**Involvement in a Crime**

There are many individuals involved in a crime. Whether or not you are at the scene, you can be considered an accomplice to the act if you had anything to do with it. What exactly constitutes an “accomplice” or an “accessory?” Use this chart below to help you understand the wide variety of criminals.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Type of Criminal/Act | Description |
| Perpetrator | This is the individual who commits the offence. An example of this could be someone robbing a bank with a weapon.  |
| Aiding | This means you are helping someone commit a crime (sometimes unknowingly). For example, if you work at a grocery store and you give the key to a friend. If that friend robs the store, you are criminally responsible for this act.  |
| Abetting | This means encouraging someone to commit the crime without physically assisting them. An example of this could be cheering on a friend assaulting someone.  |
| Counselling | This means you are persuading or advising someone to commit an offence. An example of this could be you convincing someone to rob the establishment you work at.  |
| Accessory After the Fact | This means helping someone after the crime has been committed. This individual must be aware that a crime had been committed. For example, if your friend robs a store and you allow them to stay in your apartment, you could be charged as an accessory after the fact.  |
| Party to Common Intention | This means that everyone involved in committing a crime can share responsibility (even if someone did something far more heinous). For example, if you committed grand theft auto and someone kills the driver, you are all responsible for the murder charge.  |
| Attempt | Though an incomplete crime, you can be charged for attempt (failing in your quest to commit a crime). The basis for actus reus and men’s rea is there.  |
| Conspiracy  | Though an incomplete crime, you can be charged with conspiracy. This means you agreed to carry out a crime and therefore can be punished under law. For example, hiring a hitman to kill your spouse and the hitman failing to do so would warrant you being arrested.  |