

(Excerpt from Baxter Research's *Criminal Research Provider Manual*)
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MISUNDERSTOOD WORDS

It is very important to spot and clear not-understood or misunderstood key terms you encounter in the course of doing research. If you let such words pile up you can start blanking out, getting tired, missing things and otherwise having trouble.

I'm not necessarily saying you have to fully clear up every single term that exists in civil and criminal justice system. When you run across a ***motion in limine*** in a civil file, for instance, you don't especially have to clear it up or else. It may do just to acknowledge that you don't understand such legal terms, so that you can simply make it through a file and get the key data you need without going into confusion in the process. But sooner or later certain terms are going to begin repeating throughout the files you view, and these you should spot and clear up before they get the best of you.

Ideally you should clear them in a good legal dictionary. If you can't get them so defined you can ask the office or, if appropriate, get a clerk or two to define them for you.