

# Criminal Law – Types of Offences

## *Guide*

Summary, Indictable & Hybrid Offences

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## Reader Acknowledgement



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# What type of offence have I been charged with?

## Summary Offence

Although all criminal offences should be taken very seriously, summary offences are the least serious amongst the three types of offences in the *Criminal Code*. A straight summary offence is referenced in s.787(1) of the *Code* which sets out a general penalty for summary offences:

Unless otherwise provided by law, every person who is convicted of an offence punishable on summary conviction is liable to a fine of not more than \$5,000 or to a term of imprisonment of not more than two years less a day, or to both.



# What type of offence have I been charged with?

## Indictable Offence

Indictable offences are the most serious offences in the *Criminal Code*, which involve a sentence of imprisonment upon conviction. Where there is no specified penalty provision in the *Criminal Code* for an offence, the maximum imprisonment is 5 years.

## Hybrid Offence

Hybrid offences, also known as Crown-elect offences, where the Crown has the choice to elect either summarily or by way of indictment. All hybrid offences has a specific penalty that sets out the maximum penalty, if the Crown were to elect by indictment. For some offences, the minimum penalty may also be specified.

**!** Note: Paralegals can only assist with Summary offences

***Not sure what kind of offence you are charged with?***

**[Book a FREE consultation with us today!](#)**







## How do I hire a Paralegal to assist me with my Criminal matter ?

1

### Do your research.

Search for the paralegal that supports the type of matter you need legal support with.

2

### Call or email the paralegal firm you wish to work with.

Fill out an online form, email or call to book a consultation.

3

### Book a consultation.

Once you book a consultation, you can prepare by putting your documents together and identifying what legal support you require.

**TIP:-** You may confirm the Paralegal is licenced, contact information and whether the paralegal is in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario by doing a search on the LSO directory [here](#).



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A stylized, handwritten signature in gold, consisting of the letters 'K.S.L.' in a cursive font, positioned inside a light gray circle.

K.S.L.

