

**Lesson 1**  
**Court Structure in the United States**

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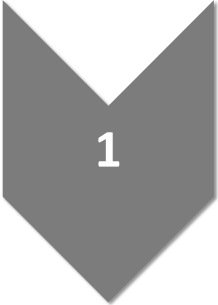

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**Objective**



- Identify basic key differences between Criminal and Civil Procedure in the US.

The Supreme Court of Ohio | Language Services Program

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## Court Structure in the United States



### Two Processes

- ✓ Criminal Procedures
- ✓ Civil Procedures



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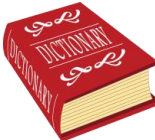
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# Definitions



Merriam-Webster's Online Legal Dictionary (n.d.) defines "Criminal Procedures" as:

- *the steps taken and methods used in bringing and conducting a criminal action; also : a course of study in the rules of procedure in criminal actions*



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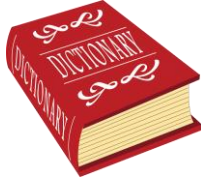
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# Definitions (cont.)



- Merriam-Webster's Online Legal Dictionary (n.d.) defines "Civil Procedures" as:
  - *the steps taken and methods used in bringing and conducting a civil action; also : a course of study in the rules of procedure in civil actions*




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## Identifying the Parties



Case Law	Civil Case	Criminal Case	Crosswalk
Identify the parties involved in the case, i.e. who brings the case to court?	Private parties: individual/s v individual/s.	The government (federal/state/local) v individual/s.*	<i>Similarities</i> The action/s involved in the case will be examined with its corresponding evidence and compared against the applicable law.  <i>Differences</i> Civil: Only private parties are involved in the case. Criminal: The Government is one of the parties involved in the case.

\*(There are specific instances where a corporation can be charged but only an individual can get arrested and/or sent to jail.)

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## Identify the Case



Case Law	Civil Case	Criminal Case	Crosswalk
What are the legal terms used to identify the parties.	Plaintiff: party who files the case/action.  Civil Defendant: party who responds.	Prosecution: the government who files the case/action.  Criminal Defendant: party who responds	<i>Similarities</i> General legal terminology applies to both case laws.  <i>Differences</i> Each type of case law has its own unique terminology.

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# Types of Cases



Case Law	Civil Case	Criminal Case	Crosswalk
Describe the nature of the case.	Disputes between individuals regarding the legal duties and responsibilities they owe one another.	Violations of statutes (laws) that prohibit some type of activity because it offends society.	<i>Similarities</i> The matter is brought to court before a presiding official.  <i>Differences</i> Civil: Action is about the duties or responsibilities owed. Criminal: Action is a violation of an existing statute or law perceived as being a crime against society.

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## Case of Outcomes



Case Law	Civil Case	Criminal Case	Crosswalk
What is being sought in the case?	Some type of remedy for the loss sustained by the injured party.	A specific punishment such as jail time and/or monetary fines as a way to deter the behavior and preserve the peace	<p><i>Similarities</i> The parties are seeking resolution from the court and a presiding official.</p> <p><i>Differences</i> Civil: Liability. Criminal: Guilt.</p>

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## Lesson One Review

### Key Points to Remember



- There are two bodies of law in the United States
- There are similarities and differences between Criminal Cases & Civil Case law and procedures

JUST A LITTLE  
Reminder

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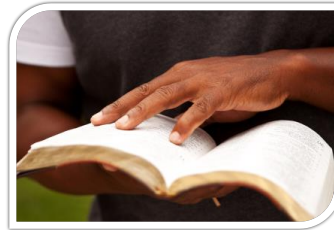
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## Individual Activity



- Complete the exercise:  
Identify the differences  
between Civil and Criminal  
Case Law.



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