

## **Legal Matters: I have decided to represent myself in a criminal matter. What does Indictable, Hybrid and Summary mean?**

Feb. 01, 2015

Criminal law is frightening, but it does not have to be. There are three types of offenses in the Canadian Criminal Code and you need to figure out where your charge fits.

If you have been charged with an Indictable offense, this is very serious! You will require a criminal lawyer. The majority of indictable offenses and the maximum sentence is life in prison.

A Hybrid offense is a charge that can be either Indictable or Summary. The crown will decide how to proceed with this offense, based on its seriousness and how serious you are about it (character plays a huge part in determining which way this offense will be tried).

If you are being charged with a Summary offense, you can hire a paralegal to represent you. Summary offences are among the less serious charges, but they are still a crime. The maximum sentence is six months in jail and or a \$5,000 fine. However, you can work with the crown in restructuring the sentence to any of probation, conditional or absolute discharge, suspended sentence, intermittent sentence or a conditional sentence.

Whether or not you have committed a crime, it is important that you understand what you have been charged with, and obtain legal assistance to clarify what you do not understand.

[Call us!](#) Your friends at Shank Law.