

## **Swiss Criminal Law**

#### Dr. iur. Nadine Zurkinden

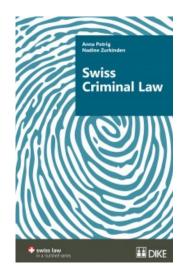


### **Criminal Law**

**Current positions** 

- Senior Assistant for Substantive and Procedural Criminal Law (since June 2018)
- lawyer for the road traffic department of the Basel Cantonal Police.

Co-author of Swiss Criminal Law (with Anna Petrig, 2015).





## **Translated Legislation**

#### Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation

https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19995395/index.html

#### **Swiss Criminal Code**

https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19370083/index.html Swiss Criminal Procedure Code

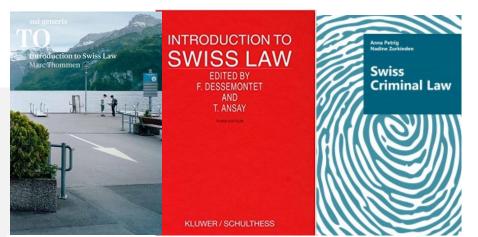
https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20052319/index.html

See also www.rwi.uzh.ch/thommen for further information.



## Literature in English

- Marc Thommen, Introduction to Swiss Law, Zurich 2018 > http://www.introductiontoswisslaw.ch/
- Anna Petrig/Nadine Zurkinden, Swiss Criminal Law, Zurich 2015
- François Dessemontet/Tugrul Ansay (eds.), Introduction to Swiss Law, 3rd ed., The Hague 2004
- Max Planck Information System for Comparative Criminal Law: Infocrim.org



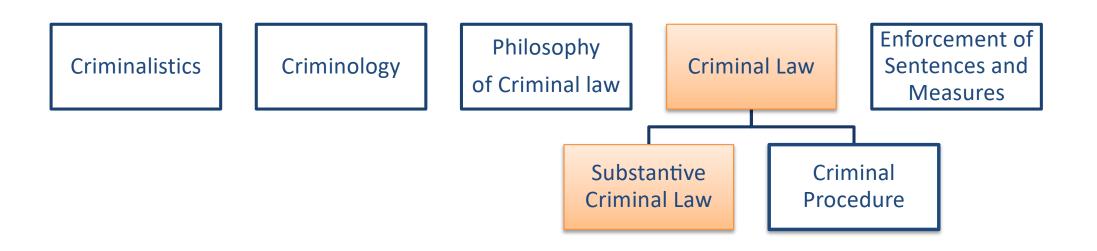
Information System for Comparative Criminal Law Introduction to the Legal System and Foundations of Criminal Law

The Information System contains complete and partial country reports covering **25 legal systems**. All reports share a **common structure** to simplify the comparison. The project is designed as a **work in progress**, therefore the reports are supplemented on a regular basis.

# 1. Select the countries you want to compare. ... (e.g. China, France and Turkey) 2. Select a topic. (optional) ... (e.g. purposes of punishment, intent or self-defense)



#### Swiss Criminal Law





## Case Examples 1/2

- X hikes in the nudes in the beautiful canton Appenzell.
- Swiss politician buys one gram of cocaine from a busker in the streets of Bern and stashes it in the parliament building overnight.
- 16 year old climate activist daubed a bank building to protest against the bank's investments in fossil fuels.
- Farmer destroys a stork's nest in spring.



Photo by Jeremy Wermeille on Unst



## Case Examples 2/2

- Swiss fighter jet pilot causes crash by he failing to respect the rules for minimum flight altitudes for combat and training exercises.
- X causes car crash because she diregards the right of way. A child is hurt.
- «Monster of Rupperswil» abuses and kills child. He also kills mother, brother and brother's girlfriend. He suffers from mental disorders.



