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# Defendants (criminal proceedings)

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Sweden



Sweden

These factsheets explain what happens when a person is suspected of or accused of a crime which is dealt with by a trial in court.

## Summary of the criminal process

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

- A crime is reported to the police;
- The criminal investigation (preliminary investigation) is carried out by the police; in the case of more serious crimes the investigation is led by the prosecutor;
- There is a possibility in the majority of cases of getting a public defence counsel;
- In the case of more serious or repeated crimes the prosecutor may ask the court for you to be held in detention. A special detention hearing will then take place;
- The prosecutor brings a prosecution in the district court;
- The district court holds a trial (main hearing) to examine whether it is proven that you have committed the crime and, if so, to decide on sanctions etc;
- If an appeal is lodged by any of the parties, the Court of Appeal examines whether the district court's judgment should be confirmed or changed;
- In a few cases the judgment can also be reviewed by the Supreme Court;
- The judgment becomes legally enforceable, that is to say final, and the sentence will be enforced if there has been a conviction.

Details about all of these stages in the process and about your rights can be found in the factsheets. This information is not a substitute for legal advice and is intended to be for guidance only. If you need assistance, always check with a lawyer or other expert to establish what applies in your particular situation.

If you are the victim of a crime, you can find full information about your rights [here](#).

## Role of the European Commission

Please note that the European Commission has no role in criminal proceedings in Member States and cannot assist you if you have a complaint. Information is provided in these factsheets about how to complain and to whom.

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

[1 - Getting legal advice](#)

[2 - My rights during the investigation of a crime](#)

- questioning
- arrest
- detention

- continuing police investigation
- preparation of the case by the defence
- prosecution

[3 - My rights during the trial](#)

[4 - My rights after the trial](#)

[5 - Road traffic offences](#)

## Related links

[Swedish Courts](#)

[Swedish Prosecution Authority](#)

[Swedish Bar Association](#)

[Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority](#)

[Swedish Prison and Probation Service](#)

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 Last update: 23/01/2025

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