



Legal Term Glossary

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The LEARN Hub



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Getting Started

About The LEARN Hub

The LEARN (Legal Education and Reintegration) Hub is an **online database** that provides **accessible, holistic information** about how to navigate the criminal justice system in Ontario, with a focus on providing **BIPOC-centered resources**.

The goals of The LEARN Hub are to:

- To help increase community members' understanding of navigating through the criminal legal system.
- To reduce feelings of uncertainty amongst low-income community members that navigate the criminal legal system.
- To increase low-income community members access to information about the criminal legal system.
- To increase feelings of resiliency and confidence navigating the criminal legal system amongst course participants.
- To provide a user-friendly experience where community members can feel at ease accessing information.



Getting Started

How to use the glossary

- This glossary has legal terms that are organized in alphabetical order.
- To search for a term within the glossary, type **Ctrl + F** and type in the term that you are interested in reading about.

Please note that this glossary is **not intended** to replace sound legal counsel. Please contact [Revitalized Reintegration Services](#) to be referred to a lawyer for further legal support, if needed.



Getting Started

Check out our video glossary!

We have a video glossary on [YouTube](#) that has all of the terms in this written glossary. Use the timestamps in the video to find the definition for the word that you want to learn more about.

Click [here](#) to watch our Legal Term Video Glossary!



Glossary

A

Term	Definition
Absolute Discharge	An absolute discharge is when a person is found guilty or pleads guilty, but the judge decides not to sentence them. When given an absolute discharge, a person has no criminal record. An absolute discharge is automatically removed from the Canadian Police Information Center computer system 1 year after the court's decision.
Accusation	An accusation is a claim that a person has committed a crime.
Accused	An accused person is someone that is suspected of committing a crime or charged with committing a crime.
Acquittal	An acquittal is when the judge or jury finds someone not guilty of committing a crime. If someone is found not guilty of committing a crime, they are free to go.
Administration of Justice	The administration of justice is the process of how the justice system works. This includes the people, activities, and operations of the justice system that is used to find, investigate, arrest, and try people suspected of committing a criminal offence.
Agent	An agent is someone you ask to act on your behalf. This person can be a lawyer, a paralegal, a family member, or a friend.

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Glossary

A

Term	Definition
Aggravating Factors	Aggravating factors are circumstances or facts that a judge can consider when they are deciding your sentence. Aggravating factors can result in a lighter or tougher sentence. The Crown must prove aggravating factors beyond a reasonable doubt.
Allegation	An allegation is a formal accusation against someone that is not yet proven to be true.
Allege	To allege is to state that someone has done something without offering proof that the statement is true.
Alternative Measures	Alternative measures are different ways to resolve criminal charges. Both the defendant and the Crown must agree to pursue alternative measures for this option to be available for the defendant. This can include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community service• Mediation, or• Treatment programs <p>If you complete alternative measures, you won't have a trial and you will not be convicted of the crime you were charged with.</p>

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Glossary

A-B

Term	Definition
Appeals	An appeal is when either the accused person, their defence lawyer, or the Crown counsel asks a higher-level court to review or reverse a decision made by a lower court because they believe there has been a serious error.
Appearance Notice	An appearance notice is a document telling a person they have to appear in court at a specific time and date to answer to a criminal charge.
Arraignment	An arraignment is a court hearing where the accused or their defence lawyer tells the court whether the accused will plead guilty or not to the charges against them. If the accused person pleads not guilty a trial date will be set. If the accused pleads guilty the case will not go to trial and the accused will be sentenced by the court. This can also be referred to as a consent arraignment
Bail	Bail is a court order that allows an accused person to temporarily be released from custody and stay in the community while awaiting their trial. This can also be referred to as recognizance of bail.

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Glossary

B

Term	Definition
Bail Conditions	Bail conditions are rules that you must follow while you are released on bail and your case is in the court system. If you don't follow these rules, you may be rearrested and re-detained.
Bail Hearing	A bail hearing is when a judge decides whether you can or cannot go into the community while your case is being decided by the court. If you are not allowed to go back into the community, you will be kept in custody while your case is ongoing. This can also be referred to as a show cause hearing.
Bail Program	The bail program helps people in bail court who don't have anyone they can ask to supervise them while they are in the community. Through the bail program, the accused person is supervised, and they must regularly report to a caseworker and follow other conditions of their release.