Vasily Koloda on Unsplash

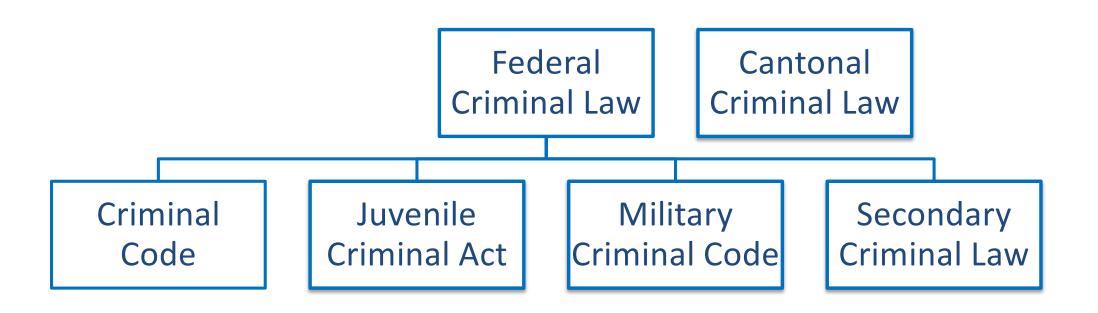


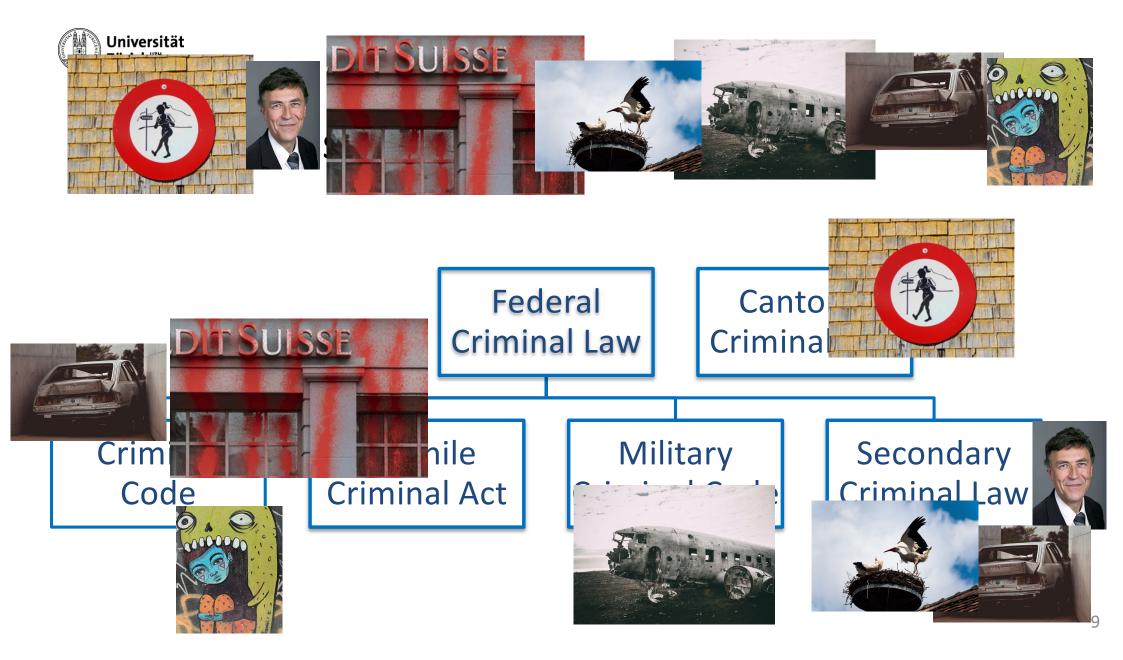


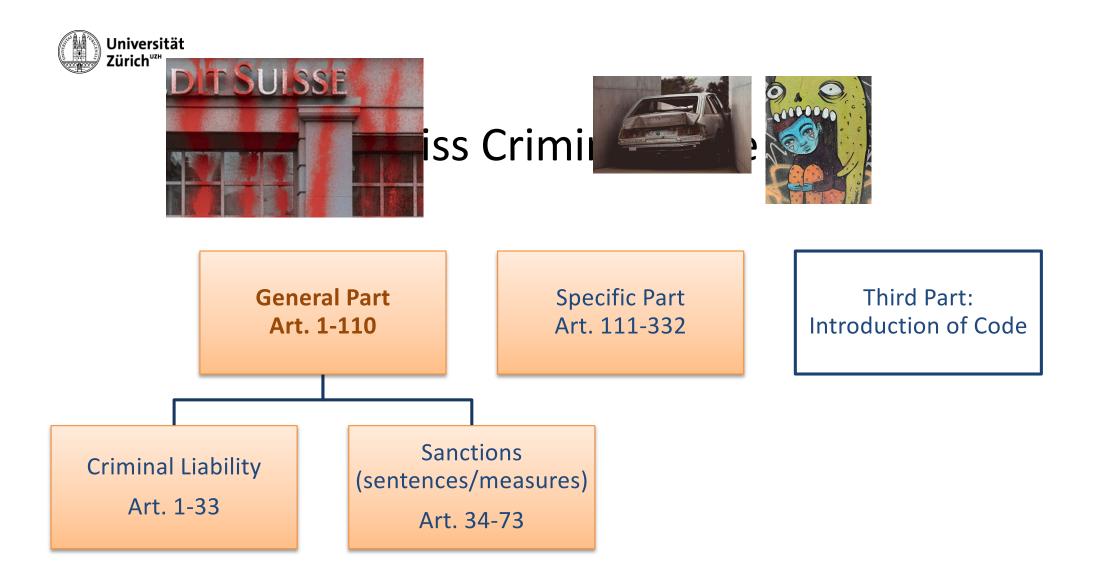
Gareth Harrison, Unsplash

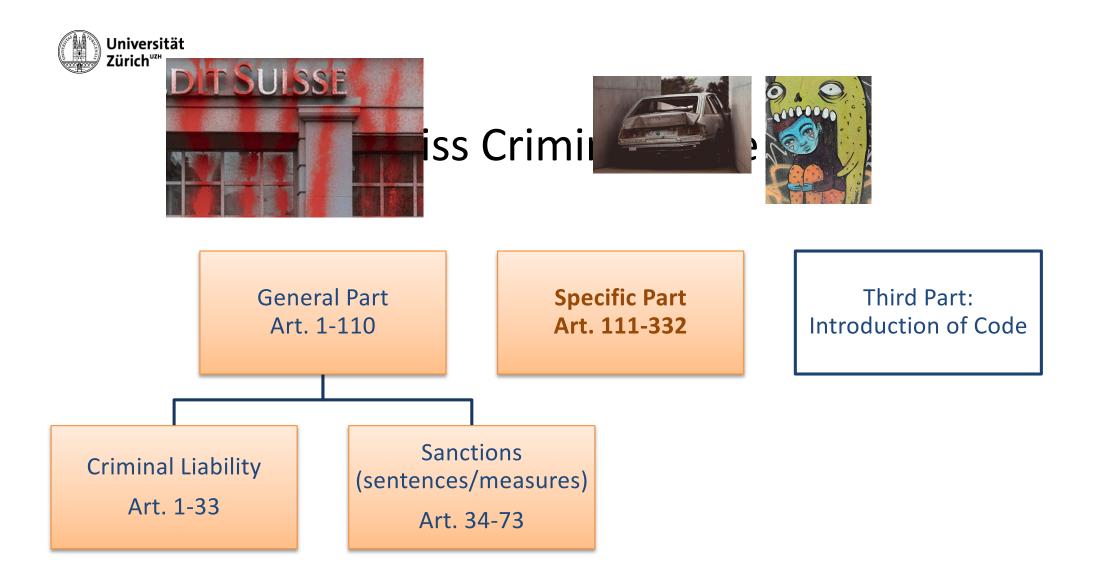


#### Swiss Substantive Criminal Law



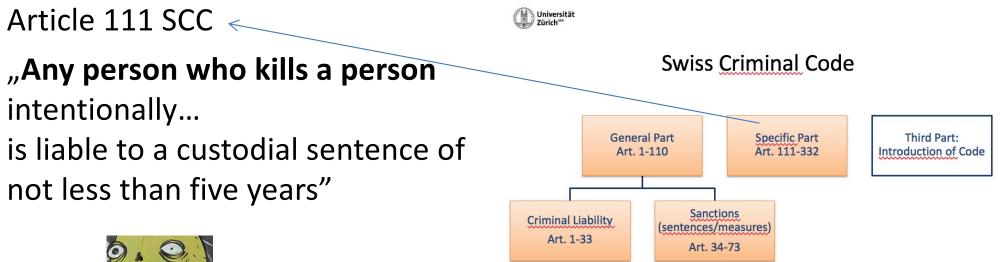








## How do the different parts work together?







#### **Specific Criminal Acts**

Life and Limb (Art. 111 ff.) Property (Art. 137 ff.) Personal Honour (Art. 173 ff.) Liberty (Art. 180 ff.) Sexual Integrity (Art. 187 ff.) Family (Art. 213 ff.) Public (Art. 221 ff.) Counterfeiting of Money (Art. 240 ff.) Forgery (Art. 251 ff.) Public Order (Art. 258 ff.) Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes (Art. 264 ff.) State and National Security (Art. 265 ff.) Will of the People (Art. 279 ff.) Official Powers (Art. 285 ff.) Foreign Relations (Art. 296 ff.) Administration of Justice (Art. 303 ff.) Offences against Official or Professional Duty (Art. 312 ff.) Bribery (Art. 322ter ff.)

Fitle One: Offences against Life and Limb	
1. Homicide.	
Intentional homicide	Art. 111
Murder	Art. 112
Manslaughter	Art. 113
Homicide at the request of the victim	Art. 114
Inciting and assisting suicide	Art. 115
Infanticide	Art. 116
Homicide through negligence	Art. 117
2. Abortion.	
Illegal abortion	Art. 118
Legal abortion	Art. 119
Contraventions by physicians	Art. 120
Repealed	Art. 121
3. Assault	
Serious assault	Art. 122
Common assault	Art. 123
Female genital mutilation	Art. 124
Assault through negligence	Art. 125
Acts of aggression	Art. 126
<ol><li>Endangering the life or health of another.</li></ol>	
