

DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN TWO CONCEPTS: CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASES

CIVIL: no law is broken; a lawsuit over money, property, rights; FAMILY LAW (marriage, divorce, child custody, adoption).

CRIMINAL: a law is broken; someone is charged, convicted, sentenced; a punishment is given (probation, fine, jail, or prison). Traffic offenses and accidents are criminal.

Each of the statements below concerns some aspect of civil or criminal law. Read each statement and decide whether the situation is a civil or criminal matter. Write the word "Civil" or "Criminal" in the space provided.

1. Civil Harry Moore got married.
2. Civil After his marriage, Harry discovered his divorce from his first wife had not become final when he thought because his attorney had not filed the papers when he said he had.
3. Criminal Harry was so upset, he had an automobile accident and ran over his neighbor's fence.
4. Civil Harry's neighbor was very angry and threatened to sue him for damages to the fence.
5. Criminal Harry invited his neighbor out for a drink to "talk things over." Instead they got into a fight, and Harry broke his neighbor's nose.
6. Criminal Harry was charged with aggravated assault.
7. Criminal Harry was found guilty by a jury.
8. Civil Harry's neighbor sued him for \$100,000 for breaking his nose.
9. Criminal The prosecutor decided to charge Harry with bigamy.
10. Civil Harry's new wife announced that she was going to divorce him.