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Glossary

B

Term	Definition
Bail Review	<p>Bail reviews are hearings that provide an opportunity for the result of a bail hearing to be challenged. You can apply for a bail review if you are denied bail at your bail hearing. For your review to be granted you must show either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a big change in your circumstances to make your bail plan suitable, or• an error of law by the justice of the peace who conducted your original bail hearing. <p>These reviews take place at the Superior Court of Justice.</p>
Bail Variation	<p>A bail variation is when the accused and their defence lawyer submits a request to the court to have their release conditions changed. For this request to be successful, the Crown lawyer must consent to the proposed changes submitted by the defence. If the bail variation is approved, the accused must follow their new bail conditions until their case is closed.</p>
Bench Warrant	<p>This is a type of arrest warrant that can be issued by a judge if you miss a scheduled court appearance or violate the rules of the court. A bench warrant gives the police the authority to arrest and hold the named person in custody until they can be brought to court.</p>

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Glossary

B-C

Term	Definition
Beyond a Reasonable Doubt	“Beyond a reasonable doubt” is an expression used in law to describe a standard of proof that the Crown lawyer must reach when proving their charges. Based on the arguments presented by the Crown, the judge, or jury deciding the case must be certain that the accused is guilty.
Canadian Constitution	The Canadian Constitution is the supreme law of the country that outlines how the government is organized and how it operates. The Canadian Constitution also outlines the rights and freedoms of all citizens and non-citizens living in the country.
Charge	A charge is a specific criminal offence that a person is accused of committing. If a person is charged, it means they have been formally accused by the Crown counsel of committing a crime.
Co-accused	A co-accused is a person that is charged with a crime that is connected to the crime you are being charged with.



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Glossary

C

Term	Definition
Community Sentence	A community sentence is an order to serve a punishment under probationary terms in the community, under correctional supervision. This sentence is given after a person has been found guilty of committing an offence.
Complainant	A complainant is a person who claims that they are the victim of an alleged criminal offence.
Conditional Discharge	A conditional discharge is a type of sentence given when the court finds you guilty, but the judge decides that you will not be given a criminal record. Part of your sentence will include probation where you will be required to follow specific conditions. If you do complete the conditions, you will not have a criminal record.
Conditional Release	A conditional release is when an offender is released from custody and is allowed to serve part of their sentence in the community. The person who is released must follow certain conditions for a set period of time.

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Glossary

C

Term	Definition
Conditional Sentence	A conditional sentence is served by the offender in the community under strict supervision. With this sentence, the offender must follow certain conditions for a set period of time.
Confirmation Hearing	A confirmation hearing is a date scheduled to confirm that everyone is ready to go for trial or a preliminary hearing.
Conviction	<p>A conviction is when these conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the criminal charges against an accused are proven beyond a reasonable doubt at the trial, and• the judge or jury finds the accused person guilty of committing a crime, and• the accused is not discharged. <p>People under age 18 are not allowed to be convicted. They are only allowed to be given a youth sentence.</p> <p>If you are convicted, the judge will give you a punishment, such as a fine or jail time. You'll also have a criminal record.</p>

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Glossary

C

Term	Definition
Correctional Centre	A correctional centre is another term for jail or penitentiary. A provincial correctional centre is also referred to as a jail . This is where offenders whose sentences are for less than two years are sent. A federal correctional centre is also referred to as a penitentiary . This is where offenders whose sentences are for two years, or more are sent.
Court Clerk	The court clerk is an assistant of the court. Some of their responsibilities include recording the court proceedings and swearing in witnesses.
Court Order	A court order is a decision made by a judge. If you do not follow your court order, there could be legal consequences, including being charged with a criminal offence.
Court Proceedings	Court proceedings are courtroom activities that occur during a criminal case.

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Glossary

C

Term	Definition
Court Reporter	A court reporter is a person that translates speech from legal proceedings into written transcripts.
Credibility	Credibility is the status of being trusted and believed in. A person with credibility is someone who is reliable as a witness.
Crime	A crime is an act that breaks the laws of society. A crime is prohibited and can be punishable by the state.
Criminal Charge	A criminal charge is a formal accusation made by a governmental body, such as the police, that someone has committed a crime.
Criminal Code of Canada	The Criminal Code of Canada is the official federal act that outlines the crimes and punishments for offences across Canada.

