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Government, Choices, & You



Glossary

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FOR THE
HUMANITIES

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Edward Byrne Memorial
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With support from these donors, other organizations, and individuals, Project REAL is able to provide our resources at no cost to tens of thousands of Nevadans each year.

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This book is inspired by and partially adapted from '*Play By the Rules: A Guide to 200 Nevadan Laws*', That publication was originally created by the Alabama Center for Civic Education in partnership with Project REAL in 2004, and then printed and produced by Project REAL with their permission from 2004 - 2018.

Nearly 100,000 students have better lives today because of the work *Play By the Rules* helped us achieve, and so we would like to thank everyone who helped make that resource such a significant success in Nevada for nearly 15 years.

Government, Choices, & You is what comes next,
and we can't wait to see what happens!

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About Project REAL

Project REAL reduces crime, protects students’ futures, and makes Nevada safer for everyone by engaging them in conversations about laws and the consequences of breaking them, and their Constitutional rights and how to exercise them.

Justice is rooted in knowledge, and our work brings more fairness and justice into the lives of the students we reach. We ensure that all of our resources are available at no cost to the schools, organizations, and families who wish to use them.

Project REAL helps the students of Nevada to become the greatest versions of themselves with respect for the law through unique activities and educational resources that engage them in critical thinking about citizenship, selfless action, democracy, and the law.

Our program helps to ensure that Nevada is populated by residents who respect the law, contribute to their community, and work to create a world they are proud to call home. By fostering actions of mutual respect and selflessness, and by encouraging commitments to local communities, we contribute to a safer Nevada for us all.

Legacies

This book – and the many other **Project REAL** activities and publications that have preceded it – would not have been possible were it not for the vision, generous support, and championing of Irwin Molasky and **Project REAL**’s other founders.

Since 2004, **Project REAL** has been teaching the students of Nevada about the law and their rights. **Project REAL** was founded to ensure that the young residents of Nevada have consistent access to informative and empowering law related education. Because of **Project REAL**, Nevada’s students are and shall remain safer, wiser, and more informed members of the communities they live in.

About This Book & How You Should Treat It

The book you hold in your hands has been provided to your school by **Project REAL**, a nonprofit organization that serves the students of Nevada. Where most companies exist to make money, nonprofits work to spend money in ways that make the world a better place. The money to do this kind of work comes from donations made by companies, government agencies, and people just like you.

Since we are a nonprofit, we provide these books at no cost to anyone in Nevada who requests them, when we have them in stock and are able to provide them. We are happy to do that – it’s why we exist as a nonprofit - but that also means we can only print and distribute a limited amount of books each year based on the donations we receive. Given that, we *hope* you will treat this book carefully and with respect while it is in your possession.

Even though this guide has been donated to a school or community organization, you can get your own free copy!

Free digital versions of this guide and access to other resources are available on our website and in our mobile app that can be downloaded from Google Play and iTunes.



bit.ly/realandroid



projectrealnv.org



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About These Lessons

Government, Choices, & You has been designed to help you understand scenarios in which you and other students your age (around 10 – 15 years old) might think the biggest risk you're taking is getting grounded or detention, when you're taking risks that could get you arrested or lead to other serious criminal consequences.

This isn't just a book-length lecture or a list of laws you need to learn. In fact, it isn't that at all! Even if you pay more attention than anyone else in your class, we're not expecting you to memorize the more than 200 laws in this guide (let alone the consequences of breaking them). Instead, this guide has been designed to help you avoid 'accidental crimes' by teaching you to 'think within the law'.

This also isn't just about teaching you about laws you might end up breaking – knowingly or accidentally. It's also about teaching you about laws that protect you from others, and that help give you control over your own life, safety, and happiness. Like the criminal laws that will be explained though, we won't be giving you a list to memorize. Instead, if you pay attention, you'll learn how to find the help you need when you suspect the law is on your side (without just assuming you know there's a law that helps you in a way that actually causes you more trouble than you were in before).

Students, Parents, & Guardians: This Is Not Legal Advice

The information in this book is not intended as legal advice. **No legal advice is being given.** If you are facing legal issues, whether criminal or civil, seek professional legal counsel to get your question answered. This book is not a replacement for legal advice. Instead, *Government, Choices, & You* is designed to be a first step as adolescent readers develop an understanding of just how American Law will shape their choices and outcomes on a 24-hours 7-days-a-week rest-of-their-lives basis. Rather than serving as an index of laws and a guide to applying them, this guide can aid the reader in understanding how laws might apply to many different situations they may encounter while living their day-to-day lives.

