

SUMMARY

The scientific objective of this PhD thesis is to verify whether the current provisions of the Polish Civil Code restricting deaf persons from acting as witnesses of wills or drawing up certain forms of wills remain justified in the light of the achievements of legal science and psychology. The author will determine the historical conditions for the introduction of the above mentioned regulations, make a doctrinal analysis of them and thus collect relevant information, which will be confronted with the achievements of psychology. Further analysis will serve as a basis for the *de lege ferenda* conclusions.

The first chapter contains a definition of the will and describes its historical evolution, with particular emphasis on Polish legislation, both customary and written. Against this background, the current provisions of the law of succession, its trends, as well as the current limitations of deaf people on the possibility of making an allographic will are described.

The second chapter deals with the analysis of the deafness phenomenon itself, both biologically and psychologically. The world directions of social, educational and professional activation of the deaf are presented, as well as the notion of the so-called Deaf culture and sign language nomenclature.

The third chapter confronts legal and psychological knowledge, the author makes a proper assessment of the relevance and timeliness of the limitations imposed on deaf persons in succession law.

The polemic from the third chapter becomes the subject of empirical research in chapters four and five. Having described in the fourth chapter the main research hypotheses and problems, as well as research groups, the methods used, in the fifth chapter the author presents the information collected among research groups and draws conclusions from it as to the following: judges, notaries, sign language interpreters and deaf people themselves. At the end, the author describes its own *de lege ferenda* conclusions, based on all the information collected.