

# Criminal Court

*This handout directs you to helpful info about the Criminal Court process in BC Provincial Court.*

*Note: Over 95% of all criminal cases in BC are heard in Provincial Court. If the offence is a serious or "indictable" offence, you may have a choice to hold your trial in Provincial or Supreme Court.*

## An Overview



### **BC's Criminal Justice System** | *general info for everyone*

Information and services for victims of crime, witnesses and the public. Explains the criminal justice system, BC Corrections, bail, parole, record suspension, etc.



### **Criminal Cases** | *info & guides from the Provincial Court*

What criminal matters do Provincial Court Judges deal with?

Factsheets on: Basic criminal procedure, Sentencing, Sentencing Indigenous peoples, and more.

### **Criminal Case Flowchart** | *stages in a criminal case*

Information on the procedures set out in the Criminal Code of Canada to be followed in criminal cases.

## Criminal Court Trial



### **Representing Yourself in a Criminal Trial** | *basic criminal court process steps*

For the accused person who wants to plead not guilty for a summary offence. Includes a sample letter to get a copy of the Information (document listing your offence) from Crown Counsel (prosecutor) and a basic glossary of terms.

#### **...more Criminal Law Resources from Legal Aid BC**

(Aboriginal Rights, How to Appeal, No Contact Orders, Speaking to the Judge before Sentencing, Defending Yourself, etc.)



### **How a Criminal Trial Works** | *goes a little further than first steps*

Explains what Crown Counsel (prosecutor) has to do in a trial, and the basics on defending yourself, cross-examining witnesses, using evidence giving final arguments, and hearing the verdict.

## More Information



### **Defending Yourself Against a Criminal Charge** | *more on the trial process*

More information on the criminal trial process in Provincial Court. Links to other criminal law-related information.



### **LSLAP Manual: Criminal Law** | *advanced reading*

This chapter on criminal law focuses on criminal procedure and how to manage cases. It covers Charter rights in the criminal context, sentencing, and criminal records.

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