

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, and more.



Provincial Court
of British Columbia

Criminal Cases | *info and 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 case.

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

(How to Appeal, No Contact Orders, Speaking to the Judge Before You’re Sentenced, Defending Yourself, and more.)



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

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

Find legal services near you. 30+ services can help with criminal law matters.

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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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