

**CRIMINAL OFFENCES ACT**

**CHAPTER 11:01**

**Act**

**11 of 1844**

Amended by

2 of 1852

2 of 1878

21 of 1887

20 of 1936

3 of 1945

45 of 1979

13 of 2014

**Current Authorised Pages**

<i>Pages</i> <i>(inclusive)</i>	<i>Authorised</i> <i>by L.R.O.</i>
1-7	..

**LAWS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

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2

**Chap. 11:01**

*Criminal Offences*

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**Note on Subsidiary Legislation**

This Chapter contains no subsidiary legislation.

**Note on Transfer of Provisions**

Sections 2A to 2E and section 11 of the Criminal Offences Ordinance, Ch. 4. No. 4 (1950 Ed.) have been transferred to the Criminal Law Act (Ch. 11:04).

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**CHAPTER 11:01**

**CRIMINAL OFFENCES ACT**

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

**SECTION**

1. Short title.
  2. Common law offences.
  3. Personation.
  4. Breaking out of prison.
  5. Attempt to commit indictable offence.
  6. Selling unwholesome provisions.
  7. Cheat or fraud.
  8. Offences under sections 4, 5 and 6.
  9. Falsification of accounts.
  10. Advertising reward for return of stolen property under certain conditions.
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**CHAPTER 11:01**

**CRIMINAL OFFENCES ACT**

1950 Ed.  
Ch. 4, No. 4.  
11 of 1844.

**An Act to make provision for the punishment of certain offences.**

Commencement.

[22ND JULY 1844]

Short title.

**1.** This Act may be cited as the Criminal Offences Act.

Common law offences.

**2.** Every offence which, if done or committed in England, would amount to an offence at common law shall, if done or committed in Trinidad and Tobago, be taken to be an indictable offence, and shall be liable to be and shall be punished in the same manner as it would be in England, under or by virtue of any special or general statute providing for the punishment of such offence, or, if there be no such statute, by the common law.

Personation.

**3.** Any person who falsely and deceitfully personates any person, or the heir, executor, administrator, wife, widow, next of kin or relation of any person, with intent fraudulently to obtain any land, estate, chattel, money, valuable security or property, is liable to imprisonment for five years; but nothing in this section shall prevent any person from being proceeded against and punished under any other Act or at common law in respect of any offence punishable as well under this section as under any other Act or at common law.

Breaking out of prison.  
[45 of 1979  
13 of 2014].

**4.** Any person who is convicted of any of the following offences, that is to say:

- (a) breaking out of any prison in which such person is detained under sentence for any indictable offence or on suspicion thereof;
- (b) the rescue of, or attempt to rescue or set at liberty, any person convicted of any capital offence going to execution or during execution;

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UPDATED TO DECEMBER 31ST 2015

(c) the rescue of, or aiding or assisting in the rescue of, any person convicted of an indictable offence, or of any person charged with or suspected of, or committed for any indictable offence or on suspicion thereof, where the person so charged, suspected or committed is afterwards convicted of the indictable offence,

is liable to a fine of one hundred thousand dollars and imprisonment for five years.

**5.** Any person who is convicted of any of the following offences, that is to say, any attempt to commit a common law offence or an offence made indictable by any statute or Order in Council of the United Kingdom or any Act in force in Trinidad and Tobago at the time of such attempt being made; blasphemy, writing and publishing, or printing and publishing, any blasphemous libel; bribery, conspiracy, escape, or aiding or assisting in, or voluntarily or negligently permitting any escape; breaking out of any prison in which such person shall be lawfully detained on any civil process, or under sentence for any indictable offence, or to which such person has been committed on any charge of an indictable offence; any rescue of, or attempt to rescue, any person, when such offence is not punishable as an arrestable offence; keeping a common gaming-house, or common bawdy-house, or a common ill-governed and disorderly house; sending any challenge with intent to provoke, or otherwise endeavouring to provoke, any person to commit a breach of the peace; sedition; writing and publishing or printing and publishing, any seditious libel, or publishing any obscene print, writing or picture; every such offender is liable to a fine and to imprisonment for two years.

Attempt to commit indictable offence.

Blasphemy.  
Blasphemous libel.  
Bribery.  
Conspiracy.  
Escape.  
Breaking prison.

Rescue.

Gaming-house.  
Bawdy-house.  
Disorderly house.  
Challenge.  
Sedition.  
Seditious libel.  
Obscene print.  
[45 of 1979].

**6.** Any person who is convicted of any of the following offences, that is to say, wilfully and knowingly selling any unwholesome provisions, or any nuisance of a public nature is liable to a fine and to imprisonment for one year.

Selling unwholesome provisions.  
Public nuisance.

**7.** Any person who is convicted on indictment of any of the following offences, that is to say, any cheat or fraud punishable at common law; any conspiracy to cheat or defraud, or to extort money or goods, or falsely to accuse of any crime, or to obstruct,

Cheat or fraud.

Conspiracy to defraud.

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MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

www.legalaffairs.gov.tt

**6**

**Chap. 11:01**

*Criminal Offences*

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Escape or  
rescue.

Indecent  
exposure.

Indecent books,  
etc.  
[45 of 1979].

prevent, pervert or defeat the course of public justice; any escape or rescue from lawful custody on a criminal charge; any public and indecent exposure of the person; any public selling or exposing for public sale or to public view of any obscene book, print, picture or other indecent exhibition, is in respect of any of the above convictions liable to imprisonment for any term warranted by law, and also to be kept to hard labour during the whole or any part of such term of imprisonment.

Offences under  
sections 4, 5  
and 6.

**8.** All and every act or acts which, if done or committed in England, would, according to the law of England, amount to or constitute any of the offences specified in sections 4, 5 and 6, shall be held to amount to and constitute the same offence in Trinidad and Tobago.

Falsification of  
accounts.

**9.** Any clerk, officer or servant, whether in the public service or otherwise, who wilfully, and with intent to defraud, removes, conceals, destroys, alters, mutilates or falsifies any book, paper writing, valuable security, or account which belongs to or is in the possession of the Government or of his employer, or has been received by him for or on behalf of the Government or of his employer, or who wilfully, and with intent to defraud, makes or concurs in making any false entry in, or omits, or alters, or concurs in omitting or altering, any material particular from or in any such book, or any document or account, is liable to imprisonment for five years.

Advertising  
reward for  
return of stolen  
property under  
certain  
conditions.

**10.** Any person who publicly advertises a reward for the return of any property which has been stolen or lost, and in such advertisement uses any words purporting that no questions will be asked, or makes use of any words in any public advertisement purporting that a reward will be given or paid for any property which has been stolen or lost, without seizing or making enquiry after the person producing such property, or who promises or offers in any such public advertisement to return to any pawnbroker or other person who may have bought or advanced money, by way of loan, upon any property stolen or lost, the money so paid or advanced or any other sum of money or reward

UNOFFICIAL VERSION

UPDATED TO DECEMBER 31ST 2015

for the return of such property, or any person who prints or publishes any such advertisement, in any of the above cases shall forfeit the sum of two thousand dollars for every such offence to any person who sues for the same by action of debt, to be recovered with full costs of suit.

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