



# CRIMES

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Crime is defined as the violation of law. Crime is classified or identified by type (or category), degree (or intensity), and intention.

## THE CATEGORIES OF CRIME

Crimes can be assigned categories based on their nature and their severity.

### Crimes Against

	Property	Environment	Sophonts	Society	Justice	Doctrine
Gaffe 1	Misuse	Litter	Offense	Disharmony	Mistake	Ignorance
Infraction 2	Vandalism	Waste	Insult	Violation	Inattention	Question
Misdemeanor 3	Damage	Damage	Assault	Slack	Inaction	Heterodoxy
Felony 4	Theft	Pollution	Mayhem	Dishonor	Perjury	Blasphemy
High Crime 5	Destruction	Ravage	Killing	Treason	Injustice	Heresy
Atrocity 6	Havoc	Ruin	Mass Killing	High Treason	Tyranny	Mass Deception

Within each category of crime, there is an ascending scale of seriousness. The least serious are gaffes (and typically not prosecuted): Slightly more serious are misdemeanors. Serious crimes are felonies.

**Economic Degree.** Crimes are further detailed by degree, the exponent of the economic value or cost of the crime: Violation-2 is a minor crime involving a value of about Cr100 (100 = 10<sup>2</sup> where the exponent is 2). Intentionally killing a businessman is Murder-6 (attributing to him a value of Cr1,000,000); killing a laborer is perhaps Murder-4. Assigning economic value to a crime is sometimes (often?) a subjective decision.

**Cultural Values.** Not all cultures believe that all of the instances on this list are crimes.

**Intent.** Intent is a strong component of crime; it affects the severity of consequences of committing a crime (in the general range: Ignorant. Uninformed. Passionate. Deliberate). An individual who specifically intends to commit a crime or to violate the law bears a greater degree of guilt than someone who commits a violation in the heat of passion or through inadvertence or negligence. Lack of intent may be argued as a defense. After conviction, lack of intent may be argued as a mitigating circumstance to reduce the severity of consequences.

### Crimes Against Property

**Misuse.** Use of property inappropriate purposes.

**Vandalism.** Casual defacing of property.

**Damage.** Physical devaluation of property, but falling short of destruction.

**Theft.** Taking property Includes theft (taking by stealth) and robbery (taking by force), fraud (taking by deception).

**Destruction.** Physical destruction of property. Includes Arson, Bombing.

**Havoc.** Indiscriminant or mass destruction of property.

### Crimes Against The Environment

**Litter.** Inattention to environment.

**Waste.** Misuse of resources. Includes failing to sort trash, failure to maintain equipment in efficient running order.

**Contamination.** Minor crimes against the environment. Includes littering, emitting obnoxious noises or odors, failure to dispose of useless property.

**Pollution.** Serious crimes against the environment. Includes disposal of untreated waste, unauthorized toxic waste production.

**Ravage.** Commercial actions which degrade the environment without regard for long-term consequences. Includes strip mining, clear cutting of forests, unaesthetic ice-harvesting.

**Ruin.** Non-commercial actions which degrade the environment. Includes setting forest fires. Use of weapons of mass destruction.

### Crimes Against Sophonts

Beings may include intelligent beings, animals, artificial beings, artificial intelligences, and artificial entities such as corporations or companies.

**Insult.** Non-physical attacks against others. Violence or near-violence against beings, but which inflicts no injury. Includes threats, threatening actions, libel or slander.

**Battery.** Violence against beings which results in injury to the victim or others. Includes physical violence, emotional abuse; may include libel or slander.

**Mayhem.** Causing pain or suffering to a being. Includes cruelty to animals, torture.

**Killing.** Causing the death of an intelligent being. Includes murder and serial murder.

**Mass Murder.** Multiple killing of intelligent beings. Includes waging illegal war and crimes of aggression.

### Crimes Against Society or the State

**Violation.** Disobedience of regulations. Includes traffic or curfew violations, failures of permits or paperwork.

**Slack.** Undue dependence on society or the state. Includes welfare or unemployment assistance abuse.

**Dishonor.** Betrayal of the basic principles of society.

**Treason.** Adherence to the principles of an alternate or competing society. In religious cultures, this might be heresy.

**High Treason.** Active support of the principles of a competing society to the detriment of the individual's native or adopted society.