

# THE CODE OF LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## TITLE 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

*This title was enacted by act July 30, 1947, ch. 388, § 1, 61 Stat. 633*

Chap.		Sec.
1.	<b>Rules of construction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
2.	<b>Acts and resolutions; formalities of enactment; repeals; sealing of instruments .....</b>	<b>101</b>
3.	<b>Code of Laws of United States and Supplements; District of Columbia Code and Supplements .....</b>	<b>201</b>

### POSITIVE LAW; CITATION

This title has been made positive law by section 1 of act July 30, 1947, ch. 388, 61 Stat. 633, which provided in part that: "Title 1 of the United States Code entitled 'General Provisions', is codified and enacted into positive law and may be cited as '1 U. S. C., § \_\_\_\_.'" "

### REPEALS

Section 2 of act July 30, 1947, provided that the sections or parts thereof of the Statutes at Large or the Revised Statutes covering provisions codified in this Act are repealed insofar as the provisions appeared in former Title 1, and provided that any rights or liabilities now existing under the repealed sections or parts thereof shall not be affected by the repeal.

### WRITS OF ERROR

Section 23 of act June 25, 1948, ch. 646, 62 Stat. 990, provided that: "All Acts of Congress referring to writs of error shall be construed as amended to the extent necessary to substitute appeal for writ of error."

TABLE SHOWING DISPOSITION OF ALL SECTIONS OF  
FORMER TITLE 1

Title 1 Former Sections	Revised Statutes Statutes at Large	Title 1 New Sections
1 .....	R.S., § 1 .....	1
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3 .....	R.S., § 3 .....	3
4 .....	R.S., § 4 .....	4
5 .....	R.S., § 5 .....	5
6 .....	June 11, 1940, ch. 325, § 1, 54 Stat. 305 .....	6
21 .....	R.S., § 7 .....	101
22 .....	R.S., § 8 .....	102
23 .....	R.S., § 9 .....	103
24 .....	R.S., § 10 .....	104
25 .....	R.S., § 11 .....	105
26 .....	Nov. 1, 1893, 28 Stat. App. 5 .....	106
27 .....	Mar. 2, 1895, ch. 177, § 1, 28 Stat. 769. Mar. 6, 1920, ch. 94, § 1, 41 Stat. 520 .....	107
28 .....	R.S., § 12 .....	108
29 .....	R.S., § 13 .....	109
29a .....	Mar. 22, 1944, ch. 123, 58 Stat. 118. R.S., § 5599 .....	110
29b .....	Mar. 3, 1933, ch. 202, § 3, 47 Stat. 1431 .....	111
30 .....	Jan. 12, 1895, ch. 23, § 73, 28 Stat. 615 .....	112
	June 20, 1936, ch. 630, § 9, 49 Stat. 1551. June 16, 1938, ch. 477, § 1, 52 Stat. 760.	

TABLE SHOWING DISPOSITION OF ALL SECTIONS OF  
FORMER TITLE 1—Continued

Title 1 Former Sections	Revised Statutes Statutes at Large	Title 1 New Sections
30a .....	R.S., § 908 .....	113
31 .....	R.S., § 6 .....	114
51a .....	Mar. 2, 1929, ch. 586, § 1, 45 Stat. 1540 .....	201
52 .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 910, § 2, 45 Stat. 1007 .....	202
	Mar. 2, 1929, ch. 586, § 2, 45 Stat. 1541.	
53 .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 910, § 3, 45 Stat. 1007 .....	203
54 .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 910, § 4, 45 Stat. 1007 .....	204
	Mar. 2, 1929, ch. 586, § 3, 45 Stat. 1541.	
54a .....	Mar. 2, 1929, ch. 586, § 4, 45 Stat. 1542 .....	205
	Mar. 4, 1933, ch. 282, § 1, 47 Stat. 1603. June 13, 1934, ch. 483, §§ 1, 2, 48 Stat. 948.	
54b .....	Mar. 2, 1929, ch. 586, § 5, 45 Stat. 1542 .....	206
	Mar. 4, 1933, ch. 282, § 1, 47 Stat. 1603. June 13, 1934, ch. 483, §§ 1, 2, 48 Stat. 948.	
54c .....	Mar. 2, 1929, ch. 586, § 6, 45 Stat. 1542 .....	207
54d .....	Mar. 2, 1929, ch. 586, § 7, 45 Stat. 1542 .....	208
55 .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 910, § 5, 45 Stat. 1007 .....	209
56 .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 910, § 6, 45 Stat. 1007 .....	210
57 .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 910, § 7, 45 Stat. 1008 .....	211
58 .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 910, § 8, 45 Stat. 1008 .....	212
59 .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 910, § 10, 45 Stat. 1008 .....	213
60 .....	Mar. 3, 1933, ch. 202, § 2, 47 Stat. 1431 .....	Rep.

