

# Glossary: H

**Habeas Corpus** [Latin.] "produce the body." The name of a writ demanding someone holding a prisoner to appear before the court with the prisoner and justify holding them prisoner.

**Habeas Corpus Petition.** An official document asking an appeals court to hear a prisoner's case or hear complaints about the nature of the confinement.

**Habitual Offender Laws.** *See* [Three Strikes](#).

**Hafer v. Melo.** [[502 U.S. 21](#) (1991)]. State officers may be held personally liable for damages under 1983 based upon actions taken in their official capacities, but not when acting in a private capacity.

**Hair Standard.** [Forensics]. A sample of hair obtained from an individual for use in a comparison with evidence hairs.

**Halfway Houses.** Programs that allow prisoners to reintegrate into the community in steps.

**Hampton v. United States** [[425 U.S. 484](#) (1976)]. It is not entrapment by the police if an informant supplies drugs to a suspect who is already predisposed to buy drugs.

**Harmful Error.** A mistake made by a judge that may be prejudicial to a defendant's case that can lead to a reversal.

**Harmless Error.** Any mistake during a trial that is not deemed sufficient to harm the rights of the defendant.

**Hate Crimes.** *See full article titled* [Hate Crimes](#).

**Hearing.** Any formal proceeding in which the court resolves a dispute between the prosecution and the defense in a case.

**Hearsay.** Information that is given by witness based on the statements of another person and not gained firsthand.

**Hearsay Rule.** Rule of law that hearsay cannot be used in court unless it falls under one of several exceptions to the rule.

**Hedonism.** Human beings seek pleasure and avoid pain. *See full article titled* [Hedonic Calculus](#).

**Hierarchy Rule.** Data collection practice for the FBI's *Uniform Crime Reports* where only the most serious crime in incidents involving multiple crimes is counted.

**Hoffa v. United States** [[385 U.S. 293](#) (1966)]. Evidence obtained by the Government by means of deceptively placing a secret informer in the quarters and councils of a defendant during one criminal trial *does not* violates the defendant's Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights such that suppression of such evidence is required in a subsequent trial of the same defendant on a different charge.

**Holding.** The rule of law drawn from a court's decision.

**Home Confinement.** Housing an offender his his or her own home.

**Homicide.** General term encompassing both murder and manslaughter; the killing of a live human being by another.

**Horton v. California.** [[496 U.S. 128](#) (1990)]. "The Fourth Amendment does not prohibit the warrantless seizure of evidence in plain view even though the discovery of the evidence was not inadvertent."

**Huddleston v. United States** [[485 U.S. 681](#) (1988)]. "Federal Rule of Evidence 404(b) provides that evidence of "other crimes, wrongs, or acts" is not admissible to prove a person's character, but may be admissible for other purposes, such as proof of knowledge. The district court need not itself make a preliminary finding that the Government has proved the "other act" by a preponderance of the evidence before it submits "similar acts" and other Rule 404(b) evidence to the jury."

**Hull House.** A shelter for homeless children; established by Jane Addams in Chicago during the 1890s.

**Hung Jury.** A jury whose members cannot come to an agreement on a verdict.