



Is Blackmail a Crime? - Quiz

To view the article that this quiz is based on, please go to: <https://constitutionus.com/law/is-blackmail-a-crime/>

Q1. Is blackmail considered a crime in the United States?

- A. Yes, it is always a federal crime
- B. No, it is only a crime if the information is false
- C. Yes, it is a crime but the severity varies by state
- D. No, it is only a crime if violence is involved

Q2. What is the key element that defines blackmail?

- A. The use of physical violence
- B. The threat to reveal personal information to coerce someone
- C. The actual disclosure of embarrassing information
- D. The theft of money or property

Q3. What is the main difference between blackmail and extortion?

- A. Blackmail involves violence, extortion does not
- B. Extortion involves threats of violence, blackmail does not
- C. Blackmail is always a felony, extortion is always a misdemeanor
- D. There is no difference, they are the same crime

Q4. Is blackmail still a crime if the information being threatened to be revealed is false?

- A. No, only true information can be considered blackmail
- B. Yes, the truthfulness of the information is irrelevant
- C. Only if the victim pays the blackmailer
- D. No, false information falls under defamation, not blackmail

Q5. What is cyber-blackmail?

- A. Hacking into someone's computer to steal data
- B. Extorting someone online to obtain something from them
- C. Posting false information about someone on social media
- D. Sending spam emails to multiple recipients

Q6. What is the Hobbs Act?

- A. A law that prohibits public officials from committing robbery or extortion
- B. A law that defines blackmail as a misdemeanor
- C. A law that protects victims of cyber-blackmail
- D. A law that legalizes blackmail in certain states

Q7. What is the paradox of blackmail?

- A. The idea that blackmail is only a crime if the victim is wealthy
- B. The concept that two legal rights can combine to create a crime
- C. The belief that blackmail is not a crime if the information is true
- D. The notion that blackmail is worse than extortion

Q8. How does California categorize blackmail?

- A. As a unique criminal violation
- B. Within its extortion laws
- C. As a misdemeanor only
- D. As a federal crime exclusively

Q9. What is a common defense against a blackmail charge?

- A. The defendant was unaware the information was sensitive
- B. The defendant did not make a threat
- C. The victim willingly provided the information
- D. The information was already public knowledge

Q10. What is the potential punishment for a public official violating the Hobbs Act?

- A. Up to one year in county jail
- B. A small fine with no jail time
- C. Up to twenty years in federal prison plus a fine
- D. Community service and probation

Answer Key

1. Q1: C
2. Q2: B
3. Q3: B
4. Q4: B
5. Q5: B
6. Q6: A
7. Q7: B
8. Q8: B
9. Q9: B
10. Q10: C