Abandonment	Art. 127
Failure to offer aid in an emergency	Art. 128
False alarm	Art. 128 <sup>bis</sup>
Endangering life	Art. 129
Repealed	Art. 130-132
Brawling	Art. 133
Attack	Art. 134
Representations of acts of violence	Art. 135
Administering substances capable of causing injury to childre	n Art. 136



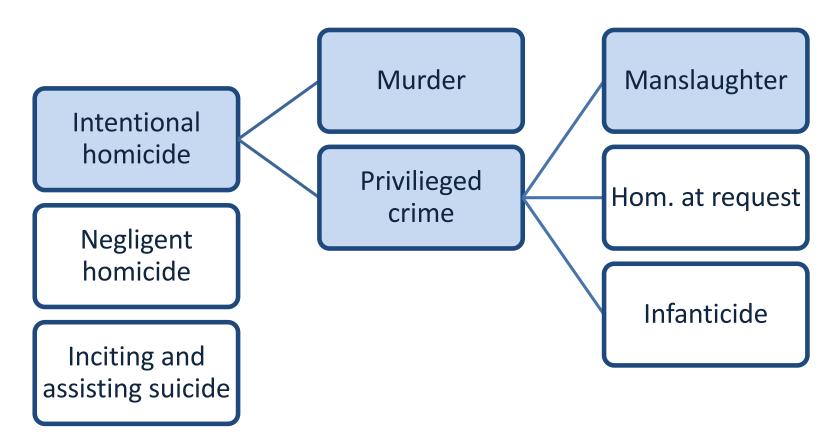
#### Article 111 Intentional homicide

Any person who kills a person intentionally, but without fulfilling the special requirements of the following articles, is liable to a custodial sentence of not less than five years.





## E.g. types of homicide





#### Article 112 Murder

Where the offender acts in a particularly unscrupulous manner, in which the motive, the objective or the method of commission is particularly depraved, the penalty is a custodial sentence for life or a custodial sentence of not less than ten years.





### Article 113 Manslaughter

Where the offender acts in a state of extreme emotion that is excusable in the circumstances, or in a state of profound psychological stress, the penalty is a custodial sentence from one to ten years.





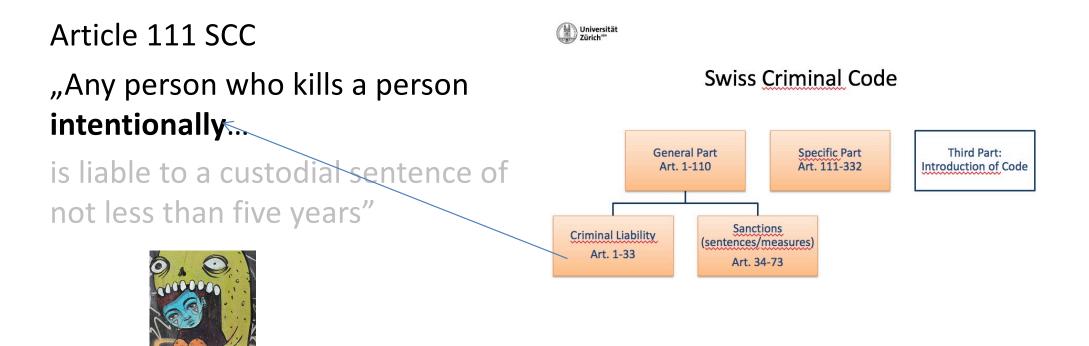
## Domestic Tyrant (BGE 122 IV 1)

Y constantly abused his wife X. In January 1993, he told their daughter that her mother was going to die during the course of that year. On 15 March 1993, Y showed his wife a revolver he had bought in order to kill her. He then put it under his pillow and went to sleep. At one o'clock in the morning, X took the revolver and shot Y dead while he was sleeping.





