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**Title of doctoral dissertation:** Proceedings in the event of loss or destruction of files in the civil procedure

The reconstruction procedure was introduced to the Code of Civil Procedure relatively late, and this shortcoming was clearly noticeable in the practice of the judiciary. The existence and proper shape of the reconstruction procedure is a necessary condition for the proper functioning of the administration of justice and the judicial protection of subjective rights. This procedure has a number of characteristics, specific goals and functions. It has an independent, accessory and auxiliary character. It can be used in relation to files of civil cases and files of proceedings with characteristics similar to civil proceedings. The jurisdiction of the court is established separately from the general rules, which results from the close relationship to the case files. The subject of the reconstruction proceedings is to determine if it is possible to restore the case files in the scope enabling the continuation of the proceedings or to restore a legally valid ruling ending the proceedings in the case or to resume the proceedings (or to bring other extraordinary means of appeal). There are following conditions for the initiation of reconstruction proceedings should be indicated: the existence of case files, destruction or loss of these files to an extent that prevents, respectively: a) further handling of the case, and in the case of validly concluded cases, b) prevents the reconstruction of the decision or c) resumption of the proceedings in the case; and the purposefulness (legal interest) of reconstruction. The recovery procedure has two stages - simplified and ordinary. The first of them may end by issuing an order to add certified copies obtained by the court to the case files. They replace and are equivalent to the lost originals. The significance of the simplified procedure is particularly evident in a situation where only the decision concluding the proceedings in the case is to be reconstructed. In this situation, the court may limit itself to obtaining one certified copy of one document. Ordinary procedure stage is conducted when the results of the simplified procedure are unsatisfactory. Only after the procedure has been conducted in this manner, it is possible to determine that it is impossible to restore the files. The role of the court in the reconstruction proceedings is completely different than in the examination proceedings, as its purpose is to determine whether the files can be restored and to restore the files to the fullest extent possible. The court generally acts independently, *ex officio*. The parties perform essentially the same procedural steps as in the case of taking evidence in the examination proceedings. However, it should be borne in mind that their procedural situation is the same in the reconstruction proceedings - they have a number of the same rights. The reconstruction procedure and its results have a significant impact on the legal situation resulting from the loss of files of entities seeking judicial protection of rights and the court itself. The reconstruction of the files allows the proceeding to be commenced or its legal effects to be maintained. The result of the reconstruction procedure also allows for the resolution of issues related to the possible limitation of claims. In the case of reconstruction of files in a case that is pending, the limitation period will not run - until it is completed. In legally concluded cases, he will operate according to general rules. Responsibility for the destruction or loss of files varies depending on what entity has destroyed or lost the files and whether it was caused by culpable or not. This liability - depending on the entity that lost the files - may be criminal, civil or disciplinary. Reconstruction proceedings are an essential element of civil proceedings. It has an independent and auxiliary character and should be separated from the first book, similarly to the security proceedings - which was separated from the enforcement proceedings.