

Protecting the administration of justice

Main types of contempt of court



Disobeying a court order



Interfering with or prejudicing an ongoing court case



Scandalising the court by making personal attacks on the judiciary

I do not want to commit contempt of court. Can I do this?

✓ YES

- Privately discuss whether the accused person is guilty. For example, with your family member at home.
- Publicly push for a change in the law which the accused person is charged with. For example, whether the maximum punishment for the offence should be raised.
- Publicly discuss whether the judgment or sentence is fair, after the case has concluded. For example, publish an academic article criticising the judge's reasoning.
- Report a judge's misconduct or corruption through the proper channels. For example, to the Chief Justice or police.

✗ NO

- Run a campaign claiming that the accused person is guilty, while the case is ongoing.
- Publish interviews with a witness while the case is ongoing, especially when the witness has not given evidence in court yet.
- Disrupt a court proceeding. For example, shout and make a nuisance of oneself in the courtroom.
- Make a baseless accusation that a judge is corrupt or biased. For example, accuse a judge of giving a lighter sentence because the accused person is rich and famous.

NOTE: These are only examples. The courts will interpret the law and decide each case on its own facts.