

# **Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODOV) Act - Eswatini**

## **Overview:**

The Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODOV) Act is a key legal framework in Eswatini that addresses offenses related to sexual crimes and domestic violence.

It aims to protect victims, provide clear definitions of offenses, and establish procedures for prosecution and penalties.

## **Prosecution Criteria:**

An individual may be prosecuted under the SODOV Act if:

- They have committed an act defined as a sexual offence or domestic violence under the Act.
- There is sufficient evidence to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.
- The victim has reported the offense to authorities.
- The offense falls within the jurisdiction of Eswatini courts.

## **Penalties:**

Penalties under the SODOV Act vary based on the severity of the offense and can include:

- Imprisonment terms ranging from months to years.
- Fines.
- Mandatory counseling or rehabilitation programs.
- Protection orders for victims.

## **Sample Scenarios:**

Example 1: An individual physically assaults their spouse repeatedly. They can be prosecuted under the domestic violence provisions of the Act.

Example 2: An individual commits rape or attempted rape. They can be prosecuted under the sexual offences section.

Example 3: An individual engages in sexual activity with a minor below the age of consent.

Prosecution is applicable under the Act.