



MALTESE COURT SYSTEM SIMPLIFIED: CRIMINAL ISSUES

The courts are divided into **Superior** (Court of Criminal Appeal & the Criminal Court) and **Inferior** Courts (Court of Magistrates).

Constitutional Court	As an Appeals Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> on interpretation of the Constitution validity of laws breaches of fundamental human rights
Court of Criminal Appeal	Appeals by persons convicted by the Criminal Court	
Criminal Court	Appeals against decisions of the Court of Magistrates (Criminal Judicature)	
Criminal Court	Criminal cases punishable by a term of more than 10 yrs. Defendants charged with an offence punishable by more than 6 months but less than 10 yrs. imprisonment can opt for their trial to be heard before the Court of Magistrates*	
Court of Magistrates	Court of Criminal Inquiry	Conducts preliminary inquiries in respect of criminal offences
	Court of Criminal Judicature*	All offences punishable by a term of up to 6 months' imprisonment. Referred cases punishable with a sentence of up to 10 years*
	Juvenile Court	Charges against and other proceedings (e.g. issuing of Care Orders) relating children under 16 years of age

COURT OF MAGISTRATES - GOZO

Criminal		
Court of Criminal Inquiry	Conducts preliminary inquiries in respect of criminal offences	
Court of Criminal Judicature*	All offences punishable by a term of up to 6 months' imprisonment. Referred cases punishable with a sentence of up to 10 years.	

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