

Default Definitions of “Person” in State Statutes

State	Broad Definition of “Person” for All State Statutes that Includes Corporate Entities	Other Definitions
Alabama	<p>ALA. CODE §1-1-1 (2014)</p> <p>§1-1-1. Definitions. The following words, whenever they appear in this code, shall have the signification attached to them in this section unless otherwise apparent from the context:</p> <p>(1) "Persons" includes a corporation as well as a natural person.</p>	
Alaska	<p>ALASKA STAT. §01.10.060 (2013)</p> <p>§01.10.060. Definitions. (a) In the laws of the statute unless the context otherwise requires,</p> <p>(8) "person" includes a corporation, company, partnership, firm, association, organization, business trust, or society, as well as a natural person;</p>	
Arizona	<p>ARIZ. REV. STAT. §1-215 (2014)</p> <p>§1-215. Definitions. In the statutes and laws of this state, unless the context otherwise requires:</p> <p>28. "Person" includes a corporation, company, partnership, firm, association or society, as well as a natural person. When the word "person" is used to designate the party whose property may be the subject of a criminal or public offense, the term includes the United States, this state, or any territory, state or country, or any political subdivision of this state that may lawfully own any property, or a public or private corporation, or partnership or association. When the word "person" is used to designate the violator or offender of any law, it includes corporation, partnership or any association of persons.</p>	

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Arkansas		<p>ARK. CODE ANN.</p> <p>Arkansas does not have a general definition of person that applies to all Arkansas statutes. Some Arkansas statutes for particular areas of the law contain definitions of person that include corporate entities.</p>
California		<p>CAL. [SUBJECT] CODE</p> <p>There is no general definition for purposes of the California Codes. "Person" is usually defined for a particular code or a particular part of a code.</p>
Colorado	<p>COLO. REV. STAT. §2-2-401 (2014)</p> <p>§2-2-401. Definitions. The following definitions apply to every statute, unless the context otherwise requires:</p> <p>(8) "Person" means any individual, corporation, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, limited liability company, partnership, association, or other legal entity.</p>	
Connecticut	<p>CONN. GEN. STAT. §1-1 (2014)</p> <p>§1-1. Words and phrases - construction of statutes. (a) In the construction of the statutes, words and phrases shall be construed according to the commonly approved usage of the language; and technical words and phrases, and such as have acquired a peculiar and appropriate meaning in the law, shall be construed and understood accordingly.</p> <p>(k) The words "person" and "another" may extend and be applied to communities, companies, corporations, public or private, limited liability companies, societies and associations.</p>	
Delaware	<p>DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 1, §302 (2014)</p>	

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	<p>§302. Definitions. In the construction of this Code and of all other statutes of this State, unless the context requires a different meaning:</p> <p>(15) "Person" and "whoever" respectively include corporations, companies, associations, firms, partnerships, societies and joint-stock companies, as well as individuals.</p>	
Florida	<p>FLA. STAT. ANN. §1.01 (2014)</p> <p>§1.01. Definitions. In construing these statutes and each and every word, phrase, or part hereof, where the context will permit:</p> <p>(3) The word "person" includes individuals, children, firms, associations, joint adventures, partnerships, estates, trusts, business trusts, syndicates, fiduciaries, corporations, and all other groups or combinations.</p>	
Georgia	<p>GA. CODE ANN. §1-3-3 (2014)</p> <p>§1-3-3. Definitions. As used in this Code or in any other law of this state, the term:</p> <p>(14) "Person" includes a corporation.</p>	
Hawaii	<p>HAW. REV. STAT. ANN. §1-19 (2014)</p> <p>Division 1. Government. Title 1. Chapter 1, Common Law; Construction of Laws.</p> <p>§1-19. "Person", "others", "any", etc. The word "person," or words importing persons, for instance, "another", "others", "any", "anyone", "anybody", and the like, signify not only individuals, but corporations, firms, associations, societies, communities, assemblies, inhabitants of a district, or neighborhood, or persons known or unknown, and the public generally, where it appears, from the subject matter, the sense and connection</p>	