To be 100% clear: If you ever find yourself in a situation where your life is intersecting with the law, we highly encourage you to seek the advice and services of a licensed and practicing attorney.

You should also keep in mind that laws are ever-changing. Consider how you are taught from an early age that The United States Constitution is a living document. Laws work similarly and each year many new laws are created while some existing laws are repealed. Given the ever-changing landscape of laws in the United States, we highly suggest that you contact an attorney if you ever find yourself with questions related to the law.

Project REAL's staff and volunteers worked extensively to research the book you hold in your hands. We have ensured that the information provided herein is accurate, true, and up-to-date at the time of publication (with this edition's publication occurring in September 2022). While the book will introduce you to key concepts, rights, responsibilities, and laws which you are likely to encounter throughout your life, it is neither an encyclopedia nor a replacement for sound legal advice. This is a starting point meant to empower you, however the laws which are referred to in this book may be different based on where you live and when you are reading the material. It was also written with Nevada's laws in mind. Whether you're from another state or moving away, laws can be different depending where you live, especially when it comes to issues like immigration, technology, civil law, and gun rights. Should you find yourself living outside of Nevada, be sure to familiarize yourself with local laws and statutes as they may be different from the ones detailed in this manual.

On a final note, we are committed to maintaining this guide with up-to-date information. We will update the digital version of this text regularly as the laws continue to change. You can always download the most up-to-date version we have available from our website. On our site, we've dedicated a page specific to this guide where you'll find the digital copy. Once there, you'll also be able to access a number of other links & resources you may find helpful. That page, and all the resources it contains, can be found here:

ProjectRealNV.org/choices

Meet the Cast



Devin



Taylor



Ash



JJ



Kendall



Blake



Devin's Mom



Taylor's Mom



Ash's Dad



JJ's Mom



Kendall's Dad



Blake's Mom



Mr. J



Mrs. P



Ms. T



Dallas



Rory



Police Officer



Police Officer



Prosecutor



Prosecutor



Defense Attorney



Judge



Judge



Mystery Person

Glossary

Accountable (to the law) – The idea that everyone has the same responsibility to follow the law, and everyone is treated the same when it comes to justice being served within the legal system.

Activism – Activism is the practice of using direct or noticeable action to promote political, social, economic, or environmental change; an activist is someone that engages in activism.

Aiding & Abetting – A criminal offense in which a person assists someone in committing or to encourage someone to commit a crime.

Alcohol Education Card – A card that verifies that a person in the state of Nevada is allowed to serve alcohol as part of their work duties, in part because they took classes about safely providing alcohol to customers.

Alcoholic Beverage – A beverage (drink) that contains at least 0.5% alcohol by volume (ABV).

Amendment – An official addition or change to the law code.

Animal Cruelty – Any action or inaction that causes suffering to animals.

Appeal – The process of officially challenging a court's decision.

Arson – The act of maliciously burning a building, structure, vehicle, or setting a fire in an open outdoor area.

Assailant – A person who attempts to cause injury to another person.

Assault – An attempt to cause physical injury to another person.

Attorney/Lawyer – A licensed professional that practices law, often by advising and representing clients in a court of law.

Authority – The power to manage and decide things.

Battery – The act of intentionally physically harming someone.

Bench Trial – A case in which a judge fills the role of a jury,

Bill – A formal proposal of a new law, before legislative approval.

Bill of Rights – A collection of ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution which focus on individual rights in the U.S., rather than the structure of government and legal authorities. If the U.S. Constitution explained "This is our nation and how it shall be governed," than the Bill of Rights explained "and this is how the people of the nation shall be treated."

Blackmail – A criminal event in which a perpetrator threatens to harm a victim in some non-violent way, unless the victim follows instructions given by the perpetrator. For example, if Kid A threatened to tell Kid B's parents that Kid B skipped school, unless Kid B agreed to do Kid A's homework for a week, Kid A (the perpetrator) would be blackmailing Kid B (the victim of blackmail).

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) – A measure of the concentration of alcohol in someone's blood; BAC is usually expressed as a percentage.

Breach of Contract – To be in violation of a contract that is legally binding.

