

Dictation No. 10 – Evidence Evaluation in Criminal Trial

In every criminal trial the court must carefully evaluate the evidence placed before it. The duty of the judge is not only to hear witnesses but also to test whether their statements are reliable, consistent, and supported by surrounding circumstances appearing from the record of the case before the court.

The prosecution carries the burden of proving the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt. This principle protects individuals from wrongful conviction and ensures fairness in criminal justice. Therefore every piece of evidence must be examined with caution, patience, and a clear judicial mind of the court in such matters.

The judge must assess the credibility of witnesses who appear before the court. A truthful witness generally speaks in a natural manner and his testimony remains consistent during cross examination. If serious contradictions appear, the court may treat such testimony with caution and careful judicial scrutiny before accepting it fully.

Circumstantial evidence also plays an important role in many criminal cases where direct eyewitnesses are not available. However such evidence must form a complete chain of circumstances leading only to the guilt of the accused and excluding every reasonable possibility of innocence and leaving no doubt in the judicial mind.

Documentary evidence such as medical reports, recovery memos, and forensic opinions often assists the court in understanding the factual background of the occurrence. These documents must be properly proved according to law otherwise the court cannot safely rely upon

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