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**COMMON
LEGAL WORDS
USE IN COURT**

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- **Acquittal** – When a person is declared not guilty by the court.
- **Adjudication** – The process of making a formal judgment or decision.
- **Affidavit** – A written statement made under oath.
- **Allegation** – A claim made without proof yet.
- **Amendment** – A change or addition to a legal document or law.
- **Appeal** – Asking a higher court to review a decision.
- **Arbitration** – A way to settle disputes outside of court through a neutral person.
- **Arraignment** – Formal reading of charges against a person in court.
- **Bail** – Temporary release of an accused person before trial, usually with a security deposit.
- **Bench** – The judge(s) of a court.
- **Binding** – Legally enforceable.
- **Breach of Contract** – Failure to follow the terms of a contract.

- **Cause of Action** – The legal reason to bring a case to court.
- **Caveat** – A formal warning or request to not take action without notice.
- **Charge Sheet** – A formal document by police listing accusations.
- **Cognizable Offence** – A crime where police can arrest without a warrant.
- **Complaint** – A formal statement alleging wrongdoing.
- **Conciliation** – Resolving disputes through discussion and compromise.
- **Confession** – An admission of guilt.
- **Contempt of Court** – Disrespect or disobedience to a court order.
- **Conviction** – A formal declaration that a person is guilty.
- **Cross-examination** – Questioning of a witness by the opposing party.
- **Custody** – Legal control over a person or property.
- **Damages** – Money awarded as compensation.

- **Decree** – A court's final order in a civil case.
- **Defamation** – Making false statements that harm someone's reputation.
- **Defendant** – The person accused in a case.
- **Deposition** – A witness's sworn statement recorded outside court.
- **Detention** – Keeping someone in custody.
- **Dismissal** – Termination of a case by the court.
- **Doctrine** – A legal principle or policy.
- **Due Process** – Fair treatment through the legal system.
- **Evidence** – Proof presented in court.
- **Ex parte** – Court proceedings without one party being present.
- **Execution** – Carrying out a court's order.
- **FIR (First Information Report)** – The first report of a crime to the police.
- **Fraud** – Wrongful deception for personal gain.

- **Garnishment** – Legal order to withhold money from a person’s wages.
- **Guardian** – A person legally responsible for another.
- **Harassment** – Unwanted behavior causing distress.
- **Hearing** – A session in court to present evidence or arguments.
- **Hypothecation** – Pledging property as security without giving up possession.
- **Immunity** – Protection from legal action.
- **Impeachment** – Challenging the credibility of a witness.
- **Injunction** – Court order to do or not do something.
- **Insolvency** – Inability to pay debts.
- **Interim Order** – Temporary order until final decision.
- **Interrogation** – Formal questioning by authorities.
- **IPC** – Indian Penal Code, criminal laws in India.
- **Issuance** – Official giving out of a legal document.

- **Jurisdiction** – Authority of a court to hear a case.
- **Justice** – Fair treatment under the law.
- **Judgment** – Final decision of a court.
- **Lease** – Contract to rent property.
- **Libel** – Written defamation.
- **Lien** – Legal right over another’s property until debt is paid.
- **Litigation** – Legal proceedings in court.
- **Maintenance** – Financial support ordered by court.
- **Mediation** – Dispute resolution through a neutral mediator.
- **Mens Rea** – Criminal intent.
- **Minor** – A person under the legal age of majority.
- **Mortgage** – Loan secured by property.
- **Negligence** – Failure to take proper care.
- **Non-bailable Offence** – Crime where bail is not a right.
- **Notary Public** – Official who certifies documents.

- **Notice** – Formal communication of legal information.
- **Objection** – Formal protest in court.
- **Offence** – An act punishable by law.
- **Oath** – Promise to tell the truth.
- **Order** – Court’s direction or command.
- **Parole** – Early release of a prisoner under conditions.
- **Party** – A person or entity involved in a case.
- **Perjury** – Lying under oath.
- **Plaintiff** – Person who brings a case in civil court.
- **Plea Bargain** – Agreement where accused admits guilt for lesser punishment.
- **Possession** – Control over property or goods.
- **Precedent** – Past case guiding future cases.
- **Probation** – Court-ordered supervision instead of prison.
- **Prosecution** – The state or authority bringing a criminal case.

- **Quash** – To reject or void a legal order.
- **Quasi-Judicial** – Actions having some judicial authority.
- **Quorum** – Minimum number of members for a meeting to proceed.
- **Ratification** – Approval of an act done without prior authority.
- **Real Property** – Land and anything attached to it.
- **Remand** – Sending an accused back to custody.
- **Remedy** – Legal means to enforce a right or redress harm.
- **Res Judicata** – Matter already judged cannot be tried again.
- **Sanction** – Official permission or penalty.
- **Search Warrant** – Court order to search property.
- **Sentence** – Punishment given after conviction.
- **Settlement** – Agreement to resolve a dispute.
- **Statute** – A written law passed by the legislature.
- **Stay Order** – Temporary halt on a legal action.

- **Sub Judice** – Matter currently under court consideration.
- **Summons** – Court order to appear before it.
- **Surety** – A person who takes responsibility for another's obligation.
- **Testimony** – Statement given by a witness in court.
- **Tort** – A wrongful act causing harm, other than a breach of contract.
- **Trial** – Formal examination of evidence in court.
- **Verdict** – Final decision by a judge or jury.