## How do the different parts work together?





#### General Part I – Art. 1-33 CC

#### General Provisions on Criminal Liability that apply to all offences

- Territorial Application
- Crime Categories
- Intention/Negligence
- Excuses/Defences
- Law on Attempts
- Participation/Complicity

#### Table of contents

#### **Book One: General Provisions** Part One: Felonies and Misdemeanours Title One: Scope of Application 1. No penalty without a law Art. 1 2. Commencement of applicability of the Code Art. 2 3. Territorial scope of application. Felonies or misdemean ours in Switzerland Art. 3 Felonies or misdemeanours against the state committed abroad Art. 4 Offences against minors abroad Art. 5 Offences committed abroad prosecuted in terms of an international obligation Art. 6 Other offences committed abroad Art 7 Place of commission Art. 8 4. Personal scope of application Art 9 Title Two: Criminal Liability 1. Felonies and misdemeanours Definition Art. 10 Commission by omission Art 11 2. Intention and negligence. Definitions Art. 12 Error of fact Art. 13 3. Lawful acts and guilt. Art. 14 Act permitted by law Legitimate self-defence Art. 15 Mitigatory self-defence Art. 16 Legitimate act in a situation of necessity Art. 17 Mitigatory act in a situation of necessity Art. 18 Absence of legal responsibility due to a mental disorder and diminished responsibility Art. 19 Doubt as to legal responsibility Art. 20 Error as to unlawfulness Art. 21 4. Attempts. Criminal liability for attempts Art. 22 Withdrawal and active repentance Art. 23



## **Criminal Liability**

Elements of Crime	<ul> <li>Objective Elements</li> <li>Offender</li> <li>Object of the Crime</li> <li>Act</li> <li>Result</li> <li>Causation</li> </ul>	Subjective Elements - Direct Intent - Conditional Intent	Objective Wrong
Unlawfulness	Justification - Self-Defence - Necessity - Consent	- Knowledge (of threat) - Will (to defend)	
Culpability	<ul> <li>Criminal Responsibility</li> <li>Error of Law</li> <li>Unreasonableness</li> </ul>		Subjective Blame

## E.g.: Art. 19 Absence of legal responsibility due to a mental disorder and diminished responsibility

<sup>1</sup> If the person concerned was unable at the time of the act to **appreciate that his act was wrong** or to **act in accordance** with this appreciation of the act, he is **not liable to a penalty**.

<sup>2</sup> If the person concerned was **only partially able** at the time of the act to appreciate that his act was wrong or to act in accordance with this appreciation of the act, the court shall **reduce the sentence**.

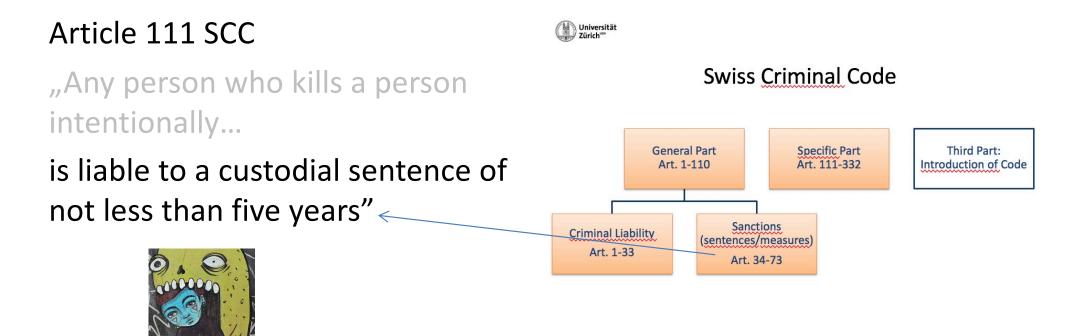
<sup>3</sup> Measures in accordance with Articles 59–61, 63, 64, 67, 67*b* and 67*e* may, however, be taken.

<sup>4</sup> If it was **possible** for the person concerned **to avoid** his state of mental incapacity or diminished responsibility **and** had he done so to **foresee** the act that may be committed in that state, paragraphs 1–3 do not apply.





## How do the different parts work together?





### Death penalty is history

13 June 1782: Anna Göldi(n) > last person executed/beheaded for witchcraft in Europe.

18 October 1940: Hans Vollenweider > Last person executed in Switzerland



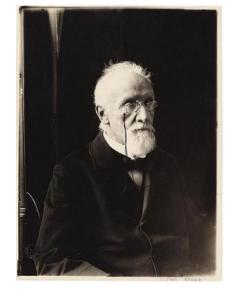
Fictional portrait by Patrick Lo Giudice





## Carl Stooss (1849-1934)

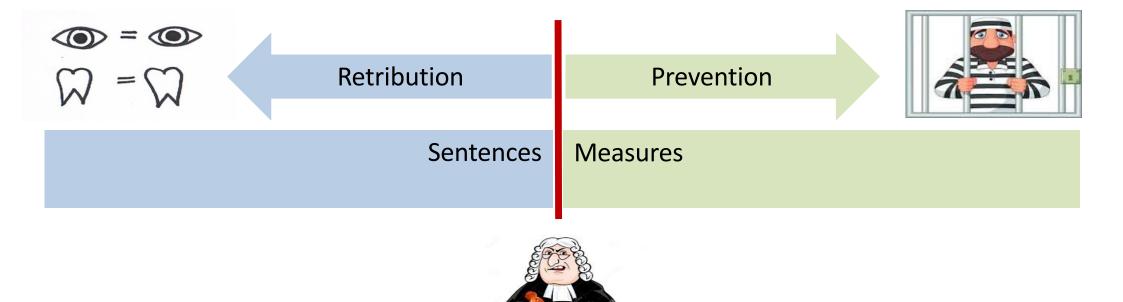
 His dual system of sanctions
 → Sentences and Measures
 had great influence on legal systems of other european countries

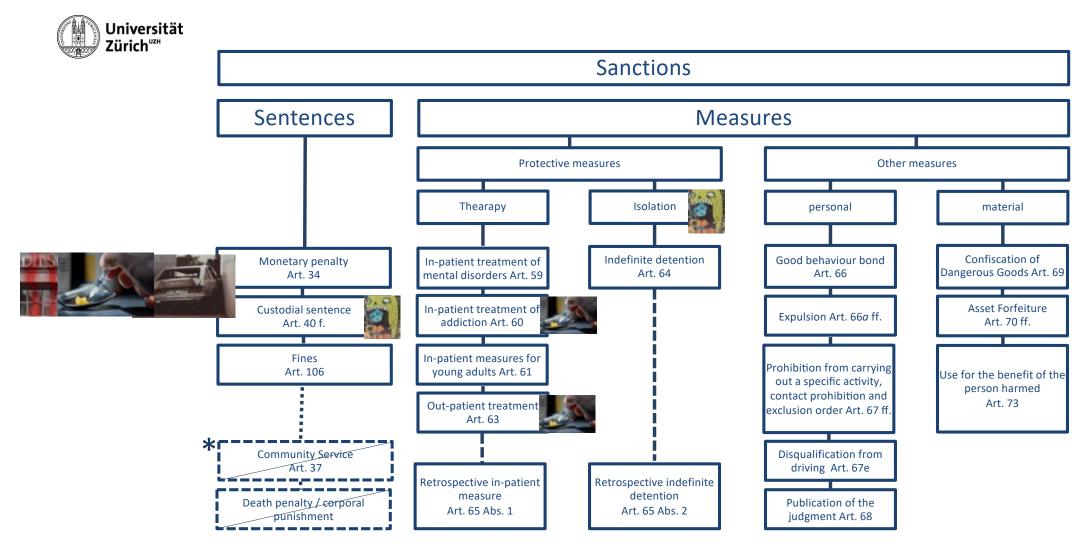


Carl Stooss (1849-1934)



