





# Ethics Alert - Jurisdiction

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# What is Jurisdiction?

- Jurisdiction in legal terms is defined as the authority of a court to hear and determine cases within a specific territory.
  - There are two types of jurisdictions, Jurisdiction over a Person or Res (thing).
  - Within these two types of jurisdictions there are some subsets of jurisdictions such as subject matter jurisdiction, limited subject matter jurisdiction, and concurrent subject matter jurisdiction just to name a few.
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# The Different Jurisdictions

- **Subject matter jurisdiction** - The authority of a court to hear a particular type of case within a certain region.
  - **Limited subject matter jurisdiction** - A court has subject matter jurisdiction over a cause ONLY if there's a law granting it.
  - **Concurrent subject matter jurisdiction** - More than one court has subject matter jurisdiction.
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# Why Jurisdiction is Important

- Jurisdiction is important because it allows your case to be heard by the correct legal authority who can then make a binding judgment regarding the case.
  - An example would be if you had a married couple that decided on an amicable divorce and came to you as the attorney to oversee the procedure.
  - Most people would assume that Family Court would oversee this but it's actually New York State Supreme Court that oversees divorces.
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