle of inviolability and respect for human dignity and legal protection of private and family life. Fourthly, sanctions for violations of funeral rights were indicated, with particular emphasis on legal liability in secular law and canon law.

The method of formal-dogmatic analysis, the historical method and the comparative method were used in the dissertation. A theoretical and legal approach was also used, where general statements were formulated regarding various legal aspects related to the concept of alternative burial solutions in the context of funeral rights.

The doctoral dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters and a summary. The work is supplemented with a list of abbreviations and a bibliography.

The first chapter reviews historical funeral practices, focusing on the development of funeral traditions. The chapter contains an in-depth analysis of cultural and historical diversity, starting from antiquity, moving through the Middle Ages and modern times, ending with the present day.

The second chapter concerns the analysis of alternative forms of burial. The chapter examines and compares modern methods, in particular resomation, promession, *capsula mundi* and biodegradable coffins and urns. The ecological aspects of these methods, their social acceptance, and the impact on the environment were also analysed. Legal and ethical issues related to these funeral practices were also discussed.

The third chapter is devoted to the analysis of funeral rights in the context of applicable legal standards. It was indicated how burial rights were protected and regulated by various legal systems, including international, EU, national and canon law. Particular attention was paid to the principle of inviolability and respect for human dignity and the principle of legal protection of private and family life. The principle of human dignity and the principle of the pious custom of burying the bodies of the deceased were discussed, taking the canon law into consideration.

The fourth chapter was devoted to highlighting the legal implications of violating funeral rights, in particular by discussing legal liability. Cases of violations of the right to a decent burial were analysed, discussing the legal consequences for people violating these rights, both in the context of secular and canon law.

The summary presents the conclusions of the analysis, emphasizing the importance of adapting funeral law to contemporary challenges and changing social needs. Recommendations for future changes in legal regulations were also presented, aimed at better protection of rights and freedoms related to the burial and promoting modern and ecological funeral practices.