

# Dictionary Of Crime Criminal Justice Criminology Law Enforcement

Dictionary Of Crime Criminal Justice Criminology Law Enforcement Dictionary of Crime Criminal Justice Criminology and Law Enforcement This dictionary provides a comprehensive overview of key terms and concepts related to crime criminal justice criminology and law enforcement It is designed to be a valuable resource for students professionals and anyone interested in understanding the complexities of these interconnected fields The dictionary is organized alphabetically with entries for both general and specific concepts Each entry includes Term The term being defined Definition A clear and concise explanation of the term Example Where applicable A realworld example to illustrate the terms application Related Terms Links to other relevant entries in the dictionary Target Audience This dictionary is intended for a broad audience including Students Students in criminal justice criminology law sociology and related fields Professionals Law enforcement officers prosecutors judges social workers and other professionals working in the criminal justice system General Public Individuals interested in learning more about crime law enforcement and the criminal justice system Scope The dictionary covers a wide range of topics including Crime Types of crime theories of crime crime statistics and crime prevention Criminal Justice The process of law enforcement adjudication and corrections Criminology The study of crime its causes and its consequences Law Enforcement The agencies and personnel responsible for enforcing the law 2 Note This dictionary is a starting point for understanding the complex world of crime and justice It is not intended to be a comprehensive legal reference For legal advice consult a qualified attorney Sample Entries A Adjudication Definition The legal process of resolving a dispute typically in a court of law through a formal hearing or trial Example A criminal trial where a jury determines guilt or innocence is an example of adjudication Related Terms Due process plea bargaining sentencing B Arson Definition The intentional and malicious burning of property Example Setting fire to a house to collect insurance money is an example of arson Related Terms Fire arsonist insurance fraud C Criminology Definition The scientific study of crime and criminal behavior including its causes consequences and prevention Example Criminologists may study the factors that contribute to youth delinquency or the effectiveness of different crime prevention programs Related Terms Sociology psychology law deviance D Deterrence Definition The theory that punishment can discourage

future criminal activity by making the cost of crime outweigh the potential benefits Example A harsh sentence for drug trafficking may deter others from engaging in similar crimes Related Terms Punishment rehabilitation incapacitation E Felony 3 Definition A serious crime that typically carries a potential sentence of more than one year in prison Example Murder rape and armed robbery are examples of felonies Related Terms Misdemeanor offense crime F Forensic Science Definition The application of scientific principles and techniques to the investigation and analysis of evidence in criminal cases Example Forensic scientists may analyze DNA fingerprints or ballistics evidence to identify suspects and link them to crimes Related Terms Evidence DNA analysis ballistics fingerprint analysis G Hate Crime Definition A crime motivated by bias against a persons race religion ethnicity sexual orientation gender or disability Example Assaulting a person because of their sexual orientation is considered a hate crime Related Terms Bias prejudice discrimination H Incarceration Definition The act of confining someone in prison or jail Example Sentencing a convicted criminal to five years in prison is an example of incarceration Related Terms Prison jail correctional facility inmate I Juvenile Delinquency Definition Criminal activity committed by individuals under the age of legal adulthood Example Theft vandalism and drug use are examples of juvenile delinquency Related Terms Juvenile justice youth crime rehabilitation J Law Enforcement Definition The agencies and personnel responsible for enforcing the law and maintaining public order 4 Example Police officers sheriffs deputies and state troopers are examples of law enforcement officers Related Terms Police sheriff state police criminal justice K Plea Bargaining Definition A negotiation process in which a criminal defendant agrees to plead guilty to a lesser charge or to a lesser sentence in exchange for avoiding a trial Example A defendant charged with robbery may plead guilty to a lesser charge of theft in exchange for a shorter prison sentence Related Terms Adjudication trial sentencing L Rehabilitation Definition The process of helping convicted criminals reintegrate into society and become productive members of their community Example Correctional programs that provide job training education and therapy to inmates are examples of rehabilitation Related Terms Corrections parole probation M Recidivism Definition The rate at which former prisoners reoffend after being released from prison Example A recidivism rate of 30 indicates that 30 of released prisoners will commit another crime within a certain period of time Related Terms Corrections rehabilitation criminal justice system N WhiteCollar Crime Definition Nonviolent crime committed by individuals in positions of power or authority typically for financial gain Example Fraud embezzlement and insider trading are examples of whitecollar crime Related Terms Financial crime corporate crime fraud Conclusion This dictionary serves as a foundational guide to understanding the complexities of crime criminal justice criminology and law enforcement By providing definitions and



criminal justice is distinct from criminal law which defines the specific behaviours that are prohibited by and punishable under law and from criminology which is the scientific study of the nonlegal aspects

feb 14 2026 professor criminal justice and sociology pennsylvania state university university park co author of theoretical criminology and others

criminology meaning the study of crime criminals and the punishment of criminals

a social science rather than a branch of law criminology deals with the causes correction and prevention of criminal behavior although it is a specialty it is not a single discipline

mar 10 2026 particular legal systems are treated in roman law germanic law chinese law indian law shari'ah islamic law and soviet law aspects related to crime are also addressed in criminal

broken windows theory is an academic theory that links disorder and incivility within a community to subsequent occurrences of serious crime

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