

CRIMINAL LAW: CRIMES AND PUNISHMENT

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Criminal law (known as penal law) is the branch of law that deals with crime, criminals and the legal punishment of criminal offenses. Penal law is intended to protect the public from harm by inflicting punishment upon those who have already done harm and by threatening with punishment those who can do harm. Criminal law also often tries to avoid harm by forbidding conduct that may lead to harmful results. It involves prosecution by the government of a person for a crime.

So, the basic concepts of criminal law is crime and punishment. Crimes are usually classified as felony or misdemeanor. The main difference between felonies and misdemeanors rests with the penalty and the power of imprisonment. Also there is a difference in the degree of the crime. The term "degree of crime" refers to distinctions in the culpability of an offense because of the circumstances surrounding its commission.

Crimes are sometimes divided according to their nature, some of them - acts that are thought to be immoral or wrong in themselves, or naturally evil, such as murder, rape, burglary and others; another - acts that are not naturally evil but are prohibited by law because they infringe on the state or on the rights of others (for example, tax evasion).

Also there is another classification of crimes according to the object to which the crime is detected. There are: the crimes against persons, crimes against property and the crimes against morality. Crimes against persons are the crimes that are aimed at human and related with bodily harm like murder, rape, and robbery. Property crimes are burglary, larceny, auto theft, and arson. Crimes against morality are like prostitution, illegal gambling, and illegal drug , undermine the morality of the society and also have a greater risk for the state and the population.

On individuals who violate criminal law can be imposed a penalty by the government that is called criminal punishment. People

who commit crimes may be punished in a variety of ways : fines, community service or prison for a period of time.

A fine is a monetary penalty imposed on an offender and paid to the court.

Offenders sentenced to community service perform services for the state or community. Some of the money saved by the government as a result of community service work may be diverted to a fund to compensate crime victims.

The most serious or repeat offenders are incarcerated. Prison – are the state facilities devoted to prison offenders who committed acts qualified as a serious crime.

Societies punish individuals to prevent further crime—both by the person punished and by others contemplating criminal behavior. Contemporary criminal punishment also seeks to correct unlawful behavior.

For example, in Ukraine there is such level of crime during last year (if value is 0, it means it is perceived as very low, and if value is 100, it means it is perceived as very high): worries home broken and things stolen - 45.45, worries being mugged or robbed - 39.6, worries car stolen – 52.27, worries things from car stolen – 60.94, worries attacked – 43.18, worries being insulted – 40.15, worries being subject to a physical attack because of your skin colour, ethnic origin or religion – 26.52, problem people using or dealing drugs – 49.24, problem property crimes such as vandalism and theft – 53.79, problem violent crimes such as assault and armed robbery – 35.61, problem corruption and bribery – 87.7.

So, the rate of crime in Ukraine is very high, and therefore criminal law is of great importance for our country and the modern society to build peace and prosperity in it.

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