

G

Garnishee order	a court order to a third party who owes money to a judgement debtor to pay the money to the judgement creditor.
General damages	damages a court will give to compensate for a wrong done without needing specific proof that damage has been done to the claimant ('plaintiff' before April 1999). The court presumes that losses or damage exist such as in a libel case.
General meeting	a meeting of the members of a company to make decisions about the company.
Grant	proof that you are entitled to deal with a dead person's estate. The grant is issued by the Probate Registry.
Grant of probate	a certificate proving that the executors of a will are entitled to deal with the estate. When a person dies the executors fill in various forms for the Probate Registry. The forms are then sent to the registry together with the will and the death certificate. A registrar examines all the documents and, once satisfied with everything, issues the grant of probate.
Grievous bodily harm	intentionally causing serious physical harm to someone. This is more serious than actual bodily harm.
Guarantee	a promise by a person (the guarantor) to repay a debt owed by a second person if the second person fails to repay it. For example, a guarantee is sometimes required by a bank before it will lend money to a customer.
Guarantee company	a company whose members only have to pay the amount they have agreed to contribute, if the company has to be wound up. They do not have to pay in extra money if there is not enough to pay all the company's debts.
Guarantor	a person or organisation that promises to pay a debt owed by a second person, if the second person fails to repay it.
Guardian	a person appointed formally to look after the interests of a child, or of someone who is not capable of looking after their own affairs.

Guilty a court's verdict that the person charged with a crime committed it.

H

Habeas corpus a writ which can be applied for to order a person's release if they have been imprisoned unlawfully.

Harassment of debtors the illegal act of attempting to collect a debt by threatening, or habitually acting in a way that humiliates or distresses, a debtor.

Harassment of Occupiers the illegal act by a landlord of using, or threatening to use, violence, or interfering with the tenant's enjoyment of the property, in an attempt to repossess the property.

Hearsay evidence evidence given in court of something said to the witness by another person.

Hereditament any property which is capable of being inherited.

High Court (of Justice) part of the Supreme Court. It is split into three divisions called:

- Queen's Bench Division;
- Chancery Division; and
- Family Division.

Hire to pay to borrow something for a period.

Hire purchase a form of credit which allows the purchaser to have possession of the goods shown in the hire purchase agreement. Ownership passes to the purchaser when the fee and all the instalments have been paid.

HM Customs and Excise a government department responsible for administering (managing) value added tax, customs duties and excise duties.

HM Land Registry a registry with offices in towns and cities throughout the UK which keep records of registered land.

Holding company a company which controls another company, usually by owning more than half of its shares.

Hostile witness	a witness who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refuses to testify in support of the people who called them; or • testifies in a way which differs from their previous statement.
House of Lords	the upper house of the Parliament of the United Kingdom.
Housing associations	organisations run to provide housing for people. They are not intended to make a profit.
Hypothecation	a person giving a bank authority to sell goods which have been pledged to the bank as security for a loan.
I	
Indict	using legal means, to officially accuse someone of committing an offence.
Indictable offence	an offence which can be tried by jury in the Crown Court
Indictment	a document setting out the details of the offence a defendant is accused of.
Intangible property	property which does not physically exist, such as a right or a patent.
Interest	a legal right to use property.
Interlocutory Judgement	a provisional judgement. (Since April 1999, this had been replaced with the phrase 'Judgment for an amount and costs to be decided by the court').
Interlocutory Proceedings	the first things to be done before a civil case comes to trial. They include pleading (preparing the formal written statement) and discovery (stating the documents, under one party's control, which are relevant to the case and making them available to the other party) so that there are no surprises when the trial starts.
Interrogatories	in a civil case, formal questions from one side which the other side must answer under oath.

Intestacy/intestate when someone dies without leaving a will. Their estate is divided up between their relatives following the rules set by law.

Intimidation threatening or frightening someone into doing something.

Involuntary manslaughter Death caused by a person who thought they might cause physical but not fatal harm and there was no lawful excuse.

Issue the legal word for:

- children; or
- the matter to be decided by a court action.

Issued share capital share capital which has been allocated to shareholders who have subscribed for (asked for) shares.

J

Joint and several liability two or more people responsible for repaying a debt. They are each responsible individually to repay all the debt as well as being responsible as a group.

Joint lives policy a life assurance policy on more than one person's life. The policy pays out on the first death.

Joint tenancy two or more people having identical shares in land.

Joint will a single will which two or more people make to cover all their estates. Probate has to be obtained on each death.

Joyriding taking a vehicle without permission and using or allowing it to be used without authority.

Judge a person whose job is to adjudicate in court cases. The Crown and the Prime Minister appoint judges. Most are barristers but some are solicitors.

Judge advocate a lawyer who advises a military court which is trying an offence.

Judge Advocate General a lawyer who is in charge of military justice in the British Army and the Royal Air Force.

Judge Advocate General's

Department	a government department which appoints barristers to advise army and air force courts.
Judge Advocate of the Fleet	a lawyer who is in charge of military justice in the British Navy.
(Office of the) Judge Advocate of the Fleet	a government department which appoints barristers to advise naval courts.
Judge in chambers	describes a hearing in front of a judge which is not held in court.
Judgement	a decision by a court.
Judgement creditor	a person who is owed money and who has been to court and obtained a judgement for the money owed.
Judgement debtor	a person who owes the money a court judgement says is owed.
Judgement in default	getting a judgement against you because you failed to do something. If a civil case has gone to court but the defendant does not do something required by the court (such as turn up), judgement for the claimant ('plaintiff' before April 1999) may be given.
Judgement summons	a summons to appear in court to disclose (reveal) income and assets under oath because a judgement debtor has failed to pay the judgement debt.
Judicial discretion	a degree of flexibility about the way courts do things.
Judicial immunity	immunity that a judge normally has from being sued for damages when acting as a judge.
Judicial precedent	Lower courts have to follow the decisions of higher courts. This is called judicial precedent, binding precedent or precedent.
Judicial separation	a court order that two married people should live apart.
Junior barrister	a barrister who is not a Queen's Counsel.

Jurisdiction

is:

- the territory in which a court can operate;
- the power it has to deal with particular cases;

or

- the power it has to issue orders.

Juror

one of the people who are acting as a jury.

Jury

a group of people (usually 12) who review all the evidence in a court case and then come to a verdict.

Jury service

serving on a jury. Most people between the ages of 18 and 70 can be required to serve on a jury.

Just and equitable winding up

a winding up ordered because fairness cannot be achieved for all the members of a company.

Justice of the Peace (JP)

a person appointed by the Crown to act as a magistrate.

Justification

claiming that a defamatory statement is true. In a defamation case a defendant may admit that the claimant ('plaintiff' before April 1999)'s allegations are true but plead that the statement which defamed was true.

Justifying bail

proving to the court that the person giving the surety has the assets to pay the bail.

Juvenile offender

a person aged between 10 and 17 who has committed a criminal offence.

K

Kerb crawling

the offence committed in a street or public place by a man in a motor vehicle (or near a vehicle he has just got out of) who approaches a woman for sexual services in return for money.

Kidnap

to take someone away by force against their will.

Knock for knock

an agreement between insurance companies that they will pay for their own policyholders' losses regardless of who was to blame.

Know-how

the expertise in an organisation which may be protected by a patent.