

PROVINCIAL COURTS

The Provincial Courts carry out their competence within the scope of the province from which they take their name and their main seat of justice is situated in the capital. Depending on the volume of cases that they have to resolve they may be formed by one single section (which is the case of the Provincial Courts of Huesca and that of Teruel) or several (as happens in the Provincial Court of Saragossa). When they are formed by one single section, this combines the competences of Civil and Penal jurisdiction. When the Provincial Court is made up of various sections, each one is specialized in different matters: civil or penal. The Provincial Court of Saragossa, unlike those of Huesca and Teruel, has six sections. Three of them are specialized in Civil matters (II, IV y V) and three in penal matters (I, III y VI).

In Aragon each Provincial Court is made up of a chairman (the Chairman of the Court) and several magistrates. When the Court has various sections, each one of them will have a chairman. When a new Chairman of the Provincial Court is appointed, he or she has the legal authority to choose, at the beginning of his or her mandate, the section that he or she wishes to preside over, combining the chairmanship of the chosen section with the chairmanship of the Provincial Court to which he or she has been appointed.

THE CRIMINAL SECTIONS of the Provincial Courts are in charge of trying the crimes established by Law, and those which imply a sentence of deprivation of freedom of greater than five years. They also resolve the appeals which are lodged against decisions adopted by Courts of Preliminary Investigation, Criminal Courts or Juvenile Courts of the Province over which they have authority.

THE CIVIL SECTIONS of the Provincial Court pronounce decisions on the appeals lodged against resolutions adopted by the Courts of First Instance of the province and of some within the mercantile jurisdiction. They also resolve Magistrates' objections, when this is not a matter for the competence of the Civil and Penal Chamber of the High Court of Justice of Aragon.