## CHAPTER 1—RULES OF CONSTRUCTION

Sec.	
1.	Words denoting number, gender, etc. <sup>1</sup>
2.	"County" as including "parish", etc. <sup>1</sup>
3.	"Vessel" as including all means of water transportation.
4.	"Vehicle" as including all means of land transportation.
5.	"Company" or "association" as including successors and assigns.
6.	Limitation of term "products of American fisheries."
7.	Definition of "marriage" and "spouse".
8.	"Person", "human being", "child", and "individual" as including born-alive infant.

### AMENDMENTS

2002—Pub. L. 107–207, § 2(b), Aug. 5, 2002, 116 Stat. 926, added item 8.  
1996—Pub. L. 104–199, § 3(b), Sept. 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 2420, added item 7.

### § 1. Words denoting number, gender, and so forth

In determining the meaning of any Act of Congress, unless the context indicates otherwise—

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Does not conform to section catchline.

words importing the singular include and apply to several persons, parties, or things;

words importing the plural include the singular;

words importing the masculine gender include the feminine as well;

words used in the present tense include the future as well as the present;

the words “insane” and “insane person” and “lunatic” shall include every idiot, lunatic, insane person, and person non compos mentis;

the words “person” and “whoever” include corporations, companies, associations, firms, partnerships, societies, and joint stock companies, as well as individuals;

“officer” includes any person authorized by law to perform the duties of the office;

“signature” or “subscription” includes a mark when the person making the same intended it as such;

“oath” includes affirmation, and “sworn” includes affirmed;

“writing” includes printing and typewriting and reproductions of visual symbols by photographing, multigraphing, mimeographing, manifolding, or otherwise.

(July 30, 1947, ch. 388, 61 Stat. 633; June 25, 1948, ch. 645, § 6, 62 Stat. 859; Oct. 31, 1951, ch. 655, § 1, 65 Stat. 710.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1951—Act Oct. 31, 1951, substituted, in fourth clause after opening clause, “used” for “use”.

1948—Act June 25, 1948, included “tense”, “whoever”, “signature”, “subscription”, “writing” and a broader definition of “person”.

#### SHORT TITLE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-207, § 1, Aug. 5, 2002, 116 Stat. 926, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 8 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Born-Alive Infants Protection Act of 2002’.”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 104-199, § 1, Sept. 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 2419, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 7 of this title and section 1738C of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure] may be cited as the ‘Defense of Marriage Act’.”

#### REFERENCES IN CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACTS

Pub. L. 108-447, § 3, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 2810, provided that: “Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to ‘this Act’ contained in any division of this Act [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, see Tables for classification] shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.”

Pub. L. 108-199, § 3, Jan. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 4, provided that: “Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to ‘this Act’ contained in any division of this Act [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004, see Tables for classification] shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.”

#### REFERENCES IN PUB. L. 108-7

Pub. L. 108-7, § 3, Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 12, provided that: “Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to ‘this Act’ contained in any division of this joint resolution [Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, see Tables for classification] shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.”

#### CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

Section 48 of Pub. L. 86-70, June 25, 1959, 73 Stat. 154, provided that: “Whenever the phrase ‘continental

United States’ is used in any law of the United States enacted after the date of enactment of this Act [June 25, 1959], it shall mean the 49 States on the North American Continent and the District of Columbia, unless otherwise expressly provided.”

#### § 2. “County” as including “parish”, and so forth

The word “county” includes a parish, or any other equivalent subdivision of a State or Territory of the United States.

(July 30, 1947, ch. 388, 61 Stat. 633.)

#### § 3. “Vessel” as including all means of water transportation

The word “vessel” includes every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water.

(July 30, 1947, ch. 388, 61 Stat. 633.)

#### § 4. “Vehicle” as including all means of land transportation

The word “vehicle” includes every description of carriage or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on land.

(July 30, 1947, ch. 388, 61 Stat. 633.)

#### § 5. “Company” or “association” as including successors and assigns

The word “company” or “association”, when used in reference to a corporation, shall be deemed to embrace the words “successors and assigns of such company or association”, in like manner as if these last-named words, or words of similar import, were expressed.

(July 30, 1947, ch. 388, 61 Stat. 633.)

#### § 6. Limitation of term “products of American fisheries”

Wherever, in the statutes of the United States or in the rulings, regulations, or interpretations of various administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States there appears or may appear the term “products of American fisheries” said term shall not include fresh or frozen fish fillets, fresh or frozen fish steaks, or fresh or frozen slices of fish substantially free of bone (including any of the foregoing divided into sections), produced in a foreign country or its territorial waters, in whole or in part with the use of the labor of persons who are not residents of the United States.

(July 30, 1947, ch. 388, 61 Stat. 634.)

#### § 7. Definition of “marriage” and “spouse”

In determining the meaning of any Act of Congress, or of any ruling, regulation, or interpretation of the various administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States, the word “marriage” means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word “spouse” refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife.

(Added Pub. L. 104-199, § 3(a), Sept. 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 2419.)