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Glossary

C

Term	Definition
Criminal Record	A criminal record is documentation about a person's involvement with the criminal justice system. Records are kept in a central computer database that most police agencies across Canada can access.
Criminal Record Check	A criminal record check is a formal request made to police for information about a person's criminal history. For a person's record check to be completed, written consent must be provided.
Cross-Examination	Cross-examination is the questioning of a witness from the opposite side of the case.
Crown/Crown Counsel/ Crown Prosecutor/ Crown Attorney/ Crown Lawyer	Crown lawyers are prosecutors employed by the Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of the Attorney General. They perform their duties on behalf of the public and make sure that all legal information in the case is presented fairly.
Crown Pre-Trial (CPT)	A Crown Pre-Trial (CPT) is a meeting where the Crown attorney and defence lawyer of an accused person will meet to discuss information related to the case and try to resolve the matter without going to trial. This meeting is done before trial dates and usually takes place without the accused person.

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Glossary

C-D

Term	Definition
Curfew	A curfew is a formal order that places rules on a person within a 24-hour period. For example, a curfew tells a person what time they should be at home.
Custody	Custody is the process of being held by police or corrections workers in a police station or correctional facility. The time a person can be held by police depends on the location and age of the person. You can be detained: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At a provincial correctional centre for a sentence of fewer than two years,• At a federal correctional centre for a sentence of two or more years, or• At a youth custody center if you are between the ages of 12 and 17.
Custody Order	A custody order is a court order that outlines the conditions for when people, often the parents, are allowed to spend time with their child or have custody of that child.
Custody Sentence	A custody sentence is a sentence given to an offender under which they are kept in jail for a period of time.
Defence Counsel/ Defence Lawyer	The defence lawyer is the person that is representing the accused or person charged with committing a crime.

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Glossary

D

Term	Definition
Defendant	A person formally accused of committing a crime by the Crown counsel. In the courtroom, this person is referred to as the defendant . Also known as the <u>accused</u> .
Designated Offence	Designated offences are typically violent or serious drug-related offences. If you have been convicted of a designated offence, you can be ordered to give a DNA sample to the National D.N.A Data Bank.
Detain/Detention	When the police detain you, this means that you're not allowed to leave their custody. The police can legally detain you if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that you're connected to a case they're investigating. You do not have to answer any police questions if you are detained. The state of being detained is referred to as detention .
Detention Order	A detention order is a type of court order issued by a judge. This order states you must remain in custody until your case is finished or you are released on a <u>bail review</u> .

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Glossary

D

Term	Definition
Direct Accountability	Direct accountability is another term used to describe diversion.
Direct Examination	A direct examination is the questioning of a witness in court by the person who called the witness to court.
Discharge	Discharge is the release of a person by the judge after they are found guilty or plead guilty. When receiving discharge, a person is not convicted and not given a criminal record. You can also refer to <u>absolute discharge</u> and <u>conditional discharge</u> .
Disclosure	Disclosure is the information that the Crown and police have on the circumstances of your case. The Crown is required to give the accused and defence lawyer all of the disclosure they have about your case, unless this information is covered by privilege. This requirement is ongoing, which means everytime the Crown gets new information, they are required to share it with the defence lawyer and the accused.

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Glossary

D-E

Term	Definition
Dismiss	To dismiss means to reject in court (e.g., to dismiss a case).
Diversion	Diversion means resolving your charges without having a trial or pleading guilty. With diversion, you can do things like attend a program, or attend counselling to resolve your charges. Also see <u>Extrajudicial Measures</u> or <u>Extrajudicial Sanctions</u> .
Duty Counsel	A duty counsel is a defence lawyer who works at a criminal courthouse and provides free legal advice and representation. Duty counsel help people at bail hearings, in set date court, and at guilty pleas. In Ontario, these lawyers are paid for by Legal Aid Ontario.
Enhanced Pre-sentence Report	Enhanced pre-sentence reports (EPSRs) are reports that are used to help the court understand the accused's personal history. EPSRs are commonly used to advocate for culturally appropriate, and community-based rehabilitation programs for racialized offenders.



