

Reading Legislation

Law

Working through a statutory provision accurately.

A reliable method.

1

Read the whole section

Including subsections and provisos that qualify it.

2

Find the definitions

In the section, the Act, or interpretation legislation.

3

Check it is in force

Commencement can be delayed or partial.

4

Check for amendments

Use an updated consolidated version.

5

Identify the elements

Break the provision into what must be proved.

6

Check the case law

How courts have construed the wording.

Educational reference. Words like 'and', 'or', 'may' and 'must' carry decisive weight. Read them deliberately.