CITIZEN 16 +
THE CIVIL LAW AND YOU

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First published 1986

Published by
MACMILLAN EDUCATION LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Mothersole, Brenda

Citizen 16+: the civil law and you.

1. Law – England 2. Youth – Legal status, laws, etc.
– England

I. Title

344.2'0024055 KD665.Y6

ISBN 978-1-349-07217-0

ISBN 978-1-349-07215-6 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-07215-6

To Geoffrey

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Preface

An increasing number of young people are anxious to improve their working knowledge of the law. Yet generally they have a very confused idea about their rights and responsibilities particularly in those areas of law which impinge upon their daily lives – relating to consumer matters, businesses, employment, welfare benefits, housing and citizenship. Many modern-day courses in schools and colleges of further education with their emphasis on relevancy to work experience and adult life and social skills contain a substantial legal content. This book aims to explain and advise on the law in a relevant, authentic and co-ordinated way. It not only provides for such courses as CPVE (Certificate in Pre-Vocational Education), TVEI (Technical and Vocational Education Initiative) and other work-experience courses and general studies courses, it also provides a practical guide to any young person wishing to become conversant with the daily workings of the law. It is also a useful supplement for Law at ‘O’ and ‘A’ levels and for the proposed GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) and also for distant learning programmes.

Significantly, this book is a departure from the majority of law textbooks. Drawing on my experience as a Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) worker and as a Law lecturer in further education, I have presented the law as it might apply in real life situations. The chapters are so arranged that they take the natural sequence of events, concentrating first on the problems – in the form of a series of illustrated case studies – which are directly followed by a question-and-answer analysis of the law and legal issues involved. These are followed by a simple explanation of the law. The final chapter focuses on ways of seeking an appropriate remedy, first without recourse to the courts and then ultimately through the courts. There are variations on this illustrated case-study method of presentation: Chapter 1 makes use of programmed learning to discuss the need in societies for law; Chapter 2 takes the form of a quiz on age limits and liabilities, and Chapter 5, **No Job**, is presented as a series of interviews at a Citizens Advice Bureau. It is hoped that students are given in a balanced and lively way an awareness of possible legal pitfalls to which they may fall victim, and a wide range of information on publicity leaflets and quasi-legal services available to them. They are also told about the legal profession, the civil and criminal courts, tribunals and the courts of Europe.

Also, anticipating the particular needs of the life and work experience courses, a special feature of this book is that various teaching methods and learning assignments frequently appear as part of the chapter’s content, others can be found at the end of each chapter.

Designed for both self-instruction and class or group learning, the purpose is not only to test the student's knowledge of the law but also to introduce to the student the various communication skills connected with the law and everyday legal issues. Teachers, legally trained or not, will find this book a helpful teaching aid for integrated studies. A list of useful addresses to assist teachers can be found at the end of the book.

I wish to acknowledge the help and advice of others: my two colleagues, Dave Wadsworth and Margaret Greaves for their comments on parts of the book, my friend, Dorothy McCluskey, for typing the manuscript, and my son, Alan Mothersole, for computerising the index and tables. I must also thank the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux for making the writing of the interviews in Chapter 5 possible. It leaves me to say that to the best of my ability and belief the law stated is correct up to September 1985. Names mentioned in the case studies are fictitious and any resemblance to any person or organisation is purely coincidental.

Brenda Mothersole

Acknowledgements

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The Lord Chancellor's Department for the County Court Form.

The Office of Fair Trading for the montage of various OFT leaflets.

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