

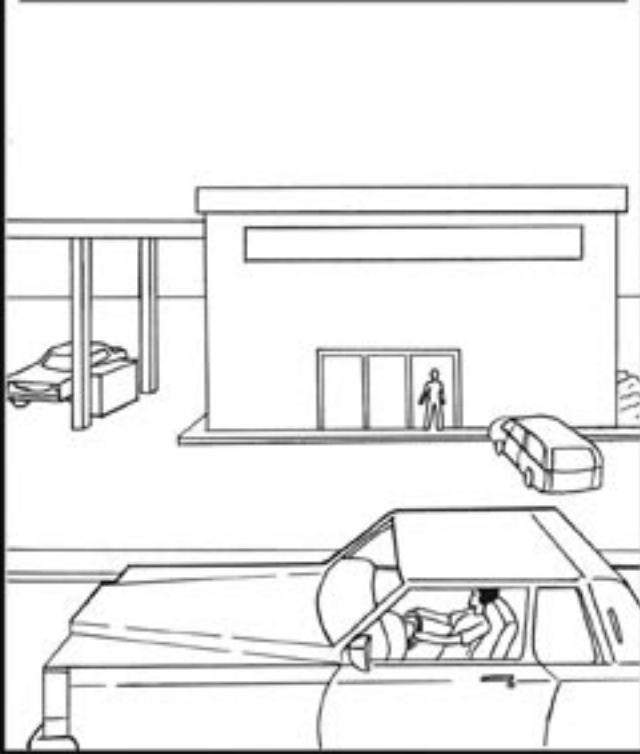
**Attempt**

It is a crime to try to commit a crime. For example, trying to steal some money is a crime even if you don't get the money. Trying to kill somebody by putting antifreeze in their food is a crime even if they don't actually eat the food and die. Trying to commit a crime is the crime of attempt. A lot of things count as attempting to commit a crime. You can be charged with attempting to commit a crime by doing things such as planning for it, talking to people whose help you'll need to carry it out, gathering materials to do it, and things like that.

Now, some people on the street might tell you that in order to get hit with attempt you have to do something that definitely shows you were really about to commit the crime. For instance buying ski masks and guns in preparation for a robbery shows that you were really going to do the crime. It's true that in some states you do have to do something that shows that you were really going to commit a crime. But, when it really comes down to it, the judge and jury look at all the evidence together and decide, sometimes on a whim, to nail you even if you didn't do anything serious that showed you were really going to commit the crime.

Just so there's no confusion as to what types of things are considered attempting to commit a crime, let us give you a couple more examples. First we will give you an example of something that is a clear attempt to commit a crime. Then we'll give you a variation that you may not have thought would count as an attempt to commit a crime.

MALCOLM CASES OUT A BANK FOR THREE WEEKS AND BUYS A MASK, A GUN, AND SOME DUCT TAPE IN PREPARATION FOR A BANK ROBBERY.



THE DAY OF THE PLANNED ROBBERY, HE DRIVES AROUND THE CORNER OF THE BANK AND PARKS. HE PUTS ON THE MASK, GRABS THE GUN, AND DUNS INTO THE BANK.



PUT ALL OF THE MONEY IN YOUR DRAWER IN THE BAG!



I'M SORRY, BUT MY DRAWER IS EMPTY.

WHAT? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN' ME. I'M OUTTA HERE!



When The Cops Come Knockin'