Breach of Peace – The act of causing a disturbance in a quiet public area.

Bribery – The act of offering something of value in order to influence the actions of a lawmaker; a criminal act that can be charged as a felony.

Bullying – A verbal (spoken or written) or physical act that is meant to intimidate someone.

Burglary – The act of breaking into a house, vehicle, or boat in order to commit a crime inside or onboard.

Campaign – A process of organized actions with the goal of achieving a specific political purpose.

Child Abuse – An act (or failure to act) on the part of an adult that results in serious harm to a child in their care; child abuse can be physical, sexual, and/or mental.

Child Endangerment – Knowingly placing a minor in a situation where they may suffer physical or mental harm.

Child Neglect – Failure of a parent or guardian to provide appropriate food, clothing, shelter, and medical care to a child in their custody.

Civil Court – The part of the judicial system that settles disputes between people or entities; the kind of court that tries civil cases.

Civil Disobedience – An active refusal to follow a certain law or laws; a non-violent form of resistance to a law or policy.

Civil Infraction – When a law is broken but the punishment doesn't involve the risk of being sent to jail.

Civil Law – The part of the law code that settles disputes between people.

Community Education - Programs that promote learning in a community with the goal of creating positive change.

Community – A collection of people who share something in common, where that common thing shapes their lives – with or without directly connecting with each other.

Community Organizing – The process of coordinating, or organizing, efforts in a community to create change.

Compensation – Money that is owed.

Computer Hacking – The act of accessing a computer or computer network without permission or authorization.

Concealed Weapon – A weapon that is hidden on a person's body and is not noticeable under normal observation.

Conflict – A type of disagreement that creates problems for people by making things unpleasant and less than peaceful. Less conflict means more happiness.

Consent – A legal term to describe a permission that is willing and openly given from one person to another person. For example, you may not like going to the dentist, but you consent to let them scrape your teeth for a cleaning. If you ask them to stop, you are taking away your consent. Consent may be given, paused, and taken away by the person issuing the consent at any time and in any way.

Constitutional – Adhering to (following) the laws set down in the United States Constitution.

Contract – An agreement between parties that is enforceable by law.

Convict (Action) – That act of finding a person or group responsible for a crime by holding a trial or other legal processes.

Convict (Person) – A person that has been found to be guilty / responsible for a crime.

Copyright – The sole legal right to print, publish, record, and distribute creative material.

Corps Programs – Public service programs where participants are given a small amount of compensation for their work; popular corps programs include AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps.

Court Case – A collection of steps dealing with an issue that a court is handling, including the trial.

Courts – Places that exist to reduce conflict and promote justice and fairness in society by answering questions that relate to a society's laws.

Crime – An act that violates a law.

Crimes Against Persons – Criminal acts that harm or threaten to cause bodily harm to someone.

Crimes Against Property – Criminal acts that cause damage to or loss of someone's property.

Criminal Gang – A group of people that work together to engage in one or more felony criminal habits.

Criminal Law – The part of the law code that details the punishments associated with committing crimes.

Criminal Trespass – The act of being on someone's property without permission.

Curfew – A rule that requires minors to be home (or off of public streets) by a certain time.

Custody – Legal control over a person.

Cyberbullying – The use of electronic communication to engage in bullying behavior.

Cycle – A two- or three-wheeled machine that is powered by a person operating pedals.

Date Rape Drug – A substance used to make it easier for someone to commit rape or sexual assault.

Death Penalty – A punishment in which the life of a person is ended at the conclusion of some sort of legal process. For example, a killer may receive a death penalty after a trial is held and they are found guilty of murder.

Deadly Weapon – An object or device that is designed in a way that it can cause serious harm or death.

Defamation – A false statement that harms a person's reputation: includes libel and slander.

Defendant – In a criminal trial, the person or persons accused of committing a crime; in a civil trial, the person or persons being sued for damages.

Defense Attorney – A lawyer that defends a person or persons that have been charged with crimes.

Delinquent Act – An act committed by a juvenile, that if committed by an adult would result in criminal charges.

Department of Homeland Security – The division of the federal government that is responsible for improving the safety of all Americans through programs regulating customs, border security, emergency disaster response, cybersecurity, and anti-terrorism.

Department of Justice – A special part of the executive branch that handles all the branch's law enforcement responsibilities

Depressants – Drugs alter the way the body functions by slowing bodily systems down.

