

## **"Reasonable grounds for suspicion"**

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In the scheme of standards of proof, "reasonable grounds for suspicion" occupies a place between "grounds for suspicion" justifying police action and "probable cause", which is a condition for initiating judicial investigation. "Reasonable grounds for suspicion" have to exist before any significant infringement of human rights is allowed. They are of such nature that they must exist before the initiation of an investigation, when an individual does not even yet know that he or she is considered to be an alleged perpetrator of a criminal offence. The structure of criminal procedure, which sets a "probable cause" standard as a line of demarcation between the pre-trial procedure and trial, is thus a reason for the formulation of this standard of proof. In the regulation of Slovenian criminal procedure these results in two different standards, similar in terms of quality and level of suspicion, for interventions which require only one standard of proof in other criminal law systems. Among interventions requiring reasonable grounds for suspicion, mention in particular should be made to detention, an institution which appears to be rather controversial.

**Key words:** law of evidence, standard of proof, reasonable grounds for suspicion, probable cause

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