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Latvian

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Defendants (criminal proceedings)

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. For information on minor offences like road traffic offences, which are usually dealt with by a fixed penalty like a fine, go to Factsheet 5. If you are the victim of a crime, you can find full information about your rights here.

Summary of the criminal process

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

Investigation

Prosecution

Hearing of the case in the Court of First Instance

Review of the case in the Court of Appeal

Review of the case in the Supreme Court

Review of current court rulings

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.

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](#)

Investigation

Prosecution

Certain procedural steps

[3 – My rights during the trial](#)[4 – My rights after the trial](#)[5 – Road traffic offences](#)**Related links**[Law on criminal proceedings](#)[Criminal law](#)[State Police authorities](#)[Public Prosecutor's Office](#)[Bar Association of Latvia](#)[Latvian Courts](#)

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