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	in which such words are used, that such construction is intended.	
Idaho	IDAHO CODE ANN. §73-114 (2014) §73-114. Statutory terms defined. (1) Unless otherwise defined for purposes of a specific statute: (d) The word "person" includes a corporation as well as a natural person;	
Illinois	5 ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. 70/1.05 (2014) Chapter 5. General Provisions. Statutes. Statute on Statutes. 70/1.05. [Person] "Person" or "persons" as well as all words referring to or importing persons, may extend and be applied to bodies politic and corporate as well as individuals.	
Indiana	IND. CODE ANN. §1-1-4-5 (2014) §1-1-4-5. Definitions applicable to construction of statutes. The following definitions apply to the construction of all Indiana statutes, unless the construction is plainly repugnant to the intent of the general assembly or of the context of the statute: (17) "Person" extends to bodies politic and corporate.	
Iowa	IOWA CODE §4.1 (2013) §4.1 Rules. In the construction of the statutes, the following rules shall be observed, unless such construction would be inconsistent with the manifest intent of the general assembly, or repugnant to the context of the statute: 20. Person. Unless otherwise provided by law, "person" means individual, corporation, limited liability company,	

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	government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership or association, or any other legal entity.	
Kansas	KAN. STAT. ANN. §77-201 (2013) §77-201. Rules of construction. In the construction of the statutes of this state the following rules shall be observed, unless the construction would be inconsistent with the manifest intent of the legislature or repugnant to the context of the statute: Thirteenth. "Person" may be extended to bodies politic and corporate.	
Kentucky	KY. REV. STAT. ANN. §446.010 (2014) §446.010. Definitions for statutes generally. As used in the statute laws of this state, unless the context requires otherwise: (33) "Person" may extend and be applied to bodies-politic and corporate, societies, communities, the public generally, individuals, partnerships, joint stock companies, and limited liability companies;	
Louisiana	LA. REV. STAT. ANN. §1:10 (2013) Title 1. General Provisions. Chapter 1. Interpretation of Revised Statutes. §1:10. Person, defined. Unless it is otherwise clearly indicated, the word "person" includes a body of persons, whether incorporated or not.	
Maine	ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 1, §72 (2014) §72. Words and phrases. The following rules shall be observed in the construction of statutes relating to words and phrases, unless such construction is inconsistent with the plain meaning of the enactment, the context otherwise	

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	requires or definitions otherwise provide. 15. PERSON. "Person" may include a body corporate.	
Maryland	MD. ANN. CODE art. 1, §1-101 and §1-114 (2014) Article 1. General Provisions. Title 1. Rules of Interpretation. §1-101. In general. Except as otherwise provided in this code, in this code the following words have the meanings indicated. §1-114. Person. "Person" includes an individual, receiver, trustee, guardian, personal representative, fiduciary, representative of any kind, corporation, partnership, business trust, statutory trust, limited liability company, firm, association, or other nongovernmental entity.	
Massachusetts	MASS. ANN. LAWS ch. 4, §7 (2014) §7. Definitions. In construing statutes the following words shall have the meanings herein given, unless a contrary intention clearly appears: Twenty-third, "Person" or "whoever" shall include corporations, societies, associations and partnerships.	
Michigan	MICH. COMP. LAWS SERV. §8.31 (2014) §8.31. "Person" defined. The word "person" may extend and be applied to bodies politic and corporate, as well as to individuals.	Many statutes include a separate definition of "person". Statutes use the term "individual" when the intent is to limit the statute's application to individuals.
Minnesota	MINN. STAT. §645.44 (2014) Chapter 645. (2014) Interpretation of Statutes and Rules. §645.44. Words and Phrases Defined. Subd. 7. "Person" may extend and be applied to bodies politic and corporate, and to partnerships and other unincorporated associations.	

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Mississippi	<p>MISS. CODE ANN. §1-3-39 (2014) §1-3-39. Person. The term "person," when used in any statute, shall apply to artificial as well as natural persons; and when used to designate the party whose property may be the subject of offense, shall include the United States, this state, or any other state, territory, or country, and any county, city, town or village which may lawfully own property in this state; also all public and private corporations, as well as individuals.</p>	
Missouri	<p>MO. REV. STAT. §1.020 (2014) §1.020. Definitions As used in the statutory laws of this state, unless otherwise specially provided or unless plainly repugnant to the intent of the legislature or to the context thereof: (12) The word "person" may extend and be applied to bodies politic and corporate, and to partnerships and other unincorporated associations;</p>	
Montana	<p>MONT. CODE ANN. §1-1-201 (2013) §1-1-201. Terms of wide applicability. (1) Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply in the Montana Code Annotated: (b) "Person" includes a corporation or other entity as well as a natural person.</p>	
Nebraska	<p>NEB. REV. STAT. ANN. §49-801 (2013) §49-801. Statutes; terms, defined. Unless the context is shown to intend otherwise, words and phrases in the statutes of Nebraska hereafter enacted are used in the following sense: (16) Person shall include bodies politic and corporate, societies, communities, the public generally, individuals,</p>	