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Glossary

E

Term	Definition
Evidence	To dismiss means to reject in court (e.g., to dismiss a case).
Exempt/ Exemption	An exemption is a special circumstance where a person is not required to fulfil their duties.
Exhibit	An exhibit is an item or document that is presented to the court as part of the evidence.
Extrajudicial Measures (EJMs)	An extrajudicial measure (EJM) is a type of youth diversion option that provides the chance for youth to resolve their charges without having to go to trial or plead guilty. If you accept this, your court case is put on hold while you complete the conditions of your case, such as a program or course. Once you finish these conditions, your court case will be closed. If you accept this, you will have a youth record for 2 months.

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Glossary

E-F

Term	Definition
Extrajudicial Sanctions (EJS)	An extrajudicial sanction (EJS) is a special program that can be imposed before or after a young person is charged with a criminal offence. Examples of an EJS can include volunteer work or paying the complainant money. Once you complete the EJS, your case will be over and you will not have a youth record; however, you will have a police record for 2 years.
Failure to Appear	The term failure to appear describes when a person does not attend a scheduled court appearance. This is a criminal offence.
Failure to Comply	Failure to comply is a criminal offence. This is when you intentionally do not follow a court order or police order.
Federal Correctional Centre	A federal correctional centre is also known as a penitentiary. This is where offenders serving sentences of two years, or more are held.
Fine	A fine is a sentence that requires someone to pay money to the court.



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Glossary

F-H

Term	Definition
Forensic	Forensic relates to the use of science and technology to investigate crime in a legal setting. Forensic practices can be used to collect forensic evidence like fingerprints, blood, and DNA samples.
Guilty	When a person admits that they are guilty or are found by the judge or jury to be guilty, this means that they have been proven to have committed the crimes they are charged with.
Hearing	A hearing is a chance to speak and present your case to a judge in court.
Highway Traffic Act	The Highway Traffic Act outlines Ontario's laws related to traffic and transportation.
Hung Jury	A hung jury is a jury that is not able to completely agree on a decision.



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Glossary

H-I

Term	Definition
House Arrest	House arrest is a type of sentence that forbids you from leaving your house, except under specific circumstances.
Hybrid Offences	These are offences that can be dealt with as either <u>summary offences</u> or <u>indictable offences</u> . The Crown has the opportunity to decide how the offence will be handled.
Immigration Detention	Immigration detention refers to individuals that are detained under the Immigration Act.
Imprisonment	Imprisonment is the act of being kept in custody in a correctional centre after having been found guilty of a crime.
Incarceration	Incarceration is the state of being held in a correctional facility.



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Glossary

I-J

Term	Definition
Indictable Offences	<p>Indictable offences are serious offences (e.g., theft over \$5000, murder, sexual offences, etc.). These cases go to the Superior Court of Justice and can either be processed by a judge or jury, or judge alone. Maximum penalties for indictable offences vary and can sometimes include life in prison. Some indictable offences have minimum penalties. Crown lawyers have the option to <u>classify hybrid offences</u> as indictable offences.</p>
Indictment	<p>An indictment is a formal list of charges.</p>
Intermittent Sentence	<p>An intermittent sentence is a sentence where you serve part of your time in jail and part of your time in the community. You must follow probation terms while you are serving part of your sentence in the community.</p>
Joint Position	<p>When you hold a joint position with the Crown, this means that you both agree on the terms of the sentence to recommend to the judge at a <u>sentencing hearing</u>. Most judges will usually accept a joint position unless the agreement is unreasonable.</p>

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Glossary

I-J

Term	Definition
Judge	A judge is the public official responsible for managing hearings and deciding the result of court cases.
Judgment	A judgment is the decision that the judge or jury makes in a court case. This judgement can be “guilty” or “not guilty”. This is also referred to as a <u>verdict</u> .
Judicial Interim Release	Judicial interim release is when someone is released from custody while their case is in the court system. This is also referred to as bail.
Judicial Pre-Trial (JPT)	A judicial pre-trial is when the judge either helps to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• resolve the problem in a way that the defense and the Crown both agree with, or• make the trial shorter by reducing the number of issues to address. This takes place before your trial.



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Glossary

J-L

Term	Definition
Juror	A juror is a person that is selected to serve on the jury .
Jury	A jury is a group of 12 citizens that decide whether the accused is guilty or not guilty based on the information provided during the trial. They report to the judge assigned to the trial.
Just	Being just is the state of being fair.
Justice of The Peace	The justice of the peace is an officer of the court that has some of the same powers as a judge.
Law-Abiding	Law-abiding is a word to describe a person who obeys the law.
Lawyer	A lawyer is a person who is permitted to practice law.