Desecration – The act of intentionally damaging, destroying, or defiling an object of such importance that it is given extra legal protections (meaning the punishment for destroying it may be greater than the standard property destruction punishments). Graves and religious institutions are things that may be referred to as having been desecrated, which may result in unique charges beyond standard property destruction ones.

Detained (Detainment) – A situation in which a person is not free to leave a conversation or an area, because another person with authority has given the detained person instructions to remain.

Detention Hearing – An official proceeding in which a judge determines whether or not a defendant must stay in a detention facility (meaning a jail or juvenile detention facility).

Direct Democracy – When people vote directly on all laws and policies that shape their lives (like if politicians didn't exist).

Direct Service – Work that has an immediate and direct impact (like walking an animal at an animal shelter, or building a new playground in a community park to replace an old broken one).

Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) – A government agency that is responsible for supporting a community by providing services to young people including child welfare services, mental health services, and juvenile justice services.

Divorce – A legal agreement that ends a marriage between two people.

Domestic Violence – A situation where a member or members of a family or household cause intentional harm to each other; domestic violence can refer to bodily injury or property damage.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) – The act of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; anyone discovered to be operating a motor vehicle with a BAC of .08% or higher will be charged with a DUI.

Drug Distribution – The criminal act of selling, delivering, or giving away illegal substances.

Drug Manufacturing – The act of manufacturing - or making - controlled or illegal substances; charge can apply to the possession of large quantities of chemicals used to make illicit drugs if intent to manufacture can be proved.

Drug Paraphernalia – Any equipment or materials that are designed for the manufacture or use of illegal substances.

Drug Trafficking – The act of intentionally selling very large amounts of controlled or illicit substances as a way of making a profit (for money).

Due Process – The responsibility of the legal system to treat everyone equally and according to the rules.

Edge-Lording – A form of tasteless shock-comedy in which people say offensive and outlandish things just to cause angry and passionate reactions out of other people, even though the 'jokester' doesn't mean the things they are saying. This 'joke' is only for the person making it, not the people hearing it. This form of humor is typically found in online communities.

Elected Position/ Elected Official – An elected position is a job that a person gets through being elected, rather than hired; a person in an elected position is an elected official.

Emancipated Minor – A person under the age of 18 that has been granted adult status by a court.

Emancipation of a Minor – The legal process for a minor (a person under the age of 18 years old) to be recognized as an adult in the eyes of the law.

Emotional Volatility – Dangerous and quickly changing emotions and states of mind.

Employee Theft – The act of an employee stealing merchandise from a store where they work, or intentionally charging a customer less than they are supposed to.

Employer – A person or company that pays you for working.

Enforcement – The process of making sure the punishments for breaking laws are delivered to the law breakers, so that the law has power and is more than just a collection of words.

Evidence – The equipment used to support the stories being told in a trial. Exhibits and testimony are both forms of evidence.

Executive Branch – The branch of the government that is responsible for implementing and enforcing laws; in the federal government the executive branch is led by the U.S. President.

Exhibits – Any kind of record or item that is presented to support a story being told in court. Items like knife found on a suspect at the time of their arrest would be one example, and a record of a report that detailed how fingerprints at the scene of a crime matched the fingerprints of a suspect would be another.

Expulsion – A disciplinary action that involves the permanent removal of a student from school due to a violation of school rules.

Fairness – When an opportunity – for good or for bad – is equally available to everyone.

Fake ID – A form of identification with false information, used by someone under the age of 21 to get into prohibited venues (like bars) or purchase prohibited products (like alcohol).

False Bomb Threat – The act of making a false statement about an explosive device that could harm people or property.

False Imprisonment – The act of forcing a person to stay somewhere and not allowing them to leave.

Federal Government – The government of the United States that manages national laws and policies (rather than local and state laws and policies).

Federal Laws – Laws that apply to everyone no matter what state they're in.

Felony – A person that is found legally responsible for a felony crime that has been committed.

Felony – The most serious category of crime, punishable by one year up to life in state or federal prison.

Filing Charges – The process in which a prosecutor formerly accuses a person of a crime, and then asks a court to determine if that person is responsible for the crime they are accused of being responsible for.

Financial Penalties – A sum of money to a person is required to pay to another party because of some choice or action the person making the payment found to be responsible for.

Fine / Fee – A penalty issued through legal processes like a small amount of money that someone is required to pay as a result of their being held responsible for a violation of a law.

