

View-Point: How to Study Terminology

The terminology presented in Sections 4.3. and 4.4 are based upon an actual case.

Civil v Criminal

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Civil v Criminal

Terms related to civil liability are collected together in Section 4.2, as are those related to criminal law in Section 4.3.

The manual presents the facts from the Case of the Nearsighted Owl so students can learn the terminology in the context of a legal matter.

Tastes cannot be controlled by law.
— Thomas Jefferson, "Notes on Coinage," 1784

§ 4.2 CIVIL LIABILITY

Louise's **estate** has decided to sue James in **civil court** with the goal of convincing the **court** that James is **liable** for Louise's death and should pay **damages**. The attorneys considered recommending that the windshield manufacturer be sued as well under the **doctrine of joint and several liability**, but decided against it.

estate
All the property left by someone who has died.

civil law
A violation of civil law does not directly harm the community; the person harmed sues the violator.

court
The tribunal or forum where the trial occurs, as

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Critical Terms

As you read the facts, important terms are presented in bold face.

The Definition

After each set of facts, the manual defines the most critical terms.

Terminology

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Use the arrows at the top right -hand corner to navigate through this demonstration.

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The Foundation

Terminology isn't the most enjoyable thing to study, but we are laying a foundation for your legal education.

Have fun!