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Glossary

L-M

Term	Definition
Legal Aid	<p>Legal aid is free legal information, advice and representation for people who cannot afford a lawyer. An application process must be completed to confirm that you cannot afford a lawyer and that you qualify for the available services. In Ontario, legal aid is offered by <u>Legal Aid Ontario</u>.</p>
Mediation	<p>Mediation is a process that aims to help two or more people who are in a conflict to reach an agreement. Mediation is usually hosted by a third person that is not involved in the situation, also known as a third party. If the people who are involved in the conflict cannot reach an agreement, then the solution offered by a third party will be imposed. Mediation is a form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR).</p>
Mental Health Diversion	<p>People with mental health concerns who have been charged with a low-risk criminal offence have the chance to resolve their charges through mental health diversion instead of going to court. Mental health diversion assigns accused people with a mental health court worker who helps them to develop a diversion plan. This plan can include referrals for appropriate mental health and community services, and additional support to help the accused.</p>

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Glossary

M-N

Term	Definition
Mistrial	A mistrial is when a trial ends without a final judgment due to a fundamental error made by someone involved in your case. If a mistrial happens, a new trial date will be made.
Mitigating Factors	Mitigating factors are situations, facts, events, and conditions that a judge can consider when they are determining a person's sentence.
No Contact	When a no-contact order is issued by the court, it requires that the accused or offender have no or limited contact with a named person.
Non-custodial Sentence	A non-custodial sentence is a sentence that allows the offender to serve their sentence somewhere other than at a correctional facility.
Non-disclosure	Non-disclosure is when someone does not share valuable and required information with their lawyer or court.



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Glossary

N-O

Term	Definition
Not Guilty	When the Crown cannot prove that someone has committed an offence <u>beyond a reasonable doubt</u> , a person is found to be not guilty . Not guilty can also be a plea that the accused makes to the court.
Offence	An offence is an act that breaks a law.
Offender	An offender is someone who is convicted of or who has pled guilty to a criminal offence.
Omission	An omission is something that a person leaves out as they are sharing something. For example, when a person does not tell their defence lawyer the full story of something that has happened, they are omitting the truth.
On the Record	This is a written record of what is said in court by all those who are participating in the trial. This includes the Crown, the judge, the witness, the defence lawyer, and the accused. Everything that is said " on the record " will be in the transcript of the hearing.

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Glossary

O-P

Term	Definition
Ontario Court of Justice	The Ontario Court of Justice is a provincial court that mostly deals with family law, criminal law, and the Highway Traffic Act.
Ontario Review Board	The Ontario Review Board has the authority to deal with cases involving people who have been found not criminally responsible for a crime, or unfit to stand trial because of a mental illness.
Pardon	A pardon is a decision made by the government to keep a person's criminal record hidden. This means that your criminal record will not be given out to businesses or agencies even if a criminal record check is completed. The term pardon has been replaced by <u>record suspensions</u> .
Parole	Parole is the permanent or temporary release of an offender into the community before the end of their sentence. During parole, an offender is given conditions that they must follow.
Parole Board of Canada	The Parole Board of Canada is a government agency responsible for making decisions about parole and record suspensions.

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Glossary

P

Term	Definition
PAR	PAR stands for Partner Assault Response. This is a program that addresses anger management in domestic violence situations. PAR is sometimes required for <u>resolutions</u> in court where there are domestic charges.
Peace Bond	A peace bond is a court order issued in a criminal court that outlines guidelines one person must follow to maintain peace and good behaviour. For example, a peace bond may include a no-contact order.
Penitentiary	A penitentiary refers to a federal correctional centre where offenders serving sentences of two years, or more are held.
Perjury	Perjury is lying after you have sworn under oath to tell the truth while being questioned. Perjury is a criminal offence.

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Glossary

P

Term	Definition
Plea	<p>A plea is a statement an accused person makes to the court after being asked if they are guilty or not guilty of committing a crime. To plead “not guilty” means that you are denying that you committed the offence(s) you are being charged with. To plead “guilty” means that you are acknowledging and accepting that you have committed the crime you are being charged with.</p> <p>After making your plea of “guilty” or “not guilty” the Crown will either decide to go to trial or withdraw the charge.</p>
Plea Bargain	<p>A plea bargain is an offer made by the Crown in exchange for a guilty plea. In some cases, this can result in a lesser charge or sentence.</p>
Plea Inquiry	<p>Before you can plead guilty, you must complete a plea inquiry. This is a series of questions that you must answer to show the judge that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• you know that your plea is voluntary, and no one is forcing you to plea guilty,• you understand the conditions that come with pleading guilty, and• you are aware of what can happen to you if you plead guilty.

