

TABLE 2-2 Criminal and Civil Actions

Action	Definition	Punishment
Criminal	Concerned with laws designed to protect all members of society from injurious acts by others; i.e., felonies and misdemeanors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Felony is a crime punishable by death or imprisonment; i.e., murder, assault, and rape• Misdemeanors are considered lesser offenses and usually carry a penalty of a fine or less than 1 year in jail
Civil	Concerned with actions between two private parties, such as individuals or organizations; constitute the bulk of the legal actions dealt with in the medical office or other healthcare facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Damages may be awarded in a court of law and will result in monetary penalties