

ISRAEL

In Israel, there are basically three levels of courts in respect of criminal matters.

The **Magistrates' Court** deals with petty offences. In addition to the Magistrates Courts there are several specialized courts including Traffic Courts, Juvenile Courts, Labour Tribunals, Family Courts and the Religious Courts.

The **District Court** deals with serious criminal offences involving the death penalty or imprisonment for a period of more than 7 years. The District Court also hears appeal from Magistrate Courts.

Judgments of the District Court are appealable to the **Supreme Court**. If the judgment has been given at first instance, the appeal is as of right; if the judgment has been given by the district Court as an Appellate Court, then the appeal is by leave of appeal.

The court sits from 08:30 to approximately 13:00 from Sunday to Thursday, and on Friday there is a duty roster for emergency hearings only.

The court sits for 10 and a half months per year, the **recess period** being from 15 July to 1 September, during which time there is a judge available if required.

Backlogs of cases are not a problem.

The law in Israel operates as an **adversarial system** and there is **no jury** system.