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**OBSOLESCENCE OF CRIMINAL PROSECUTION IN THE CRIMINAL  
LEGISLATION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF SERBIA**

**Summary:** The obsolescence of criminal prosecution is one of the basic institutions of criminal law. It occurs with the passage of a certain period of time in the law, after which the right of the state to punish (*ius puniendi*) desists. The provisions of the Penal (Criminal) Code for the Principality of Serbia from 1860, which refer to the statute of limitations for criminal prosecution will be presented in this paper. Also, the positive legal solutions contained in the criminal legislation of Republic of Serbia will be presented. In this way, the development of this important institute of the general part of criminal law will be reviewed.

**Keywords:** criminal law, obsolescence of criminal prosecution, Principality of Serbia

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