

Criminal Law

Criminal laws seek to protect public safety. Crimes are graded as either felonies or misdemeanors. Murder, robbery, and other serious crimes are felonies. Felonies have serious consequences for the victim and the criminal. Misdemeanors are lesser offenses, such as vandalism or stealing low-cost items. Typically, misdemeanors carry a fine or a jail sentence of less than one year.

Crimes against property are the most common type of crime. They do not involve force or the threat of force against the victim. These include crimes in which property is destroyed, damaged, or stolen. Stealing a bike, shoplifting, identity theft, and setting fires are examples of crimes against property.

Example: Graffiti! It is a violation of criminal law, specifically; it is a form of property crime.

