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CANADIAN CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES

John L. Gibson

Release No. 5, August 2025

This publication is an acclaimed practice manual for Crown counsel, defence counsel, judges and police. The manual brings together in one place essential information about more than 50 commonly charged *Criminal Code* offences. The offences are organized alphabetically into individual, tabbed chapters for immediate access. Each chapter contains the full text of the *Criminal Code* sections and any other statutory provisions that relate to the offence, available defences, the best wording of the charge, the elements to be proved, procedural considerations, up-to-date case law, recent, significant changes in the law, and forms.

This release features updates to the commentary and case law in the following chapters: 44 (Weapon and Firearms — Definitions and Background), 45 (Weapon and Firearms — Possession Offences), 46 (Weapon and Firearms — Carrying, Handling and Storage), and 47 (Weapon and Firearms — Pointing, Discharging; Using for Indictable Offences).

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Release Highlights

New cases discussed with this release include the following:

- **Weapons and Firearms – Possession Offences** – According to the British Columbia Court of Appeal, the possession of multiple firearms that violate more than one offence provision of the *Criminal Code* could result in separate convictions: *R. v. Donovan*, 2025 BCCA 30, 2025 CarswellBC 277 (B.C. C.A.).
- **Weapons and Firearms – Carrying, Handling and Storage** – The Supreme Court of Canada affirmed that self-defence does not automatically render possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose lawful. While the intention to possess must be subjective, assessment of the dangerousness of the possession is objective – so, if the defendant could have avoided the dangerous situation, but chose to arm himself instead, then the court may hold him liable, notwithstanding his subjective intention to defend himself: *R. v. Bilodeau*, 2025 SCC 2, 2025 CarswellAlta 336 (S.C.C.).

ProView Developments

Your ProView edition of this product now has a new, modified layout:

- The opening page is now the title page of the book as you would see in the print work
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- The Table of Cases and Index are now in PDF with no searching and linking
- The Table of Contents now has internal links to every chapter and section of the book within ProView
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