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What does CONTEMPT mean?

Oxford Dictionaries-

 The feeling that a person or a thing is worthless or beneath consideration.

OR

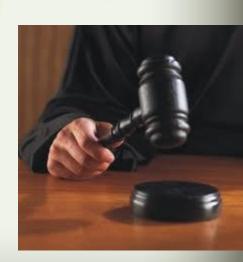
Disregard for something that should be considered

Dictionary.references.com-

 The feeling with which a person regards anything considered as mean; vile, or worthless.

OR

The state of being despised; dishonour; disgrace.



Contempt of Court

Anything that curtails or impairs the freedom of limits of the judicial proceedings.

Any conduct that tends to bring the authority and administration of Law into disrespect or disregard

Publishing words which tend to bring the administration of Justice into contempt, to prejudice the fair trial

Consisting of words spoken or written which obstruct or tend to obstruct the administration of justice

Need for Contempt of Court laws

Need for maintaining independence of judiciary

Need to respect the status and decisions of judiciary

Duty of all authorities in India to assist the courts in executing their orders

Full faith and credit clause in the Constitution

To avoid willful disobeyance of courts' orders

Avoid the tendency to lower image of judiciary

Genesis

World

- □ Called as *contemptus curiae* in Latin, has been in currency since 17th Century.
- Based on Common law- an unwritten law modelled on English law which does not derive its authority from any written statute.
- □ Genesis of contempt is in a judgement which was reserved after argument in R. v Almon 1756 by Justice John Eardley Wilmot.
- ☐ Case: John Almon published derogatory remarks against Chief Justice- Court ordered attachment of properties- but Writ wrongly titled as R. v. Wilks- amendment without consent not permissible-hence abandoned.
- Judgement became public in 1802paper published by Justice Wilmot's son.

India

- Committee of the Privy Council which observed that the powers of the High Courts to punish against contempt are the same in such courts as in the Supreme Court in England.
- □ The fist Indian stature on the law of contempt i.e., the Contempt of Courts Act was passed in 1926. Later states like Hyderabad, Madhya Bharat, Mysore, Pepsu, Rajastha, Travancore-Cochin and Saurashtra enacted laws, which was replaced by the Contempt of Courts Act, 1952
- An attempt was made in April, 1960- A
 Special Committee set up- report on 28th
 February,1963 to define and limit the
 powers of certain courts in punishing
 contempt of courts and to regulate their
 procedure in relation thereto. Joint Select
 Committee of Parliament on Contempt of
 Courts went in detail and a new Bill, The
 Contempt of Courts Bill, 1968 was
 prepared by the Joint Select Committee



Types of Contempt

Civil Contempt

Criminal Contempt

Wilful disobedience to any judgement, decree, direction, order, or writ Publication of any matter or the doing of act which scandalizes /interferes with judicial proceeding

Violation of rights of one party

Eg. Contemnor has failed to pay proper alimony payments

Offence against the judiciary

Eg. Witness insults the judge during trial

Direct Contempt

Occurs in the presence of court

Eg. Shouting in a courtroom or refusing to answer questions

Indirect Contempt

Occurs outside the presence of court

Eg. Attempting to bribe judge

- 1. Wilful Disobedience to any judgement or order of court
- 2. Act or publication scandalizing the authority of court,interfering with judicial proceedings or obstructing the administration of justice in any manner.

- **Innocent publication**
- Fair &accurate report of judicial proceeding
- Fair criticism of judicial act
- **Complaint against presiding** officers of subordinate courts
- **Publication of information** relating to proceedings in camera(except in certain cases)