

Cheating, fraud and breach of trust under the BNS: what the sections mean

When to use this

- Someone took your money with a false promise
- Money or property you handed over was misused
- You are writing a police complaint and want to describe it correctly

Steps

1. Cheating (section 318)

Roughly: deceiving someone so that they hand over money or property they would not otherwise have given. The dishonest intention must be there from the start.

2. Criminal breach of trust (section 316)

Roughly: you trusted someone with money or property and they dishonestly used it or kept it. It is about misuse of something entrusted.

3. Describe facts, not sections

In your police complaint, write what happened, with dates, amounts and proof. The police and the advocate decide the sections.

4. Know the other remedies

You can also pursue a civil or consumer case for the money. A fraud involving UPI or cards should also be reported on 1930 and cybercrime.gov.in.

Key facts

- Section numbers are for understanding; the police decide the charges
- A broken promise alone is not always a crime; intention matters
- Keep proof of the money trail

Helplines: Cyber fraud 1930 · Consumer helpline 1915 · Women 181 · Emergency 112
· Free legal aid 15100

Full guide and free action plan: shikayat.co/guides/bns-cheating-fraud-sections-explained · Updated 2026-10

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