

I don't stand under that law!



A popular myth with OPCA adherents is the "stand under" phobia, when replying to an officer's question: "do you understand?" The OPCA interpretation is that answering "YES" would create joinder in contract with the officer.

The concept also implies that only if one individually "consents" to legislation, it then becomes enforceable, so they emphatically and frantically want to make the point that they don't "Stand under or consent" to any of the little rules concocted by that evil club the BAR Society, to avoid joinder.

<https://freemandelusion.com/understand-mp4/>

But "Understand" does not mean to "stand under". Do you stand under me? Not literally, of course. Understanding 'Understand' Ain't Easy. You might feel like you're 'under attack' from the word 'under' and for good reason. A police officer may not be acting *under* statutory authority, and you'd have to *understand* what provision requires it. How then do you differentiate the 'under' you know from this OPCA impostor?

After all, there are numerous 'unders' that make perfect sense: when you are *underage*, you will most likely *underachieve* in the purchase of alcoholic beverages. You may find yourself *under arrest* when an *undercover* officer finds you;

When you reply that you don't "stand under that law", you appear to be *under the influence* of a substance, or possibly should be assessed *under* the Mental Health Act. It could be a sign you are *undereducated*; that you *underestimated* the importance of school. But you cannot say in your defence that you *stand under* mathematics, or that you *stand under* the obesity problem in the country. You certainly cannot say you like the way the minister *stands under* the education system.

You simply understand that 'understand' means to comprehend, to have knowledge, to see, to realize, to grasp and to perceive.

Law Insider: "Understand Definition":

More Definitions of *Understand*

Understand means 'to comprehend', but not *'to stand under'.

Black's Law Dictionary: "[What is UNDERSTAND? definition of UNDERSTAND](#)":

The Law Dictionary

Featuring Black's Law Dictionary Free Online Legal Dictionary 2nd Ed.

What is UNDERSTAND

This means to comprehend, to know, to be aware of and to have the knowledge.

[Online Etymology Dictionary](#):

understand (v.)

Old English *understandan* "to comprehend, grasp the idea of, receive from a word or words or from a sign the idea it is intended to convey; to view in a certain way," probably literally "stand in the midst of," from **under** + *standan* "to stand" (see **stand** (v.)).

If this is the meaning, the *under* is not the usual word meaning "beneath," but from Old English *under*, from PIE **nter-* "between, among" (source also of Sanskrit *antar* "among, between," Latin *inter* "between, among," Greek *entera* "intestines;" see **inter-**). Related: *Understood*; **understanding**.

That is the suggestion in Barnhart, but other sources regard the "among, between, before, in the presence of" sense of Old English prefix and preposition *under* as other meanings of the same word. "Among" seems to be the sense in many Old English compounds that resemble *understand*, such as *undermiman* "to receive," *undersecan* "examine, investigate, scrutinize" (literally "underseek"), *underðencan* "consider, change one's mind," *underginnan* "to begin."

It also seems to be the sense still in expressions such as *under such circumstances*. Perhaps the ultimate sense is "be close to;" compare Greek *epistamai* "I know how, I know;" literally "I stand upon."

Similar formations are found in Old Frisian (*understonda*), Middle Danish (*understande*), while other Germanic languages use compounds meaning "stand before" (German *verstehen*, represented in Old English by *forstanden* "understand," also "oppose, withstand"). For this concept, most Indo-European languages use figurative extensions of compounds that literally mean "put together," or "separate," or "take, grasp" (see **comprehend**).

The range of spellings of *understand* in Middle English (*understont*, *understoude*, *unburstonde*, *onderstonde*, *hunderstonde*, *oundyrston*, *wonderstande*, *urdenstonden*, etc.) perhaps reflects early confusion over the elements of the compound. Old English *oferstandan*, Middle English *overstonden*, literally "over-stand" seem to have been used only in literal senses.

By mid-14c. as "to take as meant or implied (though not expressed); imply; infer; assume; take for granted." The intransitive sense of "have the use of the intellectual faculties; be an intelligent and conscious being" also is in late Old English. In Middle English also "reflect, muse, be thoughtful; imagine; be suspicious of; pay attention, take note; strive for; plan, intend; conceive (a child)." Also sometimes literal, "to occupy space at a lower level" (late 14c.) and, figuratively, "to submit." For "to stand under" in a physical sense, Old English had *undergestandan*.

This is a matter of substance, not form. Following the constitutional technique which has been approved in the [Engineers Case \(1920\) 28 CLR 129](#), plain English should be used. It is also important to use connotation rather than denotation (See *Engineers* at 142-3 and 151; and also see [Grain Pool of Western Australia v Commonwealth \(2000\) 202 CLR 479](#) at 493). I believe it was Galdron J who made the very good point that the Constitution should be read as if it is being read for the very first time, and to apply a modern meaning. Under common law an arrest requires a belief an offense had been committed, (Note: 'Belief' is an 'assentation of mind' and different to 'suspicion': See [George v Rockett Slaveski v State of Victoria \[2010\] VSC 411](#)) ...informing the person they are under arrest, *and* why they are under arrest, physical contact and the person "*understanding*" why they are under arrest: (see eg [George v Rockett \(1990\) 170 CLR 104](#), [Collins v Wilcock \[1984\] 1 WLR 1172](#), [DPP v Hamilton \[2011\] VSC 598](#))



[Robert R. Sudy](#) (author) Website: [Freeman Delusion: The Organised Pseudolegal Commercial Argument in Australia](#) Email: robertsudy@freemandelusion.com * Like the page on [Facebook](#) Public group [Australian Pseudolaw](#) * Follow me on [Twitter](#) * Subscribe [on YouTube](#).