

Infographic for Immediate Release

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Court 101: Common court terms you may not know

HARRISBURG — Have you ever wondered what is meant by ex parte, habeas corpus or even disposition? Legal concepts and court terms can be complex. The infographic below highlights a few of these important court terms or visit www.pacourts.us/learn to see our full legal glossary.

We encourage reporters to use the full graphic, or parts of the graphic, by [downloading a high-resolution version](#).

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CONTINUANCE
Postponement of legal proceeding to a later date.

DISPOSITION
The court's final determination of a lawsuit or criminal charge.

DUE PROCESS
The principle that an individual cannot be deprived of life, liberty, or property without appropriate legal procedures and safeguards.

EX PARTE
On behalf of only one party, without notice to any other party.

HABEAS CORPUS
Judicial order that a person come before a judge, usually to determine whether that individual is being legally detained or imprisoned.

JURISDICTION
Court's authority to hear and/or decide a case. Also, territory for which a court is authorized to hear cases.

ORDER
Command, written or oral, from a court.

WRIT
Judicial order directing a person to do something.

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