

The ***Criminal Code Amendment (Presumption of Joint Trials) Act 2014*** (Act No 22 of 2014) commenced on 1 July 2014.

**309**        **Circumstances in which more than one charge may be joined against the one person**

- (1) Charges for more than one offence may be joined in the same indictment against the same person, whether he is being proceeded against separately or with another or others, if those charges are founded on the same facts or are, or form part of, a series of offences of the same or similar character or a series of offences committed in the prosecution of a single purpose.
- (1A) To avoid doubt, charges for more than one offence may be joined in the same indictment even if the offences are alleged to have been committed against different persons.
- (2) Charges of stealing any property or, alternatively, of receiving the same property knowing or believing it to have been stolen may be joined in the same indictment.

**341A**       **Presumption of joint trial of sexual offences**

- (1) Despite any rule of law to the contrary, if an accused person is charged with more than one sexual offence in the same indictment, it is presumed that the charges are to be tried together.
- (2) The presumption is not rebutted merely because:
  - (a) evidence on one charge is not admissible on another charge; or
  - (b) there is a possibility that evidence may be the result of collusion or suggestion.
- (3) In this section:

***sexual offence***, see section 3 of the *Sexual Offences (Evidence and Procedure) Act*.