
Level 2 Certificate in Legal Studies

Civil Law

Civil Law is a branch of law that deals with disputes between individuals, organizations, or entities where compensation may be awarded to the victim. It is different from Criminal Law, which focuses on punishing the offender. In Civil Law, the party that initiates the lawsuit is known as the plaintiff, while the party being sued is called the defendant. The goal of Civil Law is to provide a fair resolution to conflicts and compensate those who have suffered harm.

Key Terms and Vocabulary:

1. **Civil Law**: The branch of law that deals with disputes between individuals or organizations where compensation may be awarded to the victim.
2. **Plaintiff**: The party that initiates a civil lawsuit by filing a complaint in court.
3. **Defendant**: The party being sued in a civil lawsuit.
4. **Tort**: A civil wrong that causes harm or loss to another person. Examples of torts include negligence, defamation, and trespass.
5. **Contract Law**: A branch of civil law that deals with agreements between parties that are legally binding.
6. **Property Law**: The branch of civil law that deals with the ownership and use of property.
7. **Family Law**: The branch of civil law that deals with issues related to family relationships, such as divorce, child custody, and adoption.
8. **Personal Injury**: A type of civil lawsuit where one party seeks compensation for physical or emotional harm caused by another party's negligence.
9. **Negligence**: Failure to exercise reasonable care, resulting in harm to another person or property.
10. **Damages**: Monetary compensation awarded to the plaintiff in a civil lawsuit.
11. **Breach of Contract**: Failure to fulfill the terms of a legally binding agreement.
12. **Remedy**: A legal solution to a civil dispute, such as compensation or specific performance.
13. **Judgment**: The final decision of the court in a civil lawsuit.
14. **Preponderance of Evidence**: The standard of proof in civil cases, where the plaintiff must prove their case by showing that it is more likely than not that their claims are true.
15. **Injunction**: A court order that requires a party to do or refrain from doing a specific action.

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16. **Mediation**: A form of alternative dispute resolution where a neutral third party helps the parties reach a mutually acceptable solution.
 17. **Arbitration**: A form of alternative dispute resolution where a neutral third party makes a binding decision to resolve the dispute.
 18. **Statute of Limitations**: The time limit within which a civil lawsuit must be filed after the harm or injury occurred.
 19. **Class Action**: A lawsuit filed by a group of people who have suffered similar harm or loss caused by the same defendant.
 20. **Causation**: The relationship between the defendant's actions and the plaintiff's harm, which must be proven in a civil lawsuit.
 21. **Liability**: Legal responsibility for one's actions or omissions.
 22. **Defamation**: False statements that harm a person's reputation.
 23. **Slander**: Spoken defamation.
 24. **Libel**: Written defamation.
 25. **Compensatory Damages**: Monetary compensation awarded to the plaintiff to cover the actual losses suffered.
 26. **Punitive Damages**: Additional monetary compensation awarded to the plaintiff to punish the defendant for their wrongful conduct.
 27. **Joint and Several Liability**: When multiple parties are responsible for the plaintiff's harm, each party can be held fully liable for the damages.
 28. **Expert Witness**: A witness who has specialized knowledge in a particular field and can provide opinion testimony in court.
 29. **Discovery**: The process of exchanging information and evidence between the parties before trial.
 30. **Motion**: A request made to the court for a specific ruling or order.
 31. **Summary Judgment**: A ruling by the court based on the evidence presented without the need for a trial.
 32. **Deposition**: Sworn testimony taken outside of court that can be used as evidence in the trial.
 33. **Subpoena**: A court order requiring a person to appear in court or produce documents.
 34. **Admissible Evidence**: Evidence that is allowed to be presented in court.
 35. **Hearsay**: Statements made outside of court that are offered as evidence to prove the truth of the

matter asserted.

36. **Affidavit**: A written statement made under oath.
37. **Statute**: A law enacted by a legislative body.
38. **Common Law**: Laws based on judicial decisions and precedent rather than statutes.
39. **Equity**: Principles of fairness and justice applied by courts in civil cases.
40. **Jurisdiction**: The authority of a court to hear and decide a case.
41. **Venue**: The geographic location where a case is heard.
42. **Remand**: Sending a case back to a lower court for further proceedings.
43. **Appeal**: A request to a higher court to review the decision of a lower court.
44. **Settlement**: An agreement between the parties to resolve the dispute before trial.
45. **Estoppel**: A legal doctrine that prevents a party from asserting a claim or defense that is inconsistent with a previous position.
46. **Lien**: A legal claim on property to secure payment of a debt.
47. **Fraud**: Intentional deception or misrepresentation that causes harm to another person.
48. **Statutory Law**: Laws enacted by a legislative body.
49. **Precedent**: Previous court decisions that serve as a guide for future cases.
50. **Equitable Remedies**: Court orders that require a party to do or refrain from doing a specific action to prevent injustice.

Civil Law encompasses a wide range of legal issues and provides a framework for resolving disputes through a system of rules and procedures. Understanding the key terms and vocabulary in Civil Law is essential for anyone studying or working in the legal field. By familiarizing yourself with these terms, you can navigate the complexities of civil litigation and contribute to the fair and just resolution of conflicts.