# IPC Section 330: Voluntarily causing hurt to extort confession, or to compel restoration of property.

## IPC Section 330: Voluntarily Causing Hurt to Extort Confession, or to Compel Restoration of Property  
  
Section 330 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with the offence of intentionally causing hurt to someone to extract a confession or compel the restoration of property. This section targets the unlawful use of force to obtain information or recover possessions, emphasizing the illegality of resorting to violence for such purposes. It recognizes that even hurt that doesn’t reach the threshold of “grievous hurt” can still be a serious violation when inflicted with these specific intentions.  
  
\*\*The Text of Section 330:\*\*  
  
"Whoever voluntarily causes hurt to any person for the purpose of extorting from him or any person related to him any confession or any information which may lead to the detection of an offence or misconduct, or for the purpose of compelling such person or any person related to him to restore or to cause the restoration of any property or valuable security or to satisfy any claim or demand, or to give information which may lead to the restoration or satisfaction thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine."  
  
  
\*\*Breaking Down the Elements of Section 330:\*\*  
  
1. \*\*Voluntarily Causing Hurt:\*\* This is the actus reus, the guilty act. The perpetrator must intentionally inflict “hurt” as defined under Section 319 of the IPC. Hurt encompasses bodily pain, disease, infirmity, or impairment of any organ. This is a broader category than "grievous hurt," requiring a lower threshold of injury. The prosecution needs to establish a direct causal link between the accused’s actions and the hurt suffered by the victim.  
  
2. \*\*Purpose of Extorting a Confession or Information:\*\* This constitutes the first of the two specified mens rea (guilty mind) elements. The perpetrator must inflict hurt with the specific intention of extracting a confession related to an offence or misconduct, or information that might lead to the detection of such an offence or misconduct. This targets the illegal practice of using violence to obtain incriminating statements or leads in investigations. "Offence" refers to any act punishable under the IPC or other laws. "Misconduct" encompasses a wider range of wrongdoing, even if not strictly criminal.  
  
3. \*\*Purpose of Compelling Restoration of Property or Satisfying a Claim:\*\* This is the second mens rea element. The accused must intend to compel the victim or any person related to them to return property or valuable security, or to satisfy a claim or demand, through the infliction of hurt. This could involve compelling the repayment of a debt, the return of stolen goods, or the fulfillment of any other demand. The claim or demand need not be legally valid; the offence lies in using hurt to enforce it. The section also covers situations where the hurt is inflicted to obtain information that could lead to the restoration of property or the satisfaction of a claim.  
  
  
4. \*\*Relationship to the Victim:\*\* Similar to Section 329, this section covers situations where the hurt is inflicted on a person to extort a confession, information, property, or satisfaction of a claim from that person \*or any person related to them\*. This broadens the scope of protection, recognizing that perpetrators might target family members or close associates to pressure the intended victim.  
  
\*\*Examples of Offences under Section 330:\*\*  
  
\* Beating someone to force them to confess to a theft.  
\* Inflicting pain to compel someone to reveal the location of hidden assets.  
\* Hurting a person’s family member to pressure them into repaying a loan.  
\* Causing injury to extract information about a suspected illicit affair (misconduct).  
  
  
\*\*Punishment:\*\*  
  
Section 330 prescribes a punishment of imprisonment of either description (rigorous or simple) for a term which may extend to seven years, and a possible fine. The court determines the specific sentence based on the circumstances of the case, the degree of hurt inflicted, the nature of the extortion or coercion, and the overall context.  
  
  
\*\*Relationship with Other Sections:\*\*  
  
\* \*\*Section 329 (Voluntarily causing grievous hurt to extort property, or to constrain to an illegal act):\*\* While both sections address the use of force for extortion or coercion, Section 329 deals specifically with \*grievous hurt\*, a more severe form of injury, and carries a harsher punishment. Section 330 covers the infliction of simple hurt.  
\* \*\*Section 383 (Extortion):\*\* This section covers a broader range of extortion methods, including threats of injury, while Section 330 focuses on the actual infliction of \*hurt\* for specific purposes.  
\* \*\*Section 348 (Wrongful restraint to commit offence):\*\* This section deals with wrongfully restraining someone to commit an offence. If the restraint involves causing hurt to extort a confession or property, Section 330 would be the more appropriate charge.  
  
  
\*\*Burden of Proof:\*\*  
  
The prosecution bears the burden of proving all elements of Section 330 beyond a reasonable doubt. This involves demonstrating the infliction of hurt, the intent behind it, and the link between the hurt and the extortion or coercion of confession, information, or property. It’s essential to establish that the hurt was inflicted specifically for the purposes mentioned in the section.  
  
  
\*\*Conclusion:\*\*  
  
Section 330 of the IPC plays a crucial role in safeguarding individuals from violence aimed at extracting confessions, information, or property. It emphasizes the illegality of using force for such purposes, even if the hurt inflicted does not amount to grievous hurt. The inclusion of "any person related to him" strengthens the protection offered, acknowledging that perpetrators might target others to exert pressure on the intended victim. The section serves as a deterrent against resorting to violence for personal gain or to bypass legal procedures for obtaining information or resolving disputes.