

Offence of Mischief Section 425 IPC

This offence relates where the offender causes wrongful loss or damage of property to the public or to any person.

Following are the essential ingredients of mischief as defined under section 425 IPC

1. There must be intention or the person has knowledge that he is likely to cause
2. Wrongful loss or damage to property
3. To the public or to any person
4. The offender causes destruction of property
5. Or any such change in any property or in the situation
6. That such change or destruction destroys or diminishes the value or utility of the property or affects the property injuriously

Explanations appended to this section make it clear that offender's intention to cause damage to the property itself is sufficient. It is not necessary that the property belonged to that person or not.

In this offence it is also not necessary that the offender should have any wrongful gain. Wrongful loss to public or any person is sufficient.

We may look the illustration below to understand the nature of this offence

1. A takes a ring belonging to B and intentionally throws it into a river thereby causing wrongful loss to B. A has committed mischief.

Stay fit. Take care students.