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Glossary

P

Term	Definition
Pre-sentence Report	A pre-sentence report is a written document prepared by a probation officer to help the court learn more about the person being sentenced.
Pre-trial Motion	Pre-trial motions are requests made before trial by the Crown and defence lawyer that the court does something. These motions happen after a judge decides that a case is going to court.
Preliminary Hearing	A preliminary hearing is a hearing that happens before the trial at the Ontario Court of Justice. At this hearing, the judge decides if there is enough evidence to have a trial. These hearings do not determine if someone is guilty or innocent of an offence. This is also referred to as a preliminary inquiry.
Probation	Probation is when someone is being supervised in the community and has to follow certain conditions as part of their sentence.
Probation Officer	A probation officer provides supervision and support to help people who are released from a correctional facility.

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Glossary

P

Term	Definition
Probation Order	A probation order is an order that requires an offender to follow rules for a set period of time while they are serving all or part of their sentence in the community.
Proceedings	Proceedings are a series of legal steps or measures taken against a person.
Prohibition	A prohibition is something that a court order forbids you from doing as part of your sentence.
Promise to Appear	A promise to appear is a document that an accused signs when they are released from police custody. This document is given to the accused to sign before trial and states that they promise to appear in court on a specific date.
Prosecution	Prosecution is the process of conducting legal proceedings against someone who has been accused of committing a criminal offence.
Protection Order	A protection order is a court order prohibiting the offender from contacting the victim.

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Glossary

P-R

Term	Definition
Provincial Correctional Centre	A provincial correctional centre is also referred to as a jail. This is where offenders who have been sentenced to less than two years are held.
Provincial Offence	Provincial offences are dealt with in the Ontario Court of Justice by a judge or a justice of the peace. They are viewed as minor offences.
Reasonable and Probable Grounds	Having reasonable and probable grounds is the act of being able to fairly and sensibly demonstrate or prove something. This is not the act of having a belief, suspicion, or feeling. Police must have reasonable and probable grounds before taking action against you. For example, police must have a reasonable and fair belief that you are involved in criminal activity before arresting you.
Record Suspension	A record suspension is a decision made by the government to keep a person's criminal record hidden. This means that your criminal record will not be given out to businesses or agencies even if a criminal record check is completed. The term record suspension has replaced the term pardon.

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Glossary

R

Term	Definition
Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation is the action of restoring a person's behaviour and health to prepare them for their return to the community.
Reintegration	Reintegration is the process of helping an offender exit a correctional facility and return to their community.
Release	To be released is to be let go from somewhere. For example, to be released from custody .
Remand	Being on remand is the process of being held in custody until your next court date is scheduled.
Resolution	A resolution is a way of solving a case without going to trial. You must qualify for resolution before proceeding with it. Resolutions could include options like being offered diversion or pleading guilty for a lesser sentence.
Re-offend	To re-offend is to commit another crime after being convicted of a previous crime.

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Glossary

R

Term	Definition
Restitution	Restitution is money that the court orders an offender to pay a victim as compensation for losses the victim experienced because of the crime.
Restorative Justice	Restorative justice is a philosophy and an approach that sees crime as harm against people and relationships. Through restorative justice-focused practices, like restorative justice circles, support and safe spaces are encouraged and created for those affected by the conflict. Restorative justice encourages accountability, healing and empathy. Restorative justice practices are voluntary to participate in.
Restraining Order	A restraining order is an order made by a judge in civil court to keep or protect one person from another. Restraining orders often include conditions that must be followed by the person the restraining order has been issued against.
Retainer	Retainers are fees paid to hire a lawyer privately. These fees must be paid before a lawyer can begin to work with you.
Re-trial	A re-trial is a new trial held for a trial that has already finished.

