

## Colorado Revised Statutes (2011)

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## **Selected Key Statutes on Statutory Construction**

**2-4-101. Common and technical usage.** Words and phrases shall be read in context and construed according to the rules of grammar and common usage. Words and phrases that have acquired a technical or particular meaning, whether by legislative definition or otherwise, shall be construed accordingly.

**2-4-102. Singular and plural.** The singular includes the plural, and the plural includes the singular.

**2-4-103. Gender.** Every word importing the masculine gender only may extend to and be applied to females and things as well as males; every word importing the feminine gender only may extend to and be applied to males and things as well as females; and every word importing the neuter gender only may extend to and be applied to natural persons as well as things.

**2-4-104. Tense.** Words in the present tense include the future tense.

**2-4-201. Intentions in the enactment of statutes.** (1) In enacting a statute, it is presumed that:

- (a) Compliance with the constitutions of the state of Colorado and the United States is intended;
- (b) The entire statute is intended to be effective;
- (c) A just and reasonable result is intended;
- (d) A result feasible of execution is intended;
- (e) Public interest is favored over any private interest.

**2-4-202. Statutes presumed prospective.** A statute is presumed to be prospective in its operation.

**2-4-203. Ambiguous statutes - aids in construction.** (1) If a statute is ambiguous, the court, in determining the intention of the general assembly, may consider among other matters:

- (a) The object sought to be attained;
- (b) The circumstances under which the statute was enacted;
- (c) The legislative history, if any;
- (d) The common law or former statutory provisions, including laws upon the same or similar subjects;
- (e) The consequences of a particular construction;
- (f) The administrative construction of the statute;
- (g) The legislative declaration or purpose.