

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. _____ Harry Moore got married.
2. _____ 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. _____ Harry was so upset, he had an automobile accident and ran over his neighbor's fence.
4. _____ Harry's neighbor was very angry and threatened to sue him for damages to the fence.
5. _____ 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. _____ Harry was charged with aggravated assault.
7. _____ Harry was found guilty by a jury.
8. _____ Harry's neighbor sued him for \$100,000 for breaking his nose.
9. _____ The prosecutor decided to charge Harry with bigamy.
10. _____ Harry's new wife announced that she was going to divorce him.