**Vagueness doctrine**

In [American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) [constitutional law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_law), a [statute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statute) is **void for vagueness** and unenforceable if it is too vague for the average citizen to understand or if a term cannot be strictly defined and is not defined anywhere in such law, thus violating the vagueness doctrine. There are several reasons a statute may be considered vague; in general, a statute might be called void for vagueness reasons when an average citizen cannot generally determine what persons are regulated, what conduct is prohibited, or what punishment may be imposed. For example, criminal laws which do not state explicitly and definitely what conduct is punishable are void for vagueness. A statute is also void for vagueness if a legislature's delegation of authority to judges and/or administrators is so extensive that it would lead to arbitrary prosecutions.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vagueness_doctrine#cite_note-Cornell20121230-1)