

Bribery of public officials – corruption – abuse of authority:

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Public bribery means that a public official does or does not do things in exchange for a quid pro quo or a promise to do so. In bribery a distinction must be made between the briber and the bribed official. The briber and the bribed official both commit a different crime.

The person who is bribed commits passive corruption. Only a person who holds a public office can be suspected of passive bribery. This is any person who is entrusted with a public service.

The person who bribes someone commits active corruption. This is therefore making an offer, promise or benefit to a public official in return for a consideration linked to his office.

Corruption occurs when an official commits certain offences in the exercise of his duties. This is broader than just bribery, it can also include the granting of benefits to oneself, embezzlement of funds, etc.

Abuse of authority is when a civil servant abuses his powers. For example, a police officer abusing his powers in order to get in somewhere.

For more information on this crime, a concrete punishment and/or advice tailored to your needs, contact our criminal lawyers via info@studio-penale.be.