Firearm – A weapon that expels a projectile through explosion or combustion.

Foreign Terrorists – People from another country that commit acts of terrorism.

Fraud - The act of intentional deception to take advantage of someone.

Gaming – The act of playing a game of chance in order to win money; gambling.

Good Cause – A sufficient reason to make a decision; in regard to school discipline, actions that result in immediate removal from school property.

Governing – The act of running a system in a controlled way so that it can continue to do whatever it was designed to do. Laws are used to govern a society – they help a society to continue to exist.

Government – A system that has power and authority that is used to help a society run and continue to exist for the benefit of the people it was designed to serve.

Gross Misdemeanor – A crime that is punishable by up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$2,000.

Guardian – A person appointed by a court to make decisions for someone else.

Guilty (Legal Term) – A determination that a person is responsible for having broken a law, and that they are responsible ‘beyond a reasonable doubt’

Habitually Truant – The state of being truant three or more times in one year; habitual truancy is reported to law enforcement.

Hallucinations – When people ‘see’ things in their vision that no one else can see, usually the product of mental illness or the result of the hallucinating viewer having taken some kind of mind-altering substance (including but not limited to plants and drugs).

Hallucinogen – Any substance that causes a person who consumes it to experience visual distortions called hallucinations, which other people are not able to see.

Harassment – Threatening someone with harm a way that makes them fear for their safety or the safety of their property.

Hate Crime – Any crime that is committed where the identity of a victim plays a role in their being made a victim, the punishment for each crime can be increased up to double the standard penalty for that same crime. Rather than an actual ‘crime’, hate crimes are ‘enhancements’ of existing crimes – a base crime occurs, and since ‘hate’ played a factor in that crime, the punishment can increase significantly.

Hitchhiking – The act of standing on the side of the road to flag down strangers and ask for a ride.

Homicide – The act of one person causing the death of another.

Huffing – The criminal act of intentionally breathing in vapors, gasses, and other airborne chemicals for the purposes of achieving an altered state of mind (i.e. to get high).

Identity Theft – The act of using someone else’s personal information in order to buy merchandise or apply for credit and/or loans.

Illicit – Forbidden by law; illegal.

Impartial – The state of being unbiased.

Indecent Exposure – The act of exposing or showing private parts of the body in public or in a place open to public view.

Indirect Service – Work that helps make direct service happen, or that helps direct service to be the most helpful. Managing direct service projects and doing research to help with a campaign are examples of indirect service.

Inhalants – Substances that are consumed by breathing, when those substances are used specifically to achieve an altered state of mind. Gasses, vapors, and fumes may all be inhalants.

Intentional Tort – A tort that was committed on purpose.

Invasion of Privacy – The intrusion into someone’s personal life without just cause.

Judge – An official either appointed or elected to decide on legal disputes.

Judicial Branch – The branch of the government that is responsible for interpreting laws; in the federal government the judicial branch is the United States Supreme Court.

Jurisdiction – The authority to manage specific issues because of location, power-structures, or specialty.

Jury – A group of people selected and tasked with determining the outcome of a trial based on the evidence presented.

Jury Duty – The act of serving on a jury.

Justice – Both a measure of fairness (the way an inch or a centimeter is a measurement of length) and the event of a law being followed or a punishment being carried out in response to a law having been broken. Justice is measured by how well off a society’s worst-off citizen is, and how much opportunity they have to improve their condition compared to the opportunity other members of that society have.

Juvenile – A person under the age of 18 years old that has not been legally emancipated; cases including legal violations committed by juveniles are handled in juvenile court.

Juvenile Court – The division of the court that deals with juvenile cases.

Juvenile Delinquency – When a person under the age of 18 has broken a law.

Juvenile Detention Facility – A building where minors wait for meetings with lawyers and for court hearings.

Juvenile Justice System – The system in place that handles cases when juveniles have been accused of crimes.

Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) – A member of law enforcement that supervises juveniles while they complete their probation.

Law – A rule made by a governing body that states how people may and may not behave. Laws are essentially special types of rules that tell people how to act, behave, or address certain situations. Unlike rules, laws are meant to apply to everyone at all times. In other words, all laws are rules, but not all rules are laws.

Legally Binding – The state of being enforceable by law.