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	partnerships, limited liability companies, joint-stock companies, and associations;	
Nevada	NEV. REV. STAT. ANN. §0.039 (2014) §0.039 "Person" defined. Except as otherwise expressly provided in a particular statute or required by the context, "person" means a natural person, any form of business or social organization and any other nongovernmental legal entity including, but not limited to, a corporation, partnership, association, trust or unincorporated organization. The term does not include a government, governmental agency or political subdivision of a government.	
New Hampshire	N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. §21:9 (2014) Title 1. Chapter 21. Statutory Construction. §21:9. Person. The word "person" may extend and be applied to bodies corporate and politic as well as to individuals.	
New Jersey	N.J. STAT. ANN. §1:1-2 (2014) §1:1-2. Words and phrases defined. Unless it be otherwise expressly provided or there is something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction, the following words and phrases, when used in any statute and in the Revised Statutes, shall have the meaning herein given to them. Person. The word "person" includes corporations, companies, associations, societies, firms, partnerships and joint stock companies as well as individuals, unless restricted by the context to an individual as distinguished from a corporate entity or specifically restricted to 1 or some of the above enumerated synonyms and, when used	

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	to designate the owner of property which may be the subject of an offense, includes this State, the United States, any other State of the United States as defined infra and any foreign country or government lawfully owning or possessing property within this State.	
New Mexico	N.M. STAT. ANN. §12-2A-3 (2013) Chapter 12. Article 2A. Uniform Statute and Rule Construction Act. §12-2A-3. General Definitions. In the statutes and rules of New Mexico: E. "person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture or any legal or commercial entity;	
New York		N.Y. [SUBJECT] LAW New York appears to take the approach of creating separate definitions for different broad categories of the law. Some of these definition sections define "person" to include corporate forms.
North Carolina	N.C. GEN. STAT. §12-3 (2014) §12-3. Rules for construction of statutes. In the construction of all statutes the following rules shall be observed, unless such construction would be inconsistent with the manifest intent of the General Assembly, or repugnant to the context of the same statute, that is to say: (6) "Person" and "Property". -- The word "person" shall extend and be applied to bodies politic and corporate, as well as to individuals, unless the context clearly shows to the contrary. The words "real property" shall be	

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	coextensive with lands, tenements and hereditaments. The words "personal property" shall include moneys, goods, chattels, choses in action and evidences of debt, including all things capable of ownership, not descendable to heirs at law. The word "property" shall include all property, both real and personal.	
North Dakota	N.D. CENT. CODE §1-01-49 (2014) §1-01-49. Other general definitions. As used in this code, unless the context otherwise requires: 8. "Person" means an individual, organization, government, political subdivision, or government agency or instrumentality.	
Ohio	OHIO REV. CODE ANN. §1.59 (2013) §1.59 Definitions. As used in any statute, unless another definition is provided in that statute or a related statute: (C) "Person" includes an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, and association.	
Oklahoma	OKLA. STAT. tit. 25, §16 (2014) Title 25. Chapter 1. Meaning of Terms and Construction of Statutes. (2014) §16. Person includes corporation. The word "person," except when used by way of contrast, includes not only human beings, but bodies politic or corporate.	
Oregon	OR. REV. STAT. §174.100 (2013) §174.100. Definitions. As used in the statute laws of this state, unless the context or a specially applicable definition requires otherwise: (5) "Person" includes individuals, corporations, associations, firms, partnerships, limited liability companies and joint stock companies.	

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Pennsylvania	<p>1 PA. CONS. STAT., §1991 (2014)</p> <p>§1991. Definitions. The following words and phrases, when used in any statute finally enacted on or after September 1, 1937, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, shall have the meanings given to them in this section:</p> <p>"Person." --Includes a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, business trust, other association, government entity (other than the Commonwealth), estate, trust, foundation or natural person.</p>	
Rhode Island	<p>R.I. GEN. LAWS §43-3-6 (2013)</p> <p>Title 43. Statutes and Statutory Construction. Chapter 3. Construction and Effect of Statutes. (2013)</p> <p>§43-3-6. "Person" defined. The word "person" extends to and includes co-partnerships and bodies corporate and politic.</p>	
South Carolina	<p>S.C. CODE ANN. §2-7-30 (2013).</p> <p>§2-7-30. Construction of words. (A) The words "person" and "party" and any other word importing the singular number used in any act or joint resolution shall be held to include the plural and to include firms, companies, associations, and corporations and all words in the plural shall apply also to the singular in all cases in which the spirit and intent of the act or joint resolution may require it. All words in an act or joint resolution importing the masculine gender shall apply to females also and words in the feminine gender shall apply to males. And all words importing the present tense shall apply to the future also.</p>	
South Dakota	<p>S.D. CODIFIED LAWS §2-14-2 (2014)</p> <p>§2-14-2. Definition of terms used in code. Terms used</p>	

