

Virginia Felony Crimes

Class 1 Felonies (Va. Ann. Code § 18.2-10.)

Under Virginia's laws, the most serious felonies are Class 1 felonies, punishable by life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$100,000. If the defendant was over the age of 18 at the time of the offense and not mentally retarded, Class 1 felonies may also be punishable by death. Murder is an example of a Class 1 felony.

Class 2 Felonies (Va. Ann. Code § 18.2-10.)

A Class 2 felony is punishable by imprisonment for 20 years' to life and a fine of up to \$100,000. Aggravated malicious wounding (intentionally causing another permanent and significant physical impairment) is an example of a Class 2 felony in Virginia.

Class 3 Felonies (Va. Ann. Code § 18.2-10.)

A conviction for a Class 3 felony can result in a prison term of five to 20 years and a fine of up to \$100,000. Malicious wounding (purposely causing another injury with the intent to kill, disfigure, or disable) is a Class 3 felony in Virginia.

Class 4 Felonies (Va. Ann. Code § 18.2-10.)

A Class 4 felony is punishable by two to ten years' imprisonment and a fine of up to \$100,000. Pimping is a Class 4 felony in Virginia.

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Class 5 Felonies (Va. Ann. Code § 18.2-10.)

Class 5 felonies are “wobblers,” crimes that can be either a felony or a misdemeanor, depending on how the crime is charged and, sometimes, how the judge or jury decides to treat a conviction. Class 5 felonies in Virginia are punishable by:

- one to ten years in prison (when the conviction is a felony), or
- up to 12 months in jail and a fine of \$2,500 (misdemeanor).

Battery (causing injury to another) by a prisoner is a Class 5 felony.

Class 6 Felonies (Va. Ann. Code § 18.2-10.)

Class 6 felonies are the least serious felonies in Virginia. Like Class 5 felonies, Class 6 felonies are wobblers, punishable by:

- one to five years in prison (felony), or
- up to 12 months in jail and a fine of \$2,500.

Donating or attempting to donate blood infected by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is an example of a Class 6 felony.

Statutes of Limitations

A statute of limitations is a time period during which the state must begin criminal prosecution. The statute of limitations begins to “run” when the crime is committed.

In Virginia, the most serious crimes (murder and manslaughter) have no statutes of limitations.

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