Legislative Branch – The branch of the government that is responsible for making laws; in the federal government the legislative branch is Congress, made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Lewdness with a Child – A sexual act with a child under the age of 14 years old.

Liable – The state of being legally, financially responsible for something.

Libel – False written statements that harm a person’s reputation.

Lifetime Appointment – Holding a position for the duration of a career; someone with a lifetime appointment can serve in that position for the rest of their working lives.

Littering – The act of knowingly discarding garbage on a street, or on public or private property.

Lobbying/Lobbyist – The act of influencing or attempting to influence government decision-making is called lobbying; people that engage in lobbying are called lobbyists.

Loiter – To linger (wait around with no purpose) in an area where it is not allowed.

Making a False Police Report – The act of intentionally deceiving law enforcement about a criminal investigation.

Malicious Mischief – The act of intentionally damaging someone’s property.

Mandatory Reporter – A person in a profession required by law to report suspicion of neglect or abuse; teachers, doctors, and police officers are all mandatory reporters.

Marijuana – Products that are derived from the cannabis plant; marijuana is consumed through smoking or eating, and is illegal at the federal level, however some states have begun to legalize marijuana possession.

Maximum Security Facility – A place where people that have committed serious offenses are held.

Minimum Wage – The lowest amount a person is allowed to be paid for work, according to the law.

Minor in Possession (MIP) – A person under the age 21 that possesses, for any reason, any alcoholic beverage in a public place; a minor in possession charge is a misdemeanor criminal offense.

Miranda Warning/Miranda Rights – A notification that law enforcement is required to give to anyone they are detaining, include the right to remain silent and the right to an attorney.

Misdemeanor – A crime that is punishable by less than six months in jail and a fine of up to (but not more than) \$1,000.

Motor Vehicle – A machine that runs on its own power; a machine that operates using an engine.

Murder – The crime of intentionally killing a person.

Narcotics – A category of medication that is prescribed to treat moderate to severe pain; these substances dull sensations and are usually highly addictive. Narcotics are controlled substances.

National Days of Service – A day or days where people are encouraged to volunteer in their communities.

Negligence – A failure to provide an appropriate amount of care in a given situation where care should be reasonably expected.

Not Guilty (Legal Term) – A determination that a person is not responsible for having broken a law, or that if they were responsible then the court has failed to prove their responsibility ‘beyond a reasonable doubt.’

Obscene – Something visual, spoken, or written that a reasonable person would find offensive.

Obstructing a Police Officer – The act of making false statements to or withholding information from a police officer.

Open or Gross Lewdness – The act of engaging in sexual activity in a public place or a in a place open to public view.

Ordinance – A local law.

OTC Drugs (Over-The-Counter Drugs) – Any substance with a medical purpose that can be purchased without a medical professional's referral.

Overdose – A deadly situation in which a person has consumed more of a substance than their body can process in a healthy way, and that may result in serious injury or death.

Pajama Crimes – Any kind of crime you can do easily in just a few seconds while resting in the comfort of your home while in your pajamas.

Parties – The people in court who are named in the court case. For example, both a defendant and plaintiff are parties in a civil law case.

Pedestrian – A person travelling by foot; someone walking.

Penalties – Punishments issued within the context of law, meaning it was issued because a law said it could be issued, or it was issued in a way the law says it should be issued.

Perjury – The act of lying while under oath.

Perpetrator – A person who committed a crime.

Phishing – The act of attempting to steal a person's identity by sending an official-looking but fake email message that records the person's username, password, and other sensitive information.

Plagiarism – The practice of using someone else's words and ideas without giving credit; taking credit for someone else's written work.

Plaintiff – A person that sues (files a lawsuit against) another person or entity.

Policy – An official guideline.

Possession of Stolen Property – The act of buying, receiving, or holding property that has been stolen.

Precedent – A court decision that is used as an authority for deciding later cases involving similar legal issues.

Prescription Drugs – Medication that can only be purchased after a doctor has given a patient a referral to take that substance, and a record of that referral.

Probation – A specified amount of time where an offender is allowed to return home, but must meet certain conditions.

Prohibition – A ban on an activity – usually related to some kind of consumable substance – that is supported by laws criminalizing whatever is being banned.

Prosecuting Attorney – A lawyer appointed or elected to represent the government in criminal cases; at the federal level prosecuting attorneys are called U.S. Attorneys, at the state level they are called District Attorneys.