### **Dual System of Sanctions**





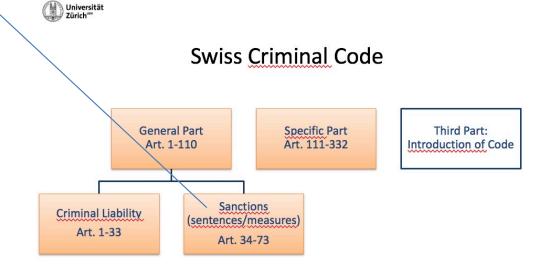
\* Community service is no longer a separate type of sentence. However all sentences up to 6 months can be converted into community service (Art. 79*a*).

## Art. 57 – Relationship between measures and sentences

<sup>1</sup> If the requirements for both a penalty [sentence] and a measure are fulfilled, the court shall order both sanctions.

<sup>2</sup> The implementation of a measure under Articles 59-61 takes precedence over a custodial sentence that is imposed at the same time or which is executed through revocation of a suspended sentence or recall to custody. Likewise, the reactivation of the execution of a measure in accordance with Article 62*a* takes precedence over a cumulative sentence imposed at the same time.

<sup>3</sup> The deprivation of liberty associated with the measure must be taken into account in determining the penalty [sentence].



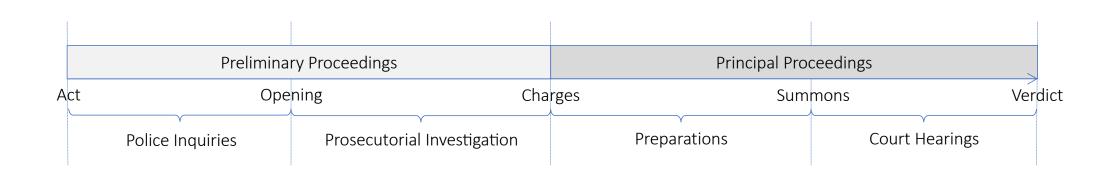
- Title 1 Scope of Application and Principles
- Title 2 Criminal Justice Authorities
- Title 3 Parties
- Title 4 Evidence
- Title 5 Compulsory Measures
- Title 6 Preliminary Proceedings
- Title 7 Main Proceedings of First Instance
- Title 8 Special Procedures
- Title 9 Appellate Remedies
- Title 10 Procedural Costs
- Title 11 Legal Effect and Execution of Decisions
- Title 12 Final Provisions

#### Swiss Criminal Procedure Code

#### (Criminal Procedure Code, CrimPC)

of 5 October 2007 (Status as of 1 March 2019).

The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,



#### Title 1 Scope of Application and Principles

- Title 2 Criminal Justice Authorities
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### Art. 7 – Obligation to prosecute

1 The criminal justice authorities are obliged to commence and conduct proceedings that fall within their jurisdiction where they are aware of or have grounds for suspecting that an offence has been committed.

#### Swiss Criminal Procedure Code

#### (Criminal Procedure Code, CrimPC)

of 5 October 2007 (Status as of 1 March 2019).

The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,

- Title 1 Scope of Application and Principles
- Title 2 Criminal Justice Authorities
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#### **Swiss Criminal Procedure Code**

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#### The prosecution authorities are:

- a. the police;
- b. the public prosecutor;
- C. ...

#### Swiss Criminal Procedure Code

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The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,

## Police

- -Secure evidence
- -Find suspects
- Examination hearings

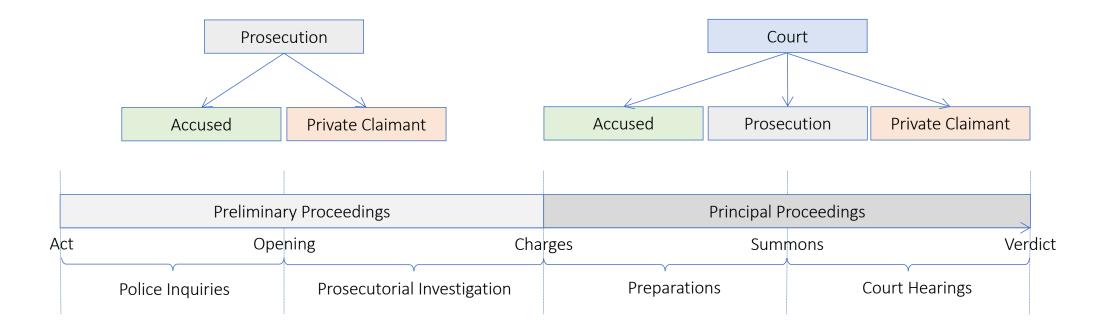


### **Public Prosecutor**

- Formal head of the investigation (Art. 16)
- Becomes party to the trial proceedings once the charges are brought before court (Art. 104 I c)



# Swiss Criminal Procedure



# Art. 13 – Courts

The following bodies have judicial powers in criminal proceedings:

- -Complaints Authority
- -Coercive Measures Court
- -Court of First Instance
- -Court of Appeal

### Swiss Criminal Procedure Code

### (Criminal Procedure Code, CrimPC)

of 5 October 2007 (Status as of 1 March 2019).

The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,

# **Criminal Procedure**

- Title 1 Scope of Application and Principles
- Title 2 Criminal Justice Authorities

### - Title 3 Parties

- Title 4 Evidence
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The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,

- 1 Parties are:
- a. the accused;
- b. the private claimant;
- c. in the main hearing and in appellate proceedings: the public prosecutor.

