# IPC Section 464: Making a false document.

## IPC Section 464: Making a False Document  
  
Section 464 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) defines what constitutes "making a false document." It elaborates on the act of creating a false document, which forms the core of the offence of forgery (Section 463). This section provides specific instances that qualify as making a false document, thus clarifying the scope of forgery and related offences.  
  
\*\*Definition of Making a False Document (Section 464):\*\*  
  
A person is said to make a false document or electronic record—  
  
\* \*\*First\*\*—who dishonestly or fraudulently makes, signs, seals, or executes a document or part of a document or electronic record, or makes any mark denoting the execution of a document or electronic record, with the intention of causing it to be believed that such document or electronic record or part of a document or electronic record was made, signed, sealed, or executed by or by the authority of a person by whom or by whose authority he knows that it was not made, signed, sealed or executed, or at a time at which he knows that it was not made, signed, sealed or executed; or  
  
\* \*\*Secondly\*\*—who, without lawful authority, dishonestly, or fraudulently, by cancellation or otherwise, alters a document or electronic record in any material part thereof, after it has been made or executed either by himself or by any other person, whether such person be living or dead at the time of such alteration; or  
  
\* \*\*Thirdly\*\*—who dishonestly or fraudulently causes any person to sign, seal, execute, or alter a document or electronic record knowing that such person by reason of unsoundness of mind or intoxication cannot, or that by reason of deception practised upon him, he does not know the contents of the document or electronic record or the nature of the alteration.  
  
  
\*\*Explanation 1:\*\* For the purposes of this section, a person shall be deemed to have made a false document or electronic record or part thereof, who makes any addition or insertion to any part of such document or electronic record.  
  
\*\*Explanation 2:\*\* In this section the word “document or electronic record” includes, as provided in Section 29 of this Code, any matter expressed or described upon any substance, by means of letters, figures or marks, or by more than one of those means, which is intended to be used, or which may be used, as evidence of that matter.  
  
  
\*\*Breakdown of the Definition:\*\*  
  
Section 464 provides three distinct ways in which a false document can be made:  
  
1. \*\*False Making:\*\* This clause covers situations where a person creates a document or part of a document and falsely attributes its creation to someone else or a different time. This involves dishonest or fraudulent intent, and the maker must know that the document isn't genuinely authored by the person it purports to be from or made at the time it claims to be from. This includes making any mark that suggests execution by someone else. Examples:  
 \* Forging a signature on a contract.  
 \* Backdating a document to evade a deadline.  
 \* Creating a fake letter purportedly written by a public official.  
  
  
2. \*\*False Alteration:\*\* This clause addresses instances where a person alters an existing document without lawful authority. The alteration must be made dishonestly or fraudulently and must affect a material part of the document. The document could have been originally created by the person making the alteration or by someone else, living or dead. Examples:  
 \* Changing the amount on a cheque.  
 \* Adding clauses to a will after the testator's death.  
 \* Modifying the terms of a contract without consent.  
  
  
  
3. \*\*False Procurement:\*\* This clause covers situations where a person induces another person to sign, seal, execute, or alter a document, knowing that the person doing so is either incapable of understanding the document due to unsoundness of mind or intoxication, or has been deceived about its contents. Examples:  
 \* Tricking an illiterate person into signing a property transfer deed.  
 \* Getting someone to sign a document while they are heavily intoxicated.  
 \* Deceiving someone about the true nature of a document they are signing.  
  
  
  
\*\*Explanations:\*\*  
  
\* \*\*Explanation 1\*\* clarifies that adding or inserting anything into a document also falls under the purview of making a false document.  
\* \*\*Explanation 2\*\* refers back to the definition of "document" in Section 29 of the IPC, broadening the scope of what constitutes a document.  
  
\*\*Significance of Section 464:\*\*  
  
Section 464 plays a crucial role in clarifying the act of making a false document, which is the foundation of forgery. It provides specific instances and elaborates on the various methods used to create forged documents. This precision helps in determining the culpability of individuals involved in creating or altering documents fraudulently. The section's detailed explanation of "making" ensures that all forms of document manipulation with dishonest intent are covered. The inclusion of electronic records emphasizes the relevance of this section in the context of digital documents and communications. By clearly defining what constitutes making a false document, Section 464 strengthens the legal framework for combating forgery and protecting individuals and society from its harmful consequences.