

## Summary

### **The Review of the History of Legal Protection and Responsibility of Children in our Country**

The history of legal protection and responsibility of children in our country can be judged only through the preserved legal records. The most important legal record of the medieval period of Serbia is *Dushan's legal code*, which, however, does not include the regulations which directly indicate the particular rules for the protection, responsibility and punishment of the minors. Only in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the supplement to *the Penal statute for robberies and thefts* was introduced, (May 1847), in which the category of under-aged perpetrators of the criminal acts was precisely outlined for the first time. According to *the Criminal legal code* of the Principality of Serbia from 1860, the under-aged persons were not considered responsible for their doings. The physical and psychological integrity of a child were protected by means of numerous incriminations against the child-murder, abortion, sexual delinquencies and the abuse of and negligence to children. *The Criminal legal code of the Monarchy of Serbia* from 1929. divided into several categories all the perpetrators of the criminal acts under 21, when they became legally responsible for their doings. This code also widened the regulations for the child's protection. After the Second World War, children started enjoying the protection of all criminal acts, equally as adults. However, certain forms of specific legal protection were also added – those that protect children from the criminal acts that endanger the specific conditions connected to their age. According to *the Criminal legal code* from 1947, the perpetrators of the criminal act younger than 14, were not deemed legally responsible. The most important changes concerning the position of juvenile delinquency in our legal system were introduced by *the Law about the changes and amendments of the Criminal legal code* from 1959. According to the general regulations of *the Criminal Code of Serbia and Montenegro* from 1976, the same age limits were kept as in the Law from 1959, as well as the rules about the kinds of sanctions for the juvenile delinquents. In our criminal legislature the procedure against under-aged persons is regulated by means of the specific regulations within *the Code of Criminal Proceedings*