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The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,

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of 5 October 2007 (Status as of 1 March 2019).

The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,

- the accused is a person suspectted, accused of or charged with an offence (Art. 111)
- Party in the Criminal Proceedings (Art. 104 I)
- -Nemo tenetur (Art. 113 I)



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- a. the accused;
- b. the private claimant;
- c. in the main hearing and in appellate proceedings: the public prosecutor.

### Swiss Criminal Procedure Code

### (Criminal Procedure Code, CrimPC)

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The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,

# Art. 115 – The aggrieved person

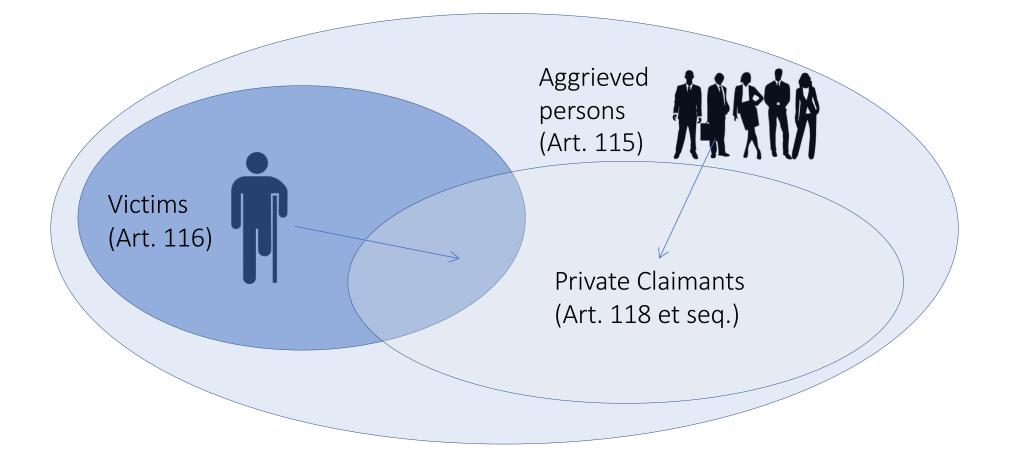
An aggrieved person is a person whose rights have been directly violated by the criminal offence.



# Art. 116 – The victim

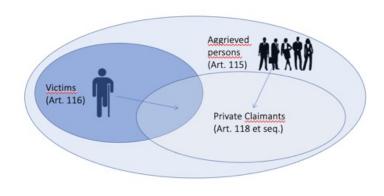
- Victim is a person who suffered physical, sexual or mental harm from an offence (Art. 116)
- Status: Special protection and rights under the Federal Act on Support to Victims of Crime (2007)
- Special rights that apply only to «victims» and not «aggrieved persons»



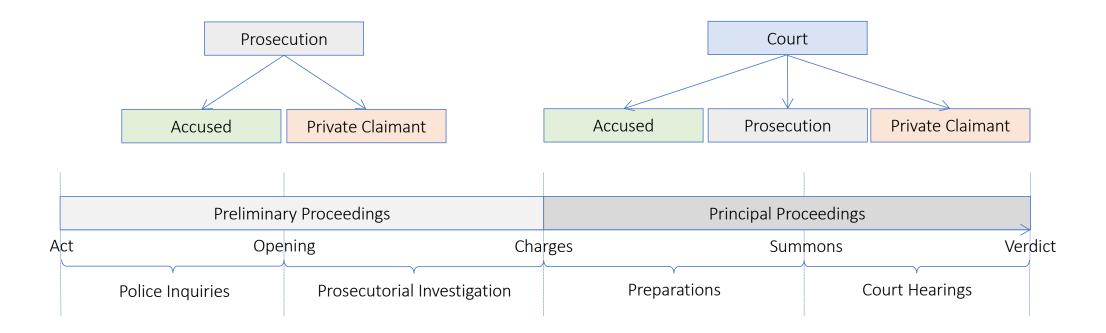


# Art. 118 et seq. – Private claimants

- Be present at hearing of accused
- See evidence
- Plead to charges
- Demand compensation



## Parties



# Art. 127 – Legal Advisors

The accused, the private claimant and the other people involved in the proceedings may appoint a legal advisor to safeguard their interests.

#### Swiss Criminal Procedure Code

#### (Criminal Procedure Code, CrimPC)

of 5 October 2007 (Status as of 1 March 2019).

The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,

# Art. 158 – Cautioning

# 1 The police or prosecution shall inform the accused that :

- a. preliminary proceedings have been instituted...
- b. that he/she may refuse to make statements or to participate
- c. that he/she is entitled to appoint defence counsel or where appropriate to request a legal aid defence counsel;
- d. that he/she may request an interpreter.

2 Examination hearings which take place despite the fact that this information was not first provided shall not be used.

#### **Swiss Criminal Procedure Code**

### (Criminal Procedure Code, CrimPC)

of 5 October 2007 (Status as of 1 March 2019).

The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,

### Art. 130 – Mandatory appointment of a defence lawyer

A defence lawyer must be appointed to represent the accused if:

- a. detention on remand more than 10 days;
- b. custodial sentence of more than a year or expulsion from Switzerland;
- c. the accused is unable to safeguard his or her interests
- d. the prosecuting lawyer is appearing in person before the court;
- e. accelerated proceedings (Art. 358–362).

#### Swiss Criminal Procedure Code

#### (Criminal Procedure Code, CrimPC)

of 5 October 2007 (Status as of 1 March 2019).

The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,

### Art. 131 – Appointment of the mandatory defence lawyer

1 Where the mandatory appointment of a defence lawyer is required, the head of proceedings shall ensure that a defence lawyer is appointed immediately.

### Swiss Criminal Procedure Code (Criminal Procedure Code, CrimPC) of 5 October 2007 (Status as of 1 March 2019). The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation, on the basis of Article 123 paragraph 1 of the Federal Constitution<sup>1</sup>, and having considered the Federal Council Dispatch dated 21 December 2005 decrees:

# Art. 132 – Legal aid defence counsel

# 1 The person in charge of the proceedings shall grant legal aid if:

- a. in a case involving the mandatory appointment of defence counsel
- b. the accused does not have sufficient funds and defence counsel is necessary to safeguard his or her interests.

