

## **Eyewitness testimony - factors having an impact on the reliability of a witness**

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Experts involved in court and crime investigation practice are often confronted with the question of the accuracy or reliability of testimony. The effects of taking account of facts given by an unreliable witness, can lead to irreparable errors. For efficient work and achieving the goals of trial, it is therefore necessary to identify mistakes and also to know the likelihood of their occurrence. The paper presents all the factors that have an impact on the quality and quantity of recalled memory data. They are divided into factors of perception (e.g. the quality and strength of emotional experience and the time of duration of events), factors of processing perceptions (attention, psychophysical state of witness and the level of processing of data in the brain) and factors of the interpretation of perception. Since the alternation of perceived reality can be attributed to such factors as the constructive nature of memory, forgetting, inability to establish a source of information and incorrect acquisition of information from a witness, the paper also addresses these issues.

**Keywords:** reliability of testimony, process of memorizing, modifications of memory

**UDC:** 343.143:159.953