



TU 122 Law in Everyday Life

Criminal Law I

Disorn Likhitwitayawuid



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Elements of Crime

- (1) Criminal act
- (2) Criminal state of Mind
- (3) Causation

$(1)+(2)+(3) = \text{Criminal Liability}$



9. Criminal Defenses

Legal grounds for denying criminal punishment

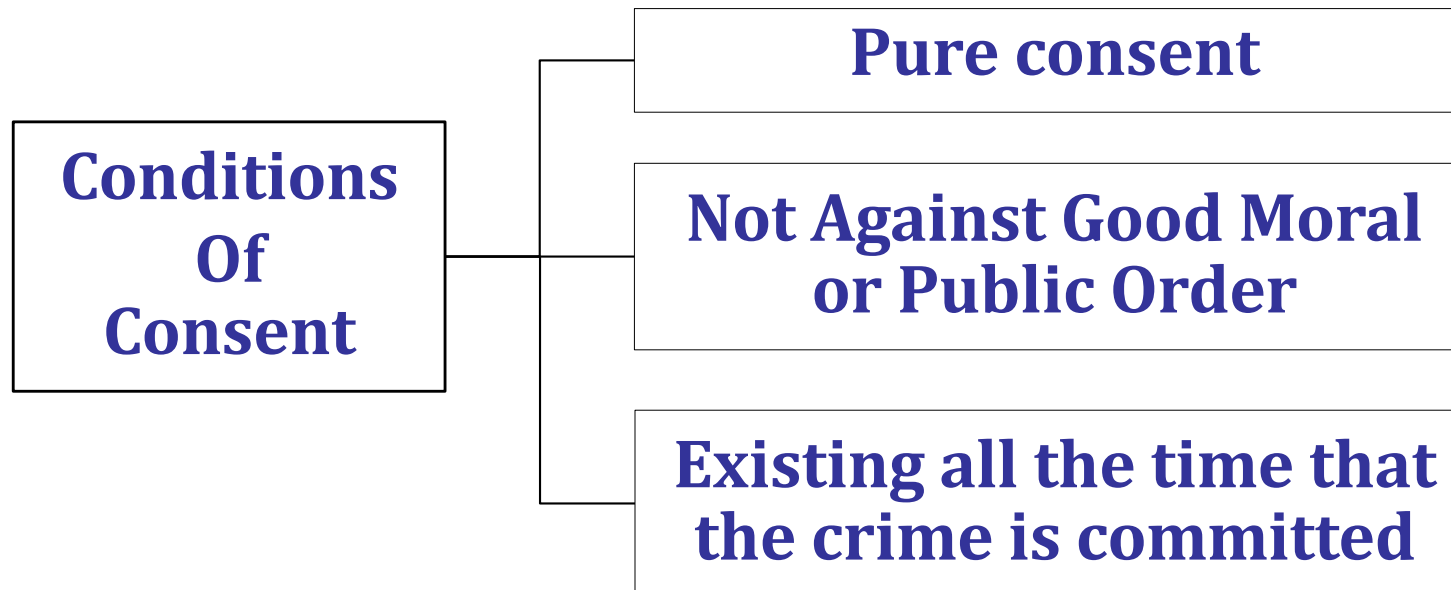




Justification

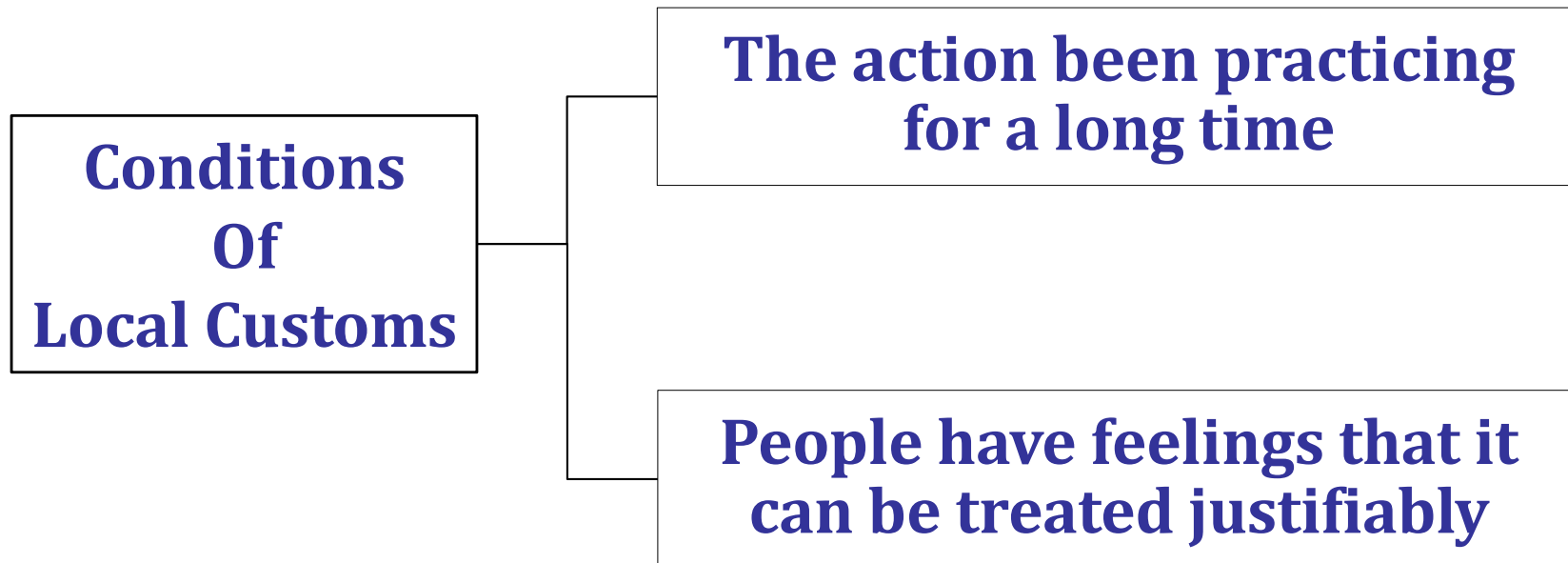


Consent





Local Customs





Self- defense / Defense of Others

Section 68 A person who reasonably commits an act for the defense of his right or right of another person so as to escape from a danger arising from an act of violence which violates the law and such danger is imminent shall not be guilty.

Conditions

- (1) a danger arising from an act of violence which violates the law
- (2) such danger is imminent
- (3) defends his right or right of another person
- (4) proportionally commit against the person who caused danger



Self- defense / Defense of Others

The courts specifically sets forth the situations in which deadly force is justifiable: when the defendant believes that such force is immediately necessary to protect himself on the present occasion against:

- (1) death
- (2) serious bodily injury;
- (3) forcible rape; or
- (4) kidnapping.



Self- defense / Defense of Others

Protection of property

A person in possession of personal property is justified in using *non-deadly force* against a would-be dispossessor if he reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent imminent and unlawful dispossession of the property.

Under no circumstances may a person use deadly force to prevent dispossession.

Rationale : Interest in security of property does not justify jeopardizing the lives of others (i.e. society places a much higher premium on the preservation of human life)



Self- defense / Defense of Others

Protection of dwelling

Deadly force could be used in defense of one's dwelling if it reasonably appeared necessary to prevent a forcible entry of the dwelling, and a warning had first been given the intruder to desist and not enter.



Self- defense / Defense of Others

Example 1: A was stealing B's mobile. B saw what A was doing. B killed A

Example 2: If B hit A by a stick



Self- defense / Defense of Others

Example 3: A intrudingly entered B's house at night. B saw A and shot him with his firearm.

Example 4: A intrudingly entered B's house at night. B saw A and told B to desist and not to enter immediately. A did not obey B's warning. Consequent, B killed A with his firearm.



Excuses



Insanity

A defendant is entitled to an acquittal if, at the time of the crime, he was so impaired by mental illness or retardation as to be “insane” within the meaning of the law