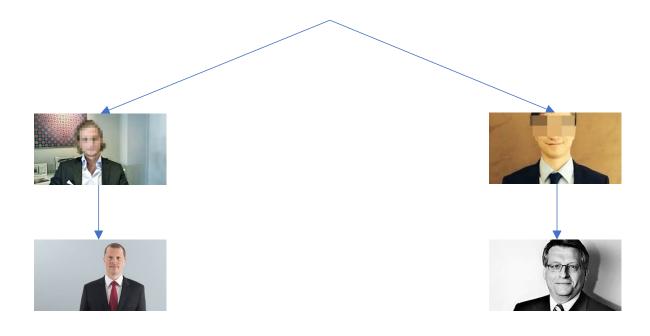
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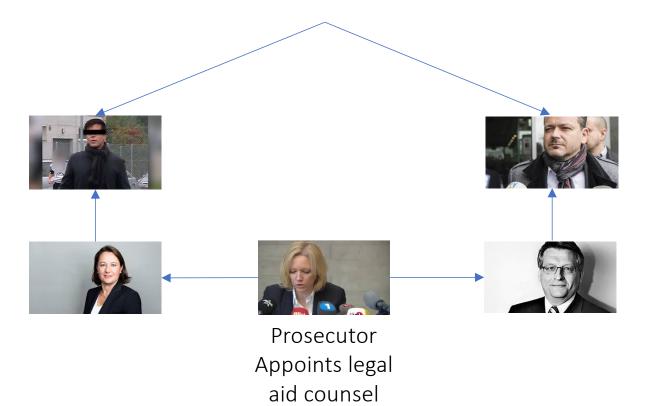
The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,

# Legal Advisors



Accused appoints Defence counsel (Art. 128/129) Victim/family appoints legal counsel (Art. 128/129)

# Legal aid (defence) counsel



### Art. 131 – Appointment of the mandatory defence lawyer

1 Where the mandatory appointment of a defence lawyer is required, the head of proceedings shall ensure that a defence lawyer is appointed immediately.

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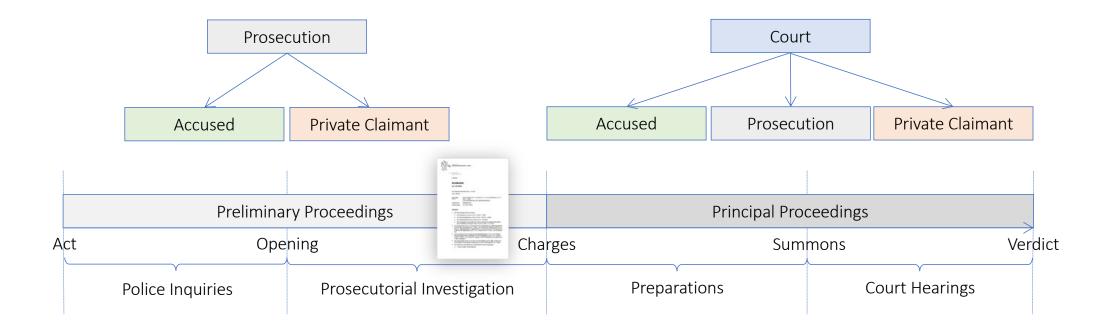
The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,

# Court of First Instance – Title 7 CrimPC

- -Head of the main Court hearings
- Coercive measures (detention on remand, secret surveil-lance, undercover agents...)



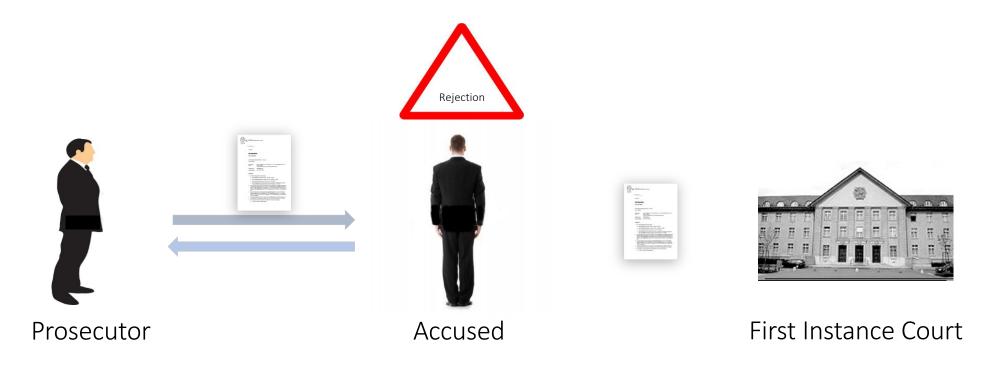
# **Criminal Procedure**



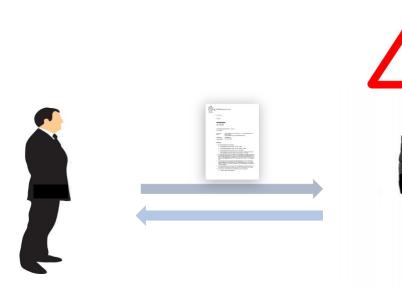
### Convictions by Penalty order for felonies/misdemeanours of CC



# Summary Penalty Order (Art. 352 ff. CCP)



# Summary Penalty Order (Art. 352 ff. CCP)



Prosecutor 355 I CPP1 If a rejection is filed, the public prosecutor shall gather the additional evidence Accused

Rejection





First Instance Court

# Art. 355 CPP – Objection procedure

### Prosecutor decides

- a. Uphold penalty order
- b. Abandon proceedings
- c. Issue new penalty order
- d. Bring charges at court