Prosecution – The act of beginning legal proceedings against someone that has been accused of a crime.

Prosecutor – A lawyer for the government that argues criminal cases.

Protest – A public display of disapproval.

Public Defender – A lawyer appointed to represent defendants who cannot afford to hire a lawyer for themselves.

Public Service – Work that is done to benefit communities in an organized way.

Recreation – An activity done for enjoyment.

Rehabilitation – A process designed to help a person learn better habits so that they may rejoin a society.

Representative Government – A system of governance where people elect representatives, and those representatives then vote on issues and matters on behalf of the people who elected them.

Resisting Arrest – Although the technical term used to describe it may change, in general resisting arrest is the crime of not following lawful orders given by a law enforcement officers during their attempts to take a suspect into law enforcement custody.

Restitution – Financial (monetary) compensation paid to a victim for losses or damages.

Restrained – To limit or restrict, especially in regard to physical movement.

Right (Legal) – An action or ability protected by a law.

Robbery – The act of committing the crime of theft through the use of force.

Rules – Limits or restrictions on how people can act and behave that have been created to prevent conflicts, or to at least reduce how badly conflicts can shape the world around them. Rules can apply differently based on a time, a place, or the creator of the rule. Since rules can change based on who makes them or what they are made for, sometimes rules can cancel each other out, or don't help make situations better.

Rule of Law – A principle that states that all people are equally accountable to the law, and that the law is equally enforced.

School Function – A school-sponsored event or activity.

School Grounds – Any area owned and managed by a school, including auditoriums, cafeterias, and sports fields.

School Police Officer – A member of law enforcement that works in a school.

Sedatives – Drugs alter the way the body functions by slowing bodily systems down.

Serial Numbers – Special numbers given to items to help make each item unique and trackable. Serial numbers have many uses. For example, firearms have serial numbers so that government authorities can track them if they are used, and phones have serial numbers so that if a phone is stolen, the person who stole it won't be able to use it since it will show as stolen when the thief attempts to register it.

Sexual Assault – The act of sexual penetration upon a person that does not consent or cannot consent due to physical or mental incapacity.

Shoplifting – The act of taking goods from a store without purchasing them is a form of theft.

Slander – False spoken statements that harm a person's reputation.

Small Claims Court – A court that is designed to handle civil cases involving claims that are less than a specific amount; people can represent themselves in small claims court.

Social Work – A job where professionals work to protect and help other people who don't know how to use the law and other community services to get help.

Software Piracy – The act of using or distributing copyrighted computer software without the appropriate authorization.

Spam - Unsolicited electronic mail sent to a large number of addresses at once that can contain harmful attachments.

State Laws – Laws that only apply within a single state.

Status Offense - An act that is only prohibited by juveniles; a status offense is something that is prohibited for a juvenile but not for an adult, like skipping school.

Statutory Sexual Seduction – The act of a person that is 18 years old or older and engaging in sexual penetration with a person that is 14 or 15 years old.

Stimulants – Drugs alter the way the body functions by speeding bodily systems up.

Street Drugs – Drugs that aren't manufactured or grown exclusively (only for medical uses. Not a legal term, but one used in health education when discussing the criminal use of drugs.

Student Loans – Money that is lent to people (including people under the age of 18) to pay for higher education like college or a public university.

Supreme Court of Nevada – The highest court in the state of Nevada, it handles cases appealed from the state district courts.

Survivor – A person who continues living after experiencing a crime or challenging event that may have previously put their life in danger.

Suspect – A person who the authorities believe may have committed a crime, but who has not yet had charges brought against them.

Suspension – A disciplinary action that involves the temporary exclusion from school property and all school-related and school-sponsored activities due to a violation of school rules.

Swatting - A false report of an immediate and violent emergency made to a law enforcement agency, with the goal of that report being to force an emergency response by a heavily armed emergency response unit (like a SWAT-Team), which is intended to terrify the people at the location the police are called to.

System of Checks & Balances – A design of an organization that is meant to give different but equal powers to different parts of that organization. The goal is to make sure no branch or department of that organization gains more power and influence than the other parts. Think of it like feet: it's easier and to have two feet that are equally strong to stand upon, than it would be to have one strong foot and one weak one.

Tampering with a Mailbox – Destroying or damaging a mailbox, or interfering with the delivery of mail.