e.g. does not understand what he’s doing.



Infancy

Under age 7 is conclusively presumed unable to form a criminal intent and therefore cannot be convicted of a crime.

Children aged 7-14 are presumed incapable of forming criminal intent. Presumption rebuttable.

Age 14 and older are treated as adult – no presumption of incompetency.

Look at the age at the time of commission of the crime



Intoxication

- **Voluntary intoxicated** – never a defense
- **Involuntary intoxicated** – a complete defense/
proof of lack of *mens rea*
 - Did not know substance ingested was intoxicating
 - Know but consume under duress



Intoxication

- Example1: A voluntarily drank alcohol. He negligently drove his car and crashed B causing B's death.



Ignorance or Mistake of Law

The person shall not be excused from the criminal liability committed by ignorance of law.

But, if the Court deems that, according to the conditions and circumstances, the offender may not have known that the law has been prescribed that such act to be an offence, the evidence may be allowed by the Court in order to such person to produce before the Court, and if the doer, whom the Court believes that, does not know that the law has be so provided, the Court may inflict less punishment to any extent than that prescribed by the law for such offence.



Duress

Section 67 (1) A person shall not be punished for committing any offence on account of necessity when he/ she is under compulsion or under the influence of a force which he/she cannot avoid or resist, provided that no more is done than is reasonably necessary.

Conditions

- (1) Objectively reasonable belief
- (2) Threat must be of sufficiently serious harm
- (3) Subject of threat – can be anybody
- (4) Immediate harm



Necessity

Section 67 (2) When a person acts reasonably in order to make himself/herself or another person escape from an imminent danger (which such person did not cause to exist through his own fault), he/she shall not be punished for committing any offence on account of necessity.



Necessity

The defense of necessity is available where the accused acted in the reasonable belief that perpetration of the offense would prevent the occurrence of a greater harm or evil.

Conditions

- (1) Objectively reasonable belief
- (2) Greater harm threatened
- (3) Threatened harm “imminent”
- (4) No fault on the defender’s part



Examples of Necessity and Duress

Example 1: Manoj forced Manit by directing his gun to Manit to hit Manee by a stick.

Example 2: A was escaping B's assault. While A was running, C obstructed A's path, A pushed C. As a result, C fell down and injured.

Example 3: A fought with B and then A was escaping B's assault. While A was running, C obstructed A's path, A pushed C. As a result, C fell down and injured.



The End