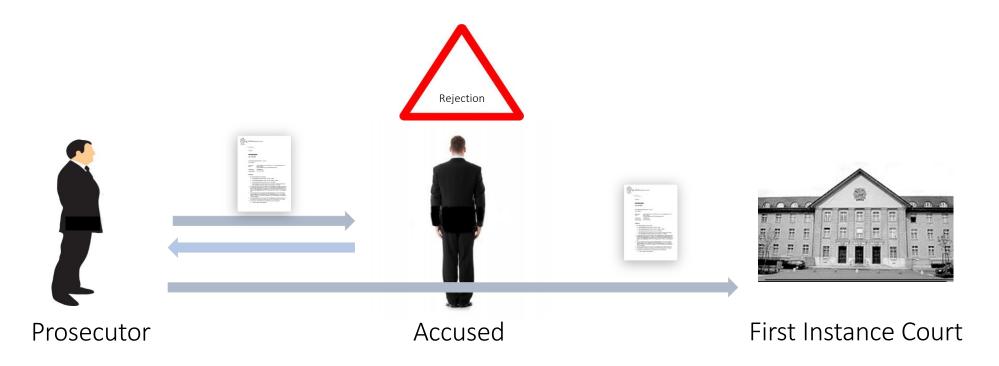
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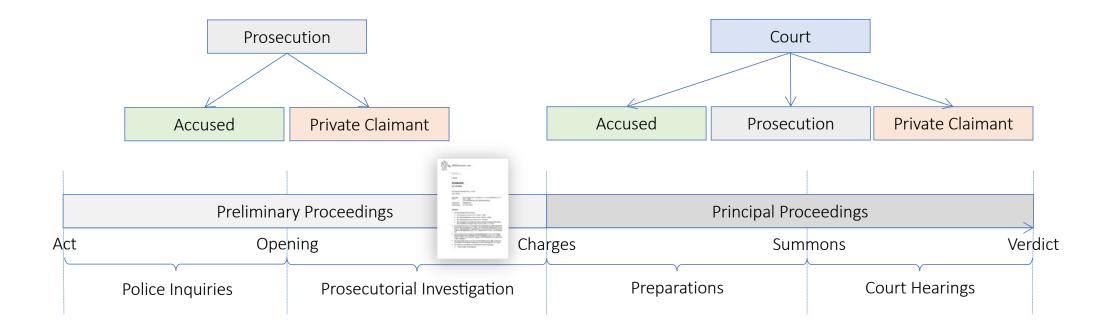
The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,

# Summary Penalty Order (Art. 352 ff. CCP)



# III. Summary

# **Criminal Procedure**



# Case: Homicide in Küsnacht, Zurich, Switzerland

31-year old art dealer and drug addict

- killed his friend brutaly
- said he thought his friend was an alien and attacked him / tried to kill him
- had been taking drugs (cocaine & cetamine) at the time of the homicide

Guilty verdict or acquittal?

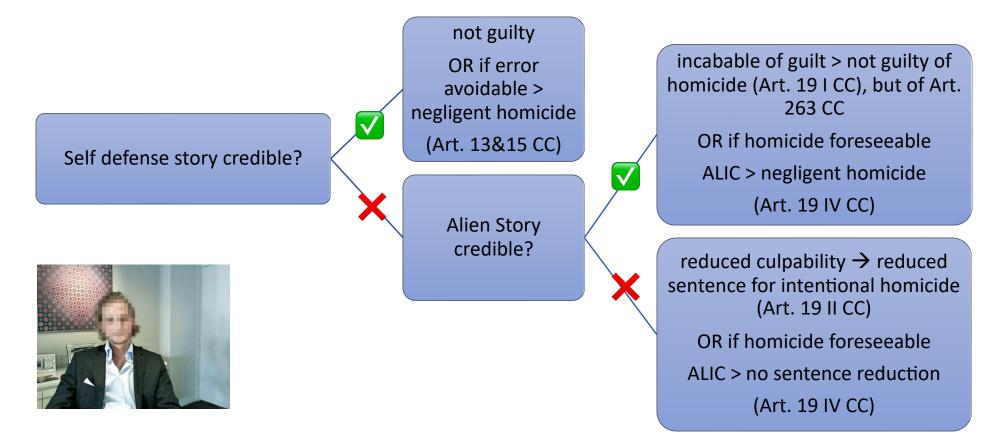
Which offence provided for by the Criminal Code could he have commited?

What are possible defences (based on what articles of the Criminal Code?)

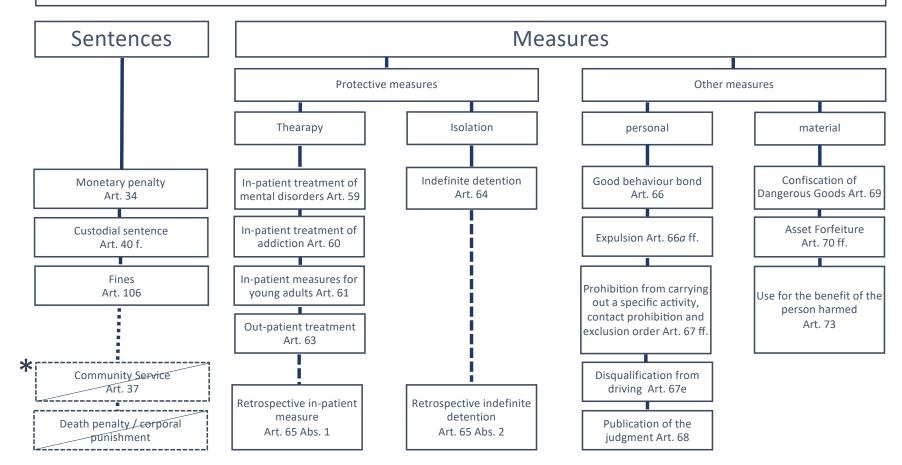
If guilty: what sanctions could be imposed?



# Case: Homicide in Küsnacht, Zurich, Switzerland



### Sanctions



\* Community service is no longer a separate type of sentence. However all sentences up to 6 months can be converted into community service (Art. 79*a*).

# Case: Homicide in Küsnacht, Zurich, Switzerland

- Meilen District Court Verdict: Guilty of intentional homicide, reduced sentence because of drug induced reduced culpability (12.5 years) plus measure (Art. 63 CC / Art. 60 CC)
- Zurich Appelate Court: Not guilty of intentional homicide but only of Committing an offence while in a state of voluntarily induced mental incapacity (Art. 263 CC), 3 years custodial sentence plus measure (Art. 60 CC)
- 3. Federal Supreme Court sent case back
- Zurich Appelate Court: Guilty of intentional homicide, reduced sentence because of drug induced reduced culpability (12 years) plus measure (Art. 60 CC).

