

WORLDBUILDING LEGAL MATRIX

This is a guide for filling out the types of laws your world has and fleshing out different types of punishments.

INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1.

On the next page, fill out the types of punishments that are handed down in the following circumstances:

0 – **Not illegal:** There are no punishments for these types of crimes. They may be socially frowned upon, or completely allowed. Your society may not even think of this as a crime, or may simply think of it as not serious enough to warrant legal consequences.

1 – **Punished lightly:** These crimes aren't seen as being very serious, and are only punished by a slap on the hand. Punishment may include verbal reprimands, small fines, community service, temporary suspension of some privileges, etc.

2 – **Basic punishment:** These may represent a temporary setback e.g. a night in jail, probation, counseling, but most will be able to recover afterwards and will continue their lives normally soon afterwards.

3 – **Serious punishment:** Fines for these trespasses are much larger, and jail time or similar may last for an extended period of time. These crimes will usually be put on an individual's permanent record, if one exists, and will impact them for several years (or their equivalent) or more.

4 – **Very heavily punished:** Prison time and permanent, forced changes in lifestyles will be issued for these infractions. People who commit these crimes need to be corrected or removed from interacting with others for an extended period.

5 – **Highest punishment possible:** In some places, these will be met with the death penalty, if one exists. Permanent imprisonment, permanent alteration of mind and/or body, or some other type of restraint will be implemented in these cases.

STEP 2.

For each crime listed in the table on the next page, place an X in the appropriate box representing how your people punish those who commit this act, where 0-5 represent the options listed above. The resulting table will serve as a quick reference for how your society/world handles deviance and can be used as a resource as you continue to build the rest of your world. I've included some empty rows towards the bottom as well, so you can add items that may be unique to your world in particular.

MY WORLD NAME

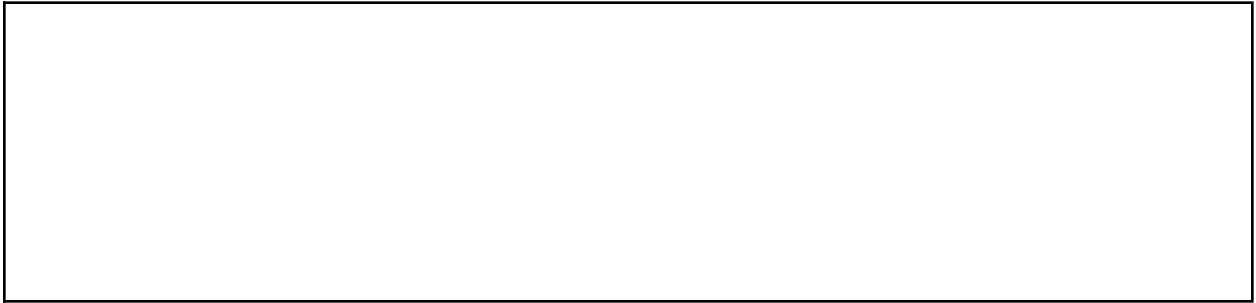
TYPES OF PUNISHMENTS

0 – Not illegal:

1 – Punished lightly:

2 – Basic punishment:

3 – Serious Punishment:



4 –Very Heavily Punished::



5 - Highest punishment possible



Crime	0 – None	1: Light	2: Basic	3: Serious	4: Heavy	5: Highest
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Abortion						
Abuse of the vulnerable (elders, children)						
Addiction						
Adultery						
Altercations						
Assault						
Blasphemy						
Blood feuding						
Bribery						
Cheating (as on a test)						
Coercion						
Conspiracy						
Cruelty to animals						
Debt						
Defiance against Authority						
Destruction of property						
Distribution of contraband						
Domestic Violence						
Dueling						
Embezzling						
Extortion						
Forgery						
Fraud						
Gambling						
Gang violence						
General abuse						
Harassment						
Hate crimes						
Heresy						
Identity theft						

Crime	0 – None	1: Light	2: Basic	3: Serious	4: Heavy	5: Highest
Incest						
Indecent exposure						
Indigency/begging						
Infanticide						
Intellectual property theft						
Kidnapping						
Lying						
Military desertion						
Money Laundering						
Mutiny						
Negligence						
Negligent murder						
Piracy						
Poisoning						
Pornography						
Possession of contraband						
Premeditated murder						
Prostitution						
Public inebriation						
Racketeering						
Rape						
Reckless behavior						
Sexual deviance (define as you will)						
Slavery						
Smuggling						
Stalking						
Suicide						
Tax evasion						
Terrorism						
Thievery						
Threats of violence/retaliation						
Torture						

Crime	0 – None	1: Light	2: Basic	3: Serious	4: Heavy	5: Highest
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Treason						
Trespassing						
Usury/excessive usury						
Vowbreaking						