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Bribery

What is this?

A bribe is either a monetary or another kind of advantage (gifts, training trips, discounts, etc.) that an official gets for breach of duty. The purposes of bribery vary, bribes are given to speed up certain processes (speed money) as well as to get information, a service, etc., that would not be available otherwise, or to avoid the consequences of an action (e.g., having your licence taken away).

Here is an example:

Examples

A municipality government must organise a tender procedure to repair storm damage. The job is offered to a company that is also required to pay €4,500 as "security". Also the municipality museum is being renovated, using the same company that pays the municipality mayor a gratuity.

A company's representative promises to bribe an official if the inspector omits to register two excavation violations committed by the company.

Parking officers get their hair and nails done, etc., in exchange for not writing parking tickets.

Punishment:

Punishment

Penal Code 294, 296, 298, 402³ and 402⁴

Punishment: a fine or imprisonment

[The difference between a bribe and a gratuity, according to the Estonian Penal Code, is that in case of a gratuity the official who gets a backhand performs (or omits to perform) an act that is legally permissible, while in case of bribery he or she performs an illegal act. Promising to give, giving, taking, and arranging a bribe/gratuity are all punishable.]

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