# IPC Section 167: Public servant framing an incorrect document with intent to cause injury.

## IPC Section 167: Framing an Incorrect Document with Intent to Cause Injury  
  
Section 167 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with the offense of a public servant framing an incorrect document with the intent to cause injury. This section specifically targets the abuse of power by public servants who manipulate or fabricate documents to harm others. It underscores the importance of integrity and impartiality in public service and seeks to deter such corrupt practices.  
  
\*\*The Text of Section 167:\*\*  
  
"Whoever, being a public servant, and being, as such public servant, charged with the preparation or translation of any document or electronic record, frames, prepares or translates that document or electronic record incorrectly, with intent to cause or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause injury to any person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both."  
  
\*\*Breaking Down the Elements of the Offense:\*\*  
  
1. \*\*Public Servant:\*\* The offender must be a "public servant" as defined under Section 21 of the IPC. This definition is comprehensive and includes government officials, judges, police officers, members of the armed forces, and anyone employed in the service or paid by the government. It also encompasses individuals elected to public office and those working in government-controlled corporations or entities. Crucially, the individual must be acting in their capacity as a public servant while committing the offense.  
  
2. \*\*Charged with Preparation or Translation:\*\* The public servant must be officially entrusted with the task of preparing or translating a document or electronic record. This implies that the individual has a specific duty related to document creation or translation as part of their official responsibilities. It is not enough for a public servant to simply have access to documents; they must be explicitly tasked with their handling.  
  
3. \*\*Framing, Preparing, or Translating Incorrectly:\*\* The core of the offense lies in the deliberate creation of an inaccurate document. This can take several forms:  
  
 \* \*\*Framing:\*\* This implies creating a completely false document or significantly altering an existing one to misrepresent facts.  
 \* \*\*Preparing Incorrectly:\*\* This encompasses errors introduced during the document's creation, such as omitting crucial information, inserting false details, or misrepresenting data.  
 \* \*\*Translating Incorrectly:\*\* If the public servant is responsible for translating a document, intentionally mistranslating it to distort its meaning falls under this category. This includes both complete mistranslations and selective mistranslations that alter the document's overall impact.  
  
 It is important to note that mere clerical errors or unintentional mistakes do not constitute an offense under this section. The incorrectness must be deliberate.  
  
4. \*\*Intent to Cause Injury or Knowledge of Likelihood of Injury:\*\* The prosecution must establish that the public servant acted with the specific intent to cause injury to another person or with the knowledge that such injury was likely to result from their actions. "Injury" under the IPC (Section 44) is defined broadly to encompass any harm illegally caused to any person, in body, mind, reputation, or property. This wide definition includes financial loss, reputational damage, emotional distress, and physical harm.  
  
 The "intent" need not be directed toward a specific individual. It suffices that the public servant intended to cause harm to someone, even if the specific victim was not predetermined. Similarly, "knowledge of likelihood" implies that the public servant was aware that their actions would probably result in injury, even if that was not their primary goal.  
  
\*\*Distinguishing Section 167 from other related offenses:\*\*  
  
\* \*\*Section 166 (Public servant disobeying law, with intent to cause injury to any person):\*\* While both sections relate to a public servant's misconduct and intent to cause injury, Section 166 deals with general disobedience of law, whereas Section 167 specifically targets the framing of incorrect documents.  
  
\* \*\*Section 464 (Making a false document):\*\* Section 464 deals with the general offense of creating a false document, regardless of the offender's status. Section 167, however, is specific to public servants who misuse their position and entrusted responsibility to create incorrect documents.  
  
\* \*\*Section 471 (Using as genuine a forged document):\*\* This section covers the use of a forged document knowing it to be forged. Section 167, on the other hand, deals with the creation of the incorrect document itself by a public servant.  
  
\* \*\*Section 192 (Fabricating false evidence):\*\* While both sections relate to creating false documents, Section 192 focuses on documents created for use in judicial proceedings. Section 167 has a broader scope and applies to any document prepared or translated by a public servant.  
  
  
\*\*Punishment:\*\*  
  
The punishment for violating Section 167 is imprisonment of either description (simple or rigorous) for a term which may extend to three years, or with a fine, or with both. The severity of the punishment depends on the nature and extent of the injury caused, the intent of the public servant, and other relevant factors.  
  
\*\*Conclusion:\*\*  
  
Section 167 of the IPC serves as a vital safeguard against the abuse of power by public servants. It emphasizes the importance of accuracy and integrity in official documentation and seeks to prevent public servants from manipulating documents to cause harm. The broad definition of "injury" and the inclusion of "knowledge of likelihood" demonstrate the seriousness with which the law views such misconduct. By criminalizing the framing of incorrect documents by public servants, Section 167 upholds the principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability in public administration.