

# Welcome AGB!

**Post by “Cassius” of September 3, 2021 at 9:04 AM**

Here's a good list of rules of construction. A work of philosophy isn't exactly a statute, and many of these obviously don't apply, but many do:

[https://www.ncsl.org/documents/lss/2013PDS/Rehnquist\\_Court\\_Canons\\_citations.pdf](https://www.ncsl.org/documents/lss/2013PDS/Rehnquist_Court_Canons_citations.pdf)

This list might actually be better than the first list I linked:

<https://www.law.uh.edu/faculty/adjunct/dstevenson/2018Spring/CANONS%20OF%20CONSTRUCTION.pdf>

## SEMANTIC CANONS

Ordinary-Meaning Canon. Words are to be understood in their ordinary, everyday meanings—unless the context indicates that they bear a technical sense.

Fixed-Meaning Canon. Words must be given the meaning they had when the text was adopted.

Omitted-Case Canon. Nothing is to be added to what the text states or reasonably implies (*casus omissus pro omisso habendus est*). That is, a matter not covered is to be treated as not covered.

General-Terms Canon. General terms are to be given their general meaning (*generalia verba sunt generaliter intelligenda*).

Negative-Implication Canon. The expression of one thing implies the exclusion of others (*expressio unius est exclusio alterius*).

Mandatory/Permissive Canon. Mandatory words impose a duty; permissive words grant discretion.

Conjunctive/Disjunctive Canon. And joins a conjunctive list, or a disjunctive list—but with negatives, plurals, and various specific wordings there are nuances.

Subordinating/Superordinating Canon. Subordinating language (signaled by *subject to*) or superordinating language (signaled by *notwithstanding* or *despite*) merely shows which provision prevails in the event of a clash—but does not necessarily denote a clash of provisions.

Gender/Number Canon. In the absence of a contrary indication, the masculine includes the feminine (and vice versa) and the singular includes the plural (and vice versa).

Presumption of Nonexclusive “Include”. The verb to include introduces examples, not an exhaustive list.

Unintelligibility Canon. An unintelligible text is inoperative.