

Civil & Criminal Proceedings

Law

Two systems with different parties, standards and outcomes.

Criminal

- State prosecutes the defendant
- Beyond reasonable doubt
- Punishment: fine, custody, order
- Public interest drives the case
- Acquittal or conviction

Civil

- One party sues another
- Balance of probabilities
- Remedy: damages, injunction
- Claimant controls the case
- Liability or no liability

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

The differing standards mean an acquittal does not prevent civil liability on the same facts.

Educational reference. Terminology and standards vary between jurisdictions. This is not legal advice.