

# The Reduced Law Dictionary

*in snippets of 101 words*

## Common law liberties

**“Who told you you could do that?”**

Whenever anyone asks that question he or she undermines our freedoms under English common law. We do not need permission to do things. In principle, under English law you may do anything that is not expressly forbidden. Under codified European law systems, you may do nothing unless expressly permitted, and, under Soviet and other despotic laws, anything that you are not required to do is prohibited. In practice the English principle is not quite like this, because liberty restricts power and is something which all governments, bureaucracies and big businesses constantly seek to undermine.

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Cover design: jjdoyle.com

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