# IPC Section 467: Forgery of valuable security, will, etc.

## IPC Section 467: Forgery of Valuable Security, Will, etc.  
  
Section 467 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) addresses a particularly serious form of forgery: the forgery of valuable securities, wills, and other important documents. Recognizing the potential for substantial financial loss and disruption caused by forging these instruments, the section prescribes a stringent punishment, highlighting the gravity of this offence.  
  
\*\*Text of Section 467:\*\*  
  
Whoever forges a document which purports to be a valuable security, will, or any part of a record of a Court of Justice, or which purports to be a copy of such record, or part thereof, any authority to issue or endorse such valuable security, or any endorsement of or assignment of such valuable security, with the intention of causing it to be believed that such document or electronic record or part of a document or electronic record is a genuine document or electronic record or part of a document or electronic record, commits forgery.  
  
\*\*Breakdown of the Section:\*\*  
  
1. \*\*"Whoever forges":\*\* As in other forgery sections, this refers to the act of making a false document, as defined under Section 464 of the IPC. The various methods of creating a false document—fabrication, alteration, and fraudulent use of a genuine document—are all applicable here.  
  
  
2. \*\*"A document which purports to be a valuable security":\*\* The term "valuable security" is defined under Section 30 of the IPC and includes a wide range of documents that represent legal rights or financial interests. Some examples include:  
 \* \*\*Currency notes and coins:\*\* Counterfeiting money is a serious offence covered under this section.  
 \* \*\*Banknotes, cheques, and drafts:\*\* Forgery of these instruments can lead to significant financial losses.  
 \* \*\*Promissory notes, bills of exchange:\*\* These documents represent promises to pay and are crucial for commercial transactions.  
 \* \*\*Bonds, debentures, and share certificates:\*\* These represent ownership or debt in a company and are valuable assets.  
 \* \*\*Certificates of deposit:\*\* These are proof of investment and can be forged for financial gain.  
  
  
3. \*\*"Will, or any part of a record of a Court of Justice, or which purports to be a copy of such record, or part thereof":\*\* This clause extends the scope of Section 467 to include forged wills, court records, and copies of court records. These documents have significant legal implications, and their forgery can lead to severe consequences.  
  
4. \*\*"Any authority to issue or endorse such valuable security, or any endorsement of or assignment of such valuable security":\*\* This covers forged authorizations or endorsements related to valuable securities. For example, forging a signature on a cheque or creating a fake authorization letter to transfer shares falls under this clause.  
  
  
5. \*\*"With the intention of causing it to be believed that such document...is a genuine document":\*\* The element of intent is crucial. The forger must intend for the false document to be accepted as genuine to deceive others and potentially gain unlawfully.  
  
  
  
\*\*Punishment:\*\*  
  
Whoever commits the offence defined in Section 467 shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.  
  
  
\*\*Nature of the Offence:\*\*  
  
Forgery under Section 467, like other aggravated forms of forgery, is a cognizable, non-compoundable, and bailable offence. The trial is conducted by a Court of Session.  
  
  
\*\*Difference from Section 465 (General Forgery):\*\*  
  
The key difference lies in the nature of the document forged and the severity of the punishment. Section 465 applies to any forged document and carries a maximum punishment of two years imprisonment, while Section 467 applies specifically to valuable securities, wills, and court records, with a much harsher punishment of life imprisonment or up to ten years imprisonment and a fine.  
  
\*\*Examples:\*\*  
  
\* Creating counterfeit currency notes.  
\* Forging a signature on a cheque to steal money.  
\* Fabricating a will to inherit property illegally.  
\* Creating a fake share certificate to fraudulently sell shares.  
\* Forging a bond certificate to deceive investors.  
  
  
  
\*\*Significance of Section 467:\*\*  
  
Section 467 serves as a strong deterrent against forging valuable documents with significant financial and legal implications. The stringent punishment reflects the potential for substantial harm that can result from such forgery. The section protects individuals and the economy from financial fraud, safeguards the inheritance process, and upholds the integrity of the judicial system by criminalizing the forgery of crucial documents. The combination of life imprisonment and a fine highlights the seriousness with which the law treats this offence and underscores the importance of protecting valuable securities and legal instruments from fraudulent manipulation.