

Trial Court Employee Orientation Program - Glossary

Adjudication: A child's trial in a delinquency case is called an "adjudication hearing." This is the hearing at which a judge or jury decides whether or not the child violated a law.

Bonds: A written agreement purchased from a bonding company that guarantees a person will properly carry out a specific act such as showing up in court or providing good title to a piece of real estate.

Confidential: "Confidential" means access to the record is restricted to: (A) the parties to the case; (B) counsel of record; (C) individuals with a written order from the court authorizing access; and (D) court personnel for case processing purposes only. [Administrative Rule 37.5\(c\)\(4\)](#).

Custodial interrogation: Questioning initiated by law enforcement officers after a person has been taken into custody or otherwise deprived of his freedom of action in any significant way.

Default judgment: A judgment entered on behalf of a plaintiff when the defendant defaults, or fails to appear in the proceeding.

Exoneration: A court order directing the release from liability of the surety underwriting a bail bond or the person posting a cash deposit or a property bond.

Final judgment: A judgment conclusively determining the rights of the parties and disposing of the claims before the court, or of some separable portion thereof, so that, after the judgment or appeal decision, the judicial business that remains is enforcement of the judgment.

General Jurisdiction: General jurisdiction is the court's authority to hear all kinds of cases that arise within the geographic area over which its power extends.

Guardian ad litem: A person, not necessarily a lawyer, who is appointed by a court to represent and protect the interests of a child or an incapacitated adult during a court proceeding.

Trial Jury: A group of people selected to apply the law, explained by the judge, to the facts of a case and render a decision, called the verdict. [Click here to read more information about juries and jury service.](#)

Limited Jurisdiction: Limited jurisdiction is the power of a court to hear only certain types of cases, or those in which the amount in controversy is below a certain sum or that is subject to exceptions.

Offers of judgment: A written offer that will settle the lawsuit if accepted by the opposing party within a prescribed time period.

Orders Annuling Bonds: Orders declaring a bond invalid.

Process: The formal notice or writ used by a court to exercise jurisdiction over a person or property. It may take the form of a summons, subpoena, warrant, or writ.

Public Record: A public record is available to any member of the public.

Sealed: "Sealed" means access to the record is restricted to the judge and persons authorized by written order of the court.

Security: A financial instrument that is an asset.

Surety: A person who agrees to be responsible for another's debt or obligation, such as a bonding company that posts a bond for a building contractor.

Trust: Registration of a legal document by which an individual (the trustor) gives fiduciary control of property to a person or institution (the trustee) for the benefit of beneficiaries (persons entitled to receive benefits).

Undertakings: Undertaking: A formal pledge or promise to do something.

[Clerks' Manuals Glossary](#)