

Sources of Law

Name: _____

One Accident, Two Trials. Follow the diagram through to the questions below.



Tracy was driving under the influence when she hit Steve's car at an intersection after running a stop sign. Steve was hurt in the accident. Tracy failed the breathalyzer test at the scene of the crash.

Criminal Law

The police arrest Tracy for driving drunk. The state decides to prosecute. It charges her with violating the state's drunk driving law.

In the criminal trial, the jury finds Tracy guilty of violating the drunk driving law.

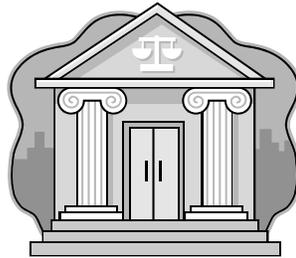
As a result of the jury's verdict, the judge issues a sentence. The judge follows the sentencing guidelines found in state law. The judge revokes Tracy's drivers license for two years and sentences her to 30 days in prison.

Civil Law

Steve files a lawsuit against Tracy, claiming that she drove carelessly. He asks for the money he spent on car repairs and medical bills, in addition to the time lost from work.

In the civil trial, the jury finds that Tracy drove carelessly. The jury awards Steve enough money to cover his medical bills and car repairs.

After the jury returns its verdict, the judge orders Tracy to pay Steve the amount that the jury decided he should receive for his bills and repairs.



In both cases, Tracy has to defend her actions in court.

Did you know?

Someone can be found innocent in a criminal case but found at fault in a civil case and ordered to pay for damages.

Compare & Contrast. Based on what you have learned, complete the Venn diagram by using the statements below.

- (A) The defendant may have to pay money
- (B) The defendant may get jail time or loss of privileges
- (C) Deals with a crime that has committed
- (D) The case involves a problem between two individuals
- (E) The case involves the government against a person
- (F) Trials can be heard and decided by a jury
- (G) The remedy is decided according to state guidelines
- (H) The remedy is decided according to what is asked for

