

# Virginia Misdemeanor Crimes

## **Class 1 Misdemeanors** (Va. Ann. Code §§ 18.2-11, 18.2-12.)

Class 1 misdemeanors are the most serious misdemeanors in Virginia. A Class 1 misdemeanor is punishable by:

- up to 12 months in jail
- a fine of up to \$2,500, or
- both.

If lawmakers fail to designate a misdemeanor or set forth a particular punishment, then a crime is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

## **Class 2 Misdemeanors** (Va. Ann. Code § 18.2-11.)

Class 2 misdemeanors are punishable by:

- up to six months in jail
- a fine of up to \$1,000, or
- both.

## **Class 3 and 4 Misdemeanors** (Va. Ann. Code § 18.2-11.)

Class 3 and 4 misdemeanors, the least serious misdemeanors, are punishable by fines, but no jail time. A Class 3 misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of up to \$500. A Class 4 misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of up to \$250.

## **Statutes of Limitations**

Most crimes have a statute of limitations, a time period during which the state must begin criminal prosecution or the defendant can have the case dismissed. When the crime is committed, the statute of limitations begins to “run.” Misdemeanors in Virginia have statutes of limitations of one year.

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