

Criminal cases step by step

**Presumed innocent until
found guilty by a final
judgment.**

Based on the Slovak Constitution, Art. 50(2)

PRE-TRIAL STAGE · POLICE AND PROSECUTOR

1

Report of a crime

Made to the police or the prosecutor's office, where it is checked.

2

Criminal prosecution starts

If the facts justify starting a prosecution. Otherwise the case is handed to another authority (e.g. as an administrative offence), set aside or rejected.

3

Investigation and charge

Police gather evidence under the prosecutor's supervision. When there are sufficient grounds to conclude that a specific person committed the act, they are charged.

4

Indictment

If the investigation justifies it, the prosecutor files an indictment – or instead discontinues the prosecution or concludes an agreement on guilt and punishment with the accused, which the court must approve.

COURT STAGE · COURT

5

Main trial and judgment

Evidence is heard, and the court convicts or acquits the defendant by a judgment. Sometimes a single judge issues a penal order without a main trial.

6

Appeal

A judgment after a main trial can be appealed within 15 days of notification. The appeal court may send the case back for a new hearing, even repeatedly.

7

Final judgment and enforcement

Final if no one appeals in time, or if the appeal court dismisses the appeal or decides itself. The sentence is carried out unless conditionally suspended.