



GENERAL LEGAL TERMS

ADAPTED FROM BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY, SEVENTH EDITION (1999)

These are scaled down versions of those definitions and are for informational purposes only. Nothing herein should be considered legal advice.

- Case law:** The collection of reported cases that form the body of law within a given jurisdiction.
- Court:**
1. A governmental body consisting of one or more judges who sit to adjudicate disputes and administer justice.
 2. The judge or judges who sit on such a governmental body.
 3. The locale for a legal proceeding.
 4. The building where the judge or judges convene – courthouse.
- Deposition:**
1. A witness's out-of-court testimony (usually in front of a court reporter) that is reduced to writing for later use in court or for discovery purposes.
 2. The session at which such testimony is recorded.
- Discovery:** Compulsory disclosure, at a party's request, of information that relates to litigation, such as interrogatories, depositions, request for admissions and request for production of documents.
- Interrogatory:** A written question submitted to an opposing party in a lawsuit as part of discovery.
- Motion:** A written or oral application requesting a court to make a specific finding or order.
- Pleadings:** A formal document in which a party to a legal proceeding sets forth or responds to allegations, claims, denials, or defenses.
- Statute:** A law passed by a legislative body.