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# Defendants (criminal proceedings)

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Slovakia

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These factsheets explain the procedure of law enforcement authorities if you are suspected of or accused of a crime.

## Summary of the criminal process

The following is a summary of the normal stages in the criminal process in the Slovak Republic.

The pre-trial process consists of the following stages:

- steps prior to initiation of criminal prosecution;
- pre-trial preparations (investigation).

The trial process consists of the following stages:

- examination and preliminary hearing of the indictment;
- main trial;
- appeal process (ordinary appeal [*odvolanie*] to a higher-instance court, further appeal [*dovolanie*] to the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic [*Najvyšší súd Slovenskej Republiky*], reopening of the case);
- enforcement process, carrying out the sentence and protective measures.

Click on the links below to find the information that you need

[My rights during the investigation](#)

[My rights during trial](#)

[My rights after trial](#)

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