# IPC Section 193: Punishment for false evidence.

## IPC Section 193: Punishment for False Evidence  
  
Section 193 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) prescribes the penalties for giving or fabricating false evidence. This provision complements Section 191 (Giving False Evidence) and Section 192 (Fabricating False Evidence) by establishing the consequences for these offenses. It underscores the gravity of misleading the court and reinforces the importance of truthfulness in judicial proceedings.  
  
\*\*The Text of Section 193:\*\*  
  
"Whoever intentionally gives false evidence in any stage of a judicial proceeding, or fabricates false evidence for the purpose of being used in any stage of a judicial proceeding, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine;  
  
and whoever intentionally gives or fabricates false evidence in any other stage of a judicial proceeding, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.  
  
  
\*\*Explanation 1:\*\* A trial before a Court of Justice or before a Magistrate acting judicially, a revenue-officer conducting an inquiry in the exercise of any jurisdiction legally conferred upon him, or before any other person legally authorized to take evidence, is a stage of a judicial proceeding.  
  
  
\*\*Explanation 2:\*\* An investigation directed by a Magistrate or by any person other than a Magistrate, but acting judicially, is a stage of a judicial proceeding.  
  
\*\*Exception:\*\* If the false evidence given or fabricated relates to an offence punishable with imprisonment for life or imprisonment for seven years or upwards, the Court may impose any sentence short of death or of imprisonment for life on the person who gives or fabricates such false evidence."  
  
  
  
  
\*\*Key Elements and Punishments:\*\*  
  
1. \*\*Intentionally Giving False Evidence in Any Stage of a Judicial Proceeding:\*\* This refers to knowingly presenting false testimony or making false statements under oath during any part of a court case or judicial proceeding. This includes providing false evidence during trial, pre-trial hearings, or any other stage where evidence is legally taken. The punishment for this offense is imprisonment of either description (simple or rigorous) for a term which may extend to seven years and a fine.  
  
2. \*\*Fabricating False Evidence for Use in Any Stage of a Judicial Proceeding:\*\* This refers to creating or manufacturing false evidence with the intent that it be used in a judicial proceeding. This can include forging documents, planting evidence, or inducing others to provide false testimony. Similar to giving false evidence, the punishment for fabricating false evidence for use in any stage of a judicial proceeding is imprisonment up to seven years and a fine.  
  
3. \*\*Intentionally Giving or Fabricating False Evidence in Any Other Stage of a Judicial Proceeding:\*\* This clause covers situations where false evidence is given or fabricated in a stage of a judicial proceeding other than those covered by the first two points. While the text isn't explicit, this could arguably refer to situations where the false evidence is not ultimately used in the main trial but is presented during related proceedings like preliminary inquiries or other ancillary processes. The punishment for this is imprisonment up to three years and a fine.  
  
\*\*Explanations and Exception:\*\*  
  
\* \*\*Explanation 1:\*\* Clarifies the meaning of "stage of a judicial proceeding," including trials, inquiries conducted by revenue officers or other authorized persons, and any instance where evidence is legally taken.  
  
\* \*\*Explanation 2:\*\* Further clarifies that investigations directed by a magistrate or other judicial authority are considered a stage of a judicial proceeding.  
  
\* \*\*Exception:\*\* Provides for enhanced punishment in cases where the false evidence relates to an offense punishable with life imprisonment or imprisonment for seven years or more. In such cases, the court can impose any sentence short of death or life imprisonment. This reflects the increased gravity of fabricating or giving false evidence in cases involving serious crimes.  
  
  
\*\*Illustrative Examples:\*\*  
  
\* \*\*Lying Under Oath in Court:\*\* A witness who knowingly lies under oath during a trial about seeing the accused commit a crime would be punishable under this section.  
  
\* \*\*Submitting Forged Documents:\*\* Submitting forged documents as evidence in a property dispute would be punishable under this section.  
  
\* \*\*Providing False Testimony in a Deposition:\*\* Giving false testimony during a deposition knowing that it will be used in a court case would fall under this section.  
  
  
\*\*Distinction from Related Sections:\*\*  
  
\* \*\*Section 191 (Giving False Evidence):\*\* Section 191 defines what constitutes giving false evidence, while Section 193 prescribes the punishment for doing so.  
  
\* \*\*Section 192 (Fabricating False Evidence):\*\* Section 192 defines the act of fabricating false evidence, while Section 193 outlines the penalties for this offense.  
  
  
\*\*Importance of Section 193:\*\*  
  
Section 193 is essential for maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of the judicial system. By prescribing punishments for giving or fabricating false evidence, it acts as a deterrent against attempts to mislead the court and pervert the course of justice. The severity of the potential penalties underscores the importance of truthfulness in legal proceedings and helps ensure that judicial decisions are based on reliable evidence. This provision protects the rights of all parties involved in legal disputes and upholds the fundamental principles of fairness and due process. It reinforces public trust in the judiciary by demonstrating that those who attempt to manipulate the system through false evidence face serious consequences.