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Estonian

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Defendants (criminal proceedings)

Estonia

These factsheets explain what happens if you are suspected or accused of a crime which is tried in a court of law. For information on minor traffic offences, which are usually dealt with by a fine, see Factsheet 5. If you are the victim of a crime, you can find full information about your rights here.

Summary of criminal proceedings

The following is a summary of the standard stages in criminal proceedings:

Launching of criminal proceedings

Pre-trial proceedings or investigation

Access to the criminal file and hearing of applications

Charging

Pre-trial proceedings in court

Court hearing

Judgment

Appeals proceedings (in courts of second and third instance)

Execution of the judgment

The factsheets give details about these stages of the process and about your rights. This information is not a substitute for legal advice and is intended to be for guidance only.

The role of the European Commission

Please note that the European Commission has no role in criminal proceedings carried out in Member States and cannot assist you if you have a complaint.

These factsheets provide information on how and to whom complaints should be submitted.

Click on the links below to find the information that you need[1 – Getting legal advice](#)[2 – My rights during the investigation of the crime](#)

Launching of criminal proceedings

Detention and arrest

Interrogation and the gathering of evidence

Access to the criminal file, hearing of applications and charging

Additional information for non-residents

[3 – My rights during the trial](#)[4 – My rights after the trial](#)[5 – Traffic offences](#)**Related link**[Overview of the Estonian criminal procedure in English](#)

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