

# Supplemental Glossary

**ancillary powers doctrine:** The process through which new police powers can be created by way of common law (also known as case law or precedent). Common law is developed by judges through decisions of the courts rather than through legislative action by Parliament.

**child savers:** White, college-educated members of the middle and upper classes who, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, established informal charities and grassroots organizations that led to the creation of a juvenile court and reform in compulsory education, child labour, juvenile institutions, and juvenile probation.

**civilianization:** The process of transferring non-core police functions from police officers to civilian employees.

**concurrent sentence:** A sentence that allows the convicted offender to serve two or more sentences simultaneously; the total time the offender serves is equal to the longest sentence.

**consecutive sentence:** A sentence in which the convicted offender serves two or more sentences one after the other; the total time the offender serves is equal to the total time of the sentences imposed.

**crime rate:** A measure of how much crime is known about for any given region or population, calculated by adding up all of the criminal incidents that have been reported to the police and dividing by the population. In Canada, these data are taken from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey.

**“dangerous offender” designation:** A designation given to individuals if it can be shown that they pose a significant risk of committing a future violent or sexual offence. The provision can be found in section 753 of the *Criminal Code*.

**dark figure of crime:** A term used in criminology and criminal justice studies to refer to the vast amount of criminal activity that is not reported to police, leaving the total amount of crime in any given society impossible to know.

**deterrence:** A philosophical approach to crime that focuses on what forms of punishment are necessary to prevent crime from happening. It has two forms: specific and general. Specific deterrence seeks to punish the individual offender just enough to stop her from committing any future crimes. General deterrence seeks to punish offenders severely enough that the general population will choose not to commit crime.

**faint hope clause:** Found in section 745.6 of the *Criminal Code*, it provides persons convicted of the country’s most serious offences (i.e., murder or high treason) and who have been sentenced to life imprisonment without the eligibility for parole the opportunity to apply for parole after they have served 15 years of their sentence. It is not permitted in cases where persons have committed more than one murder and is called the “faint hope” clause because of how few applications made under this clause have been successful.

**fine:** Paid by the offender directly to government; the money collected is used to pay for various judicial services and resources.

**“good and evil” test:** Used to determine whether a child could be found guilty based on their ability to distinguish between the concepts of good and evil. If a reasonable doubt were raised concerning the ability to perceive the difference, the child could not be punished.

**generalists:** Front-line officers who are expected to have a wide range of community resources, skills, and connections to prevent, respond to, and intervene in a variety of calls for service.

**Gladue decision:** A 1999 landmark ruling where the Supreme Court of Canada determined that it was imperative that the court system take into account the colonialist actions targeted at Indigenous people in Canada, based on the case of Jamie Lynn Gladue, who was found guilty of murdering her common law husband while under the influence of alcohol. Gladue successfully appealed her sentence of federal custody by arguing that the court had not taken into account distinct cultural issues affecting Indigenous people. As a result, courts must now consider culture-specific and gender-specific issues to better understand who the offender is as a person.

**indictable offence:** A serious offence such as murder, with longer periods of imprisonment and more complex prosecution procedures than those for summary conviction offences. Some offences have a minimum term and a maximum term of incarceration; others have no minimum term, but have a maximum term of incarceration; and still others carry the maximum sentence possible, which is life imprisonment.

**Locard’s exchange principle:** A basic principle of forensic science introduced by Edmond Locard who recognized that every contact involves an exchange of physical materials that can be later analyzed scientifically.

**neighbourhood watch:** A structured program that involves a group of neighbours organized to prevent crime and disorder problems within a residential neighbourhood or apartment building. Residents are trained to keep an eye out for suspicious individuals or activities and to call police when such circumstances are spotted. Also referred to as *block watch* or *crime watch*.

**net widening:** A term used to describe the effects of providing alternatives to incarceration that deal with offenders outside the court system in order to reduce the numbers of people going to court, and ultimately entering correctional systems. Rather than decreasing the number of offenders in custody, net widening has increased the total number of offenders under the control of the state.

**penology:** The multidisciplinary study of the justifications of penalties and social sanctions that seek to understand broader questions concerning who we punish, for what offence, when, and why. The penologist seeks to understand the deployment of penalties within their social, historical, economic, and political contexts.

**private security personnel:** Private security personnel have the same “arrest and detain” powers as an ordinary citizen. While they perform some duties with regard to property protection that are similar to those of the public police, they are often paid by an employer to tend to security needs that are not in the public interest realm, such as controlling property and access to property.

**restitution order:** An order for the offender to pay money directly to the victim(s) of the crime for financial losses incurred as a result of the offender’s crime.

**safety and security web:** A source of specialized knowledge, skills, and resources that can assist police in responding to internal and external trends and challenges in policing.

**status offences:** Acts that are considered illegal only because of the age status of the offender.

**summary conviction offence:** A less serious offence that is tried using a simplified set of rules of procedure. The maximum term of incarceration is six months.

**thin blue thread:** A symbolic representation of the police as a thread woven thorough the communities they serve—a thread that helps hold those communities together; put forth as an alternative to the thin blue line metaphor Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey.

**victim surcharge:** A monetary penalty paid by an offender to the province or territory where sentencing occurs; the money collected is used to support victims of crime in the jurisdiction.

**white-collar crime:** A term initially coined by sociologist Edwin Sutherland in 1939 to refer to the illegal and fraudulent activities of corporate executives, business personnel, and other persons of high social status that are committed for the purposes of financial gain.

**youth record:** When a young person is found guilty of a criminal offence, the individual will receive a youth record. The period of time that a youth record may be accessed after a finding of guilt varies, depending on the type of sentence. If a young person is convicted of a subsequent offence, the access period is recalculated.