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20 One-Liners | Bailment Under Indian Contract Act 1872: Meaning, Types & Bank Relevan

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20 One-Liners to Remember

Quick-fire facts for last-minute revision.

1 **Bailment is defined in Section 148 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872.**

This section defines bailment as the delivery of goods for a purpose, to be returned once that purpose is fulfilled.

2 **The word bailment comes from the French word bailler, meaning to deliver.**

This is the etymological origin of the term bailment.

3 **In a bailment, only possession of goods passes, not ownership.**

The bailor retains legal title while the bailee temporarily holds the goods.

4 **The bailor is the person who delivers the goods in a bailment.**

The bailor is usually the owner and retains legal title to the goods.

5 **The bailee is the person who receives the goods in a bailment.**

The bailee holds the goods temporarily for the agreed purpose.

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- 6 In a pledge of securities to a bank, the bank acts as the bailee and the borrower as the bailor.**

The customer delivers the security to the bank, making the customer the bailor and the bank the bailee.

- 7 Banks commonly act as bailees when holding gold jewellery against a gold loan.**

Physical custody of pledged gold makes the bank the bailee and the customer the bailor.

- 8 Bailment requires the bailee to both intend to possess the goods and actually possess them.**

Both intention and actual possession are necessary to create a valid bailment.

- 9 There are three broad types of bailment, classified by who benefits from the arrangement.**

The types are mutual benefit, bailor-only benefit, and bailee-only benefit.

- 10 A bailment for the mutual benefit of both parties is also called a service-agreement bailment.**

An example is giving goods for repair or handing them to a courier.

- 11 A gratuitous bailment benefits only the bailor and involves a lower standard of care from the bailee.**

The bailee is generally liable only for gross negligence or bad faith in this type.

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12 A bailment for the benefit of the bailee only carries the highest standard of care.

An example is borrowing a friend's tool free of charge, where the bailee is liable for almost any harm.

13 Leaving a car with a valet is a classic example of bailment.

The car owner is the bailor and the valet is the bailee who must return the car.

14 Parking in an unattended self-park garage is usually not considered a bailment.

It is typically treated as a lease or licence of space since there is no intention to take possession of the vehicle.

15 A bailment can end when the bailee returns the goods to the bailor.

This is the most common way a bailment terminates once its purpose is fulfilled.

16 A bailment can end upon the expiry of a fixed time period.

A certificate of deposit is cited as a financial example where the bank returns funds at the end of a set term.

17 A bailment may end early if the bailed property is destroyed or damaged.

Destruction or damage to the goods can terminate the bailment before its intended purpose is completed.

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18 A bailment can be terminated by written notice from either party.

Either the bailor or bailee can end the arrangement early by giving written notice.

19 Warehousing of goods is cited as a financial and commercial application of bailment.

Storage arrangements where goods are held for a party are a practical example of bailment.

20 Bailment is a frequently tested topic in JAIIB, CAIIB and other IIBF examinations.

The concept is central to Legal and Regulatory Aspects of Banking due to its role in collateral handling.

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