

## HANDOUT 2: Does the Supreme Court of BC Hear This Case?

Use this information on the Supreme Court of British Columbia to answer these questions.

The Supreme Court and Provincial Court hear criminal cases of the most serious crimes such as manslaughter, aggravated assault, bank robbery and major drug cases. The accused will choose between a judge or a judge and jury trial if charged with certain types of offences.

In the case of a murder, hijacking or treason, the accused must have a trial in the Supreme Court. In some criminal cases tried in the BC Supreme Court, a preliminary inquiry is held in Provincial Court before the case is heard in Supreme Court. The Crown must present enough evidence to commit the accused to trial in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of BC does not hear criminal cases involving youth between the ages of 12 and 17. These cases are heard in the Youth Division of the Provincial Court of BC.

The Supreme Court also hears civil trials involving matters such as bankruptcy, personal injury claims and contract disputes as well as judicial reviews of administrative tribunals. Cases of libel, slander and malicious prosecution are also heard here. These disputes often are about contracts, personal injury, divorce, custody and wills. These too can be heard by a judge or jury.

If a person is not happy with a decision that was made at the Supreme Court of BC, they can file for an appeal. The appeal will be heard at the BC Court of Appeal.

Which of these cases would be heard in the Supreme Court of BC?

1. John Locke decides to have a law suit for personal injuries of \$28,000.
2. Melisa George is accused of murdering her husband.
3. Anne Bouvier is caught shoplifting.
4. Mark Lennard is 17 years old and is charged with break and enter.
5. Sarah and Bert Smith are getting a divorce.
6. 14-year-old Sarah Jones is charged with assault.
7. A couple takes the contractor of their home renovation to court for the loss of \$9,000 because the contractor did not complete the renovation.
8. Dwayne's contractor did not complete the house the way he said he would. It will cost over \$35,000 to complete. Dwayne is suing the contractor.
9. Jason's neighbour damaged his fence. It cost \$1,200 to repair.
10. The jury found Susan guilty of assault causing bodily harm.
11. Chu was charged with trafficking large quantities of controlled drugs.