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Self-Incrimination

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Synonyms

[Compulsory self-incrimination](#); [Pleading the fifth](#)

Definition

Self-incrimination is the act of accusing oneself of a crime for which a person can then be prosecuted.

The act of self-incrimination may happen either directly or indirectly. Oftentimes, a person directly incriminates when they disclose information that is self-incriminating during an interrogation and under pressure from another. Individuals have a tendency to indirectly self-incriminate when they provide information without the pressure from another individual and by nature is done so voluntarily.

References and Readings

Levy, L. W. (1986). *Origins of the fifth amendment* (Reprint ed.). New York: Macmillan.