

# Pennsylvania Criminal Law Research Guide



## About / Disclaimer

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This research guide is compiled by the staff of the **Allegheny County Law Library** as a list of the Library's resources in addition to external resource links with information regarding Criminal Law. It is intended for those facing criminal charges and the attorneys who represent them.

Most crimes are charged and prosecuted at the state level. While the types of conduct considered criminal are relatively constant throughout the U.S., each state is unique and Pennsylvania is no exception. For instance, Pennsylvania continues to allow the death penalty by lethal injection for certain crimes such as murder. Other laws affect criminal sentencing and procedures. If you have been charged with a crime in Pennsylvania or are just curious, FindLaw's Pennsylvania Criminal Laws section covers everything from drug possession and wire fraud to sexual assault and murder. Source: <https://www.findlaw.com/state/pennsylvania-law/pennsylvania-criminal-laws.html>

### DISCLAIMER

Use of forms, information and instructions provided by the ACLL are at your own risk. The ACLL does not guarantee any desired outcome from the use of this guide. In no event will the ACLL or anyone contributing can be held responsible for any liability. ACLL cannot provide legal advice or opinion on this specific or any other legal topic.

## Primary Sources

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**Primary Legal Sources** are the actual law in the form of **constitutions, court cases, statutes, and administrative rules and regulations.**

### 1. Statutes (State laws):

*Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes, Annotated*

- Title 18, Crimes and Offenses, Stack 12

### 2. Administrative Codes and Regulations:

*Pennsylvania Code*

- Title 324, Rules of Criminal Procedure, Stack 14

*Pennsylvania Bulletin* Stack 13

*Pennsylvania Rules of Court* Criminal Procedure - Reference Desk

### 3. PA Cases:

*West's Pennsylvania Digest 2d* Criminal Law, Stack 20 – 21

- Vol. 13 - 19F, Criminal Law

## Secondary Sources

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**Secondary Legal Sources** may restate the law, but they also discuss, analyze, describe, explain, or critique it as well. These include reference works such as **dictionaries and encyclopedias, books, treatises, theses and dissertations, journal articles, loose-leaf publications, indexes and abstracts.**

Treatises, not to be confused with treaties, are **book-length expositions on the law as it pertains to a particular subject.** Treatises may be scholarly in nature, such as Murray on Contracts, or they may be geared toward a legal practitioner, such as a manual or handbook.

### 1. Encyclopedias

*Pennsylvania Law Encyclopedia, 2d*

- KFP65.P42 Stack 23
- Vols. 17 - 20, Criminal Law
- ALSO, the Index - Crimes and Offenses then specific crimes listed beneath, i.e. Assault and Battery, etc.

*Standard Pennsylvania Practice 2d.*

- KFP530.S7 Stack 38
- Vols. 26-29, Criminal Procedure
- ALSO, Index under Criminal Law, list of specific subheadings, i.e., Burglary

*Summary of Pennsylvania Jurisprudence 2d.*

- KFP65.L42 Stack 22
- Vol. 4 - 5B, Criminal Law

### 2. Citators

*Shepard's Pennsylvania Citations* Books on Stack 22 or on Lexis

*KeyCite* (Westlaw)

### 3. Catalog Subjects

- Criminal Law - Pennsylvania
- Criminal Procedure - Pennsylvania
- Also, browse the Main Reading Room shelves at KFP117

### 4. Forms

#### ***Criminal Court Forms, Filing Fees & FAQs***

<https://www.alleghenycourts.us/Criminal/Default.aspx>

#### ***Dunlap-Hanna Pennsylvania Forms*** Stack 24

- Vol. 14 Criminal Proceedings KFP68.M4

#### ***West's Pennsylvania Practice:*** Stack 25

- Volumes 26 - 29, Chapter 138 Criminal Procedure § 1- 133, KFP 530 .S7
- Also, Index - specific crimes under Criminal Law, i.e., Burglary

### 5. Introductory Sources

***Criminal Law: A Desk Reference*** by Paul Bergman, Self-Help Collection, Stack 3, KF 9619.85 .B46

### 6. Treatises (2012 or newer)

***Criminal Law Symposium 2020.*** Stack 40 PBI 2 vol KFP 575 .A75 C73 2020

***Criminal Law Update 2020.*** Stack 40 PBI 1 vol. KFP 575 .A75 C75 2020

***Toll's Pennsylvania Crimes Code Annotated 2d, 2021 edition.*** Stack 40 KFP 561 .A335 T64 2021

***2021 Revision, Pennsylvania Manual on Civil and Criminal Penalties and Sentences.*** Stack 40 Bisel. KFP 561 .A457 2021

## Websites / Blogs

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### Websites

#### ***Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney***

***General*** <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/criminal-law-division/>

#### ***Pennsylvania Attorney General Frequently Asked***

***Questions*** <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/resources/commonly-asked-questions/>

#### ***Justia.com Criminal Law: Types, Procedure, Defenses, Plea***

***Bargains*** <https://www.justia.com/criminal/>

***Allegheny County Criminal***

***Courts*** <https://www.alleghenycourts.us/Criminal/Default.aspx>

***PALawHELP.org*** - <https://www.palawhelp.org/search?q=criminal>

***PA Criminal Laws on Findlaw*** - <https://www.findlaw.com/state/pennsylvania-law/pennsylvania-criminal-laws.html>

**Blogs**

There are numerous blogs on the internet, mostly by specific law firms. ***Justia*** has a great list available here:

<https://blawgsearch.justia.com/blogs/categories/criminal-law>