

**Summary of the doctoral thesis: 'Legal protection of a doctor's reputation as a party to unjustified medical malpractice proceedings'**

Recognition of the importance of patient autonomy in the 1970s contributed to the emergence of the patient rights movement and increased patient awareness. At the same time, patient entitlement increased and the number of complaints and lawsuits for medical errors increased. In countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom, the incidence of a compensation culture has been raised. This term generally describes the social tendency towards irrational, frivolous claims for compensation, but also the belief that there is always someone responsible for every injury, and every injury can be compensated in money. A similar change is being observed in Poland development as well as an increase in the number of patient claims, which are often medically unjustified but lead to the opening of legal proceedings.

This has given rise to a problem essentially unaddressed by Polish doctrine, but raised by doctors who feel helpless in the face of the law as it currently stands. Namely, the lack of possibility to protect the reputation of doctors, which is crucial for their profession being a profession of public trust, as well as other personal goods. The main objective of this paper is to answer the question: how can the doctor's reputation be protected in the case of the above-mentioned situations. The study extensively analyses the given problem, outlining its possible causes and apparent consequences. Due to the presence of discussions on this subject in other legal systems, a comparative analysis of selected issues has been carried out with a view to the possible application of solutions from there to Poland.

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