Teen Court – A program that allows juvenile offenders to face a jury of their peers; completing a Teen Court sentence allows a juvenile to avoid having their behavior appear on their record.

Testimony – Information provided to court by witnesses who have sworn to tell the truth and whom can be punished for lying during their testimony (since lying while in court is a crime).

Terrorism – Intentional, politically motivated violence against civilians (non-military groups or individuals) in order to invoke fear in a population.

Testify – To give a statement or statements under oath as a witness.

Theft – The act of taking someone’s property without permission.

Tobacco – The designation for a family of plants that contain the addictive chemical nicotine; tobacco is commonly found in cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and pipe tobacco.

Tort – An act that causes injury or harm to a person through the invasion or violation of their legal rights, as well as harmful behavior against their property, reputation, or privacy.

Trial – A specific process where two sides go into a courtroom and attempt to get a judge or jury to take their side in some dispute.

Tried as an Adult – When a juvenile commits an offense and the court decides to treat them as an adult in the eyes of the law; when a juvenile is tried as an adult, they lose some of the protections guaranteed in juvenile court and face the possibility of a more severe sentence if found guilty.

Truancy – The state of being absent from school without permission.

Unconventional Weapon — Items that aren’t typically used as weapons but can still significantly increase the amount of harm you can cause a person you attack.

U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals – The system of federal courts that handle appeals.

U.S. Code – The collection of the general and permanent laws of the United States.

U.S. Constitution – The foundation for the laws (and – with the Bill of Rights – the rights of the people) of the United States of America.

U.S. District Court – A United States federal court.

U.S. Supreme Court – The highest court in the United States; it makes up the judicial branch of the United States federal government. Judges on the Supreme Court have a lifetime appointment.

Unlawful Taking of a Vehicle – The act of taking or driving off with another person’s vehicle without their permission.

Victim – A person hurt by an action or event. Usually this term is applied to people that have been harmed by a crime.

Volunteering – The act of undertaking service for free or without the expectation of compensation.

Weaponizing – When a tools designed to accomplish good work (or even neutral work) it used in a way it wasn’t designed to – specifically turning the tool into an instrument of harm.

Witness – A person that saw or heard something important related to a crime; a witness swears to tell the truth to the court.



REAL Helpful: Reporting Your Participation

Project REAL's pre-tests & post-tests are a vital element of our ongoing service in Nevada!

Project REAL relies on generous supporters who like to see how many students their contributions have reached, and the impact those gifts have had with the students we serve. The pre-tests and post-tests students take part in help us to show those supporters all of the amazing work their generosity has produced. This encourages them to continue supporting our work, allowing us to continue providing our law-related education experiences for free to all of the families, students, schools, and community partners we serve throughout Nevada. We also use the information collected from pre-tests and post-tests to continually increase the value of our materials with updates and expansions based on student feedback.

If you appreciate *this* Project REAL experience, please be sure to take part in the post-test for it (even if you didn't take the pre-test first).

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<http://projectrealnv.org/pretest>

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REAL Continued Learning

Our law blogs are loaded with interesting stories about the law!

Whether you're a teacher looking to expand the experience beyond this publication, or a student who just really enjoyed the learning experience we provided in this guide, we have more material for you. On our Project REAL law blogs, we collect weird, fun, and interesting news stories involving courts, laws, and other civics-related topics. Each of our stories summarizes an interesting law-related news story, and then gets capped off with a series of questions that can be used as prompts for classroom discussions or writing exercises.

Project REAL Law Blogs

<https://projectrealnv.org/connect/blog/>

REAL Opportunity: Contact Us For More Free Resources

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Trunks filled with costumes and giant set-pieces for our mock trials! Field trips to the courts! Lawyers, judges, and law enforcement specialists as guest speakers! Project REAL offers all of these things and more – all at no cost to the families, schools, and community partners we serve: You just need to contact us to request them!

Having served Nevada since 2004, there are a number of Project REAL books 'out in the wild'. Perhaps you're a teacher who found 15 copies of this guide shoved into a drawer of a classroom you've inherited. Maybe someone emailed you a pdf file and you'd like physical copies of this publication. You might be a teacher who's working with mock trial scripts that were printed at the school and assembled with staples, wishing you had a teacher's guide for the material you're working with.

Whatever circumstance led you to this page, know that there are many other free resources waiting for you – you just need to get in touch with us to request them. We hope to hear from you soon.

Requests & More

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