

Lesson #2: The Purposes, Types, & Sources of Laws and Rules

Term List

The following words and terms from Lesson 2 may be new to students. [This glossary of court-related terms](#) may be a useful resource. Unless otherwise noted, definitions are taken from [Merriam-Webster Dictionary](#)¹.

- [Beyond a Reasonable Doubt](#): the standard that must be met by the prosecution's evidence in a criminal prosecution; that no other logical explanation can be derived from the facts except that the defendant committed the crime, thereby overcoming the presumption that a person is innocent until proven guilty²
- [Burden of Proof](#): the duty of proving a disputed assertion or charge
- [Civil Law](#): the law or civil or private rights
- [Constitution](#): the basic principles and laws of a nation, state, or social group that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people i
- [Criminal Law](#): laws that deal with crimes and their punishments
- [Felony](#): a serious crime (such as murder or rape)
- [Juvenile Justice](#): system of laws, policies, and procedures intended to regulate the processing and treatment of non-adult offenders for violations of law and to provide legal remedies that protect their interests in situations of conflict or neglect³
- [Military Justice](#): the body of laws and procedures governing members of the armed forces⁴
- [Misdemeanor](#): a crime that is not very serious; a crime that is less serious than a felony
- [Ordinance](#): a law or regulation made by a city or town government
- [Precedent](#): something done or said that can be used as an example or rule to be followed in the future
- [Preponderance of the Evidence](#): just enough evidence to make it more likely than not that the fact the claimant seeks to prove is true
- [Regulation](#): an official rule or law that says how something should be done

¹ "Merriam-Webster Online: Dictionary and Thesaurus." 2003. 9 Sep. 2014
<<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>>

² "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt - Legal Dictionary - The Free ..." 2006. 9 Sep. 2014
<<http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Beyond+a+Reasonable+Doubt>>

³ "Juvenile justice - Legal Dictionary - The Free Dictionary." 2007. 9 Sep. 2014
<<http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Juvenile+justice>>

⁴ "Military justice - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia." 2006. 9 Sep. 2014
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_justice>

- [Statute](#): a written rule or regulation