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Glossary

S

Term	Definition
Sanctions	Sanctions are punishments for breaking the law.
Search Warrant	A search warrant is a court order that allows the police to search a specific place for specific things.
Sentence	A sentence is a punishment a person receives after being found guilty of or pleading guilty to committing a crime. Sentences can include fines, community supervision or time in prison. Sentences for youth are different from adult sentences.
Sentence Hearing	A sentencing hearing is where an offender is given a sentence by a judge.
Sheriff	A sheriff is a court officer. They are responsible for making sure the courtroom is safe.
Small Claims Court	Small claims court is a court that tries cases that involve places or things valued at \$35,000 or less.
Statement	A statement is a written version of information provided by a witness or victim to the police. Statements usually share information about crimes that were committed.

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Glossary

S

Term	Definition
Statutes	Statutes are laws that are created and enforced by the government.
Statutory Release	Statutory release is the automatic release of an offender from prison. Statutory release must occur after someone serves two-thirds of their sentence. Offenders on statutory release are supervised. Statutory release is not available for someone serving a life sentence.
Subpoena	A subpoena is a document written by the court ordering a witness to come to court to give a statement.
Sue	If you sue a person or an organization, you are claiming that they did something wrong to you. When you sue a person or organization, you are asking a civil court to award you money to compensate for their wrongdoings.
Summary Offences	Summary offences are less serious offences and are dealt with at the Ontario Court of Justice. The maximum penalty for a summary offence is usually a \$5,000 fine and/or six months in jail.

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Glossary

S

Term	Definition
Summons	A summons is an official court order telling an accused person they must appear in court at a specific time and place.
Superior Court of Justice	The Superior Court of Justice deals with civil cases and serious criminal cases. The Superior Court of Justice has authority to deal with appeals from decisions made by the Ontario Court of Justice. This court also deals with some family law cases.
Suspect	A suspect is a person who is believed to be guilty of committing a crime.
Suspended Sentence	A suspended sentence is an alternative to imprisonment. When you receive a suspended sentence, a judge may suspend your jail sentence as long as you agree to and follow probation conditions for a certain period of time.
Surety	A surety is someone who promises to supervise you and make sure that you do not commit any more offences while on bail. By making these promises, this person can help you to get bail. For someone to be your surety, they must pledge money as security for your release. A surety may lose the money they pledged if you do not obey your bail conditions.

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Glossary

S-T

Term	Definition
Swear an Oath	When you swear an oath , you are promising to tell the truth while testifying in court. If you are found to have lied while testifying in court, there can be legal consequences.
Temporary Absences	A temporary absence allows a convicted person to leave prison for a short period of time. This absence can be given to you for things like medical treatment, counselling, or family functions.
Testimony	Testifying is a way of presenting evidence or information to the court using a witness. A witness testifies by answering questions asked by the lawyers and the judge after swearing to tell the truth. The answers the witness gives are called testimonies .
Trial	A trial is a court hearing where the defence and Crown come together to present their case for or against an accused person. At trial, the Crown must prove that the accused is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt . If the accused is found guilty, they are sentenced. If the accused is found not guilty, then the trial is over and the person is released.



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Glossary

U-W

Term	Definition
Undertaking	An undertaking is a piece of paper that an accused signs to excuse them of being held for a <u>bail hearing</u> . An undertaking usually outlines conditions that the accused must agree to follow as they are released from custody. If you don't follow the conditions of your undertaking, there can be legal consequences.
Verdict	A verdict is the decision that the judge or jury makes in a court case. This verdict can be "guilty" or "not guilty". This is also referred to as a <u>judgement</u> .
Victim	A victim is someone who has been directly or indirectly affected by a crime.
Victim Impact Statement	A victim impact statement is a statement written by a victim describing how the crime has affected them. These statements are often shared at the end of a trial, and can be considered by a judge when they are deciding a sentence. When the offender is being considered for parole, a victim impact statement can be considered by the parole board.

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Glossary

W-Z

Term	Definition
Warrant	A warrant is a court order giving police permission to carry out a certain action. For example, an arrest warrant gives police the authority to arrest someone.
Witness	A witness is a person who has evidence or information about a crime.
Withdrawn	A charge is withdrawn when the Crown decides not to continue with the case. If your charges are withdrawn you will no longer have to attend court for the charges, and you will not be found guilty.
Youth	Under criminal law, anyone between the ages of 12 and 17 is considered a youth .
Youth Criminal Justice Act	The Youth Criminal Justice Act is the Canadian statute that governs how people between the ages of 12 and 17 (at the time the crime was committed) are dealt with in the criminal justice system.

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Notes

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin orange border, intended for taking notes.