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	throughout the code of laws enacted by § 2-16-13, mean: (18) "Person" includes natural persons, partnerships, associations, cooperative corporations, limited liability companies, and corporations;	
Tennessee	TENN. CODE ANN. §1-3-105 (2014) §1-3-105. Definition of terms used in code. As used in this code, unless the context otherwise requires: (19) "Person" includes a corporation, firm, company or association;	
Texas	TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. §311.005 (2014) §311.005. General definitions. The following definitions apply unless the statute or context in which the word or phrase is used requires a different definition: (2) "Person" includes corporation, organization, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, and any other legal entity.	
Utah	UTAH CODE ANN. §68-3-12.5 (2014) §68-3-12.5. Definitions for Utah Code. (1) The definitions listed in this section apply to the Utah Code, unless: (a) the definition is inconsistent with the manifest intent of the Legislature or repugnant to the context of the statute; or (b) a different definition is expressly provided for the respective title, chapter, part, section, or subsection. (16) "Person" means: (a) an individual; (b) an association; (c) an institution;	

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	(d) a corporation; (e) a company; (f) a trust; (g) a limited liability company; (h) a partnership; (i) a political subdivision; (j) a government office, department, division, bureau, or other body of government; and (k) any other organization or entity.	
Vermont	VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 1, §§101 and 128 (2013) Chapter 3. Construction of Statutes. Subchapter 1. Generally. §101. Application of chapter. In the construction of statutes the rules set out in this chapter shall be observed, unless such construction is inconsistent with the manifest intent of the general assembly or repugnant to the context of the same statute. Subchapter 2. Definition of terms. §128. Person. "Person" shall include any natural person, corporation, municipality, the state of Vermont or any department, agency or subdivision of the state, and any partnership, unincorporated association or other legal entity.	
Virginia	VA. CODE ANN. §§1-230 and 1-231 (2014) Title 1. Chapter 2.1. Common Law and Rules of Construction. Article 2. Rules of Construction and Definitions. (2014) §1-230. Person. "Person" includes any individual, corporation, partnership, association, cooperative, limited liability company, trust, joint venture, government,	

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	<p>political subdivision, or any other legal or commercial entity and any successor, representative, agent, agency, or instrumentality thereof.</p> <p>§1-231. When "person" includes business trust and limited liability company. Whenever the term "person" is defined to include both "corporation" and "partnership," such term shall also include "business trust and limited liability company."</p>	
Washington	<p>WASH. REV. CODE ANN. §1.16.080 (2013)</p> <p>§1.16.080. "Person"-- Construction of "association," "unincorporated association," and "person, firm, or corporation" to include a limited liability company.</p> <p>(1) The term "person" may be construed to include the United States, this state, or any state or territory, or any public or private corporation or limited liability company, as well as an individual.</p> <p>(2) Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the terms "association," "unincorporated association," and "person, firm, or corporation" or substantially identical terms shall, without limiting the application of any term to any other type of legal entity, be construed to include a limited liability company.</p> <p>REVISER'S NOTE: This section is a part of 1891 c 23 § 1. The introductory phrase of that section provides: "The following provisions relative to the construction of statutes shall be rules of construction and shall constitute a part of the code of procedure of this state:".</p>	
West Virginia	<p>W. VA. CODE §2-2-10 (2014)</p> <p>§2-2-10. Rules for construction of statutes. The following rules shall be observed in the construction of</p>	

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	<p>statutes, unless a different intent on the part of the Legislature be apparent from the context:</p> <p>(i) The word "person" or "whoever" shall include corporations, societies, associations and partnerships, if not restricted by the context;</p>	
Wisconsin	<p>WIS. STAT. §990.01 (2014)</p> <p>§990.01. Construction of laws; words and phrases. In the construction of Wisconsin laws the words and phrases which follow shall be construed as indicated unless such construction would produce a result inconsistent with the manifest intent of the legislature:</p> <p>(26) PERSON. "Person" includes all partnerships, associations and bodies politic or corporate.</p>	
Wyoming	<p>WYO. STAT. ANN. §8-1-102 (2014)</p> <p>§8-1-102. Definitions. (a) As used in the statutes unless the legislature clearly specifies a different meaning or interpretation or the context clearly requires a different meaning:</p> <p>(vi) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, corporation, joint stock company or any other association or entity, public or private;</p>	

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