

What is Parliamentary Law?

Parliamentary law is the collection of laws, rules and procedures that organizations use to conduct business. Parliamentary law is the set of rules that a public or private group uses to conduct meetings or otherwise go about their affairs. Parliamentary lawyers facilitate the use of parliamentary laws. They also help their clients challenge decisions when the procedure used to arrive at those decisions may be in question.

Parliamentary law makes an organization run in a uniform way

All organizations must have rules for how to accomplish tasks. There must be a procedure for how to run a meeting. To function efficiently, there must be rules for how to introduce new laws or ideas. Organizations must have voting procedures for their membership.

It's not enough just to elect representatives to a public or private body. Each governing body needs rules for how to conduct their affairs. Rules for conducting these affairs are critically important for the efficient operation of an organization. They're also important so that those governed by the body or a member of the organization can have faith in the integrity and the legitimacy of the decisions that the leadership makes.

Who uses parliamentary procedure?

All government entities use parliamentary procedure. From the highest-ranking legislative bodies like the United States Congress and state legislatures to small municipalities, all public authorities rely on some kind of parliamentary procedure in order to conduct their business.

A person living in the United States may live under federal, state, county or parish and local government. Local government may be a city, village, township or other entity. Many people live in areas that do not have any government beyond their county or parish. Areas without local government are most often rural. Any division of government needs and relies on a parliamentary law system in order to go about the business of governing.

In addition to government entities, virtually all private organizations also rely on parliamentary rules in order to conduct business. For example, a private homeowners association must have rules in order to elect leadership and pass binding resolutions. A church needs rules for choosing leaders and making decisions about church affairs. Even a school board relies on parliamentary rules for conducting its affairs.

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