In computer graphics and user interface design, clipping refers to the process of limiting the visible portion of an object or image to a specified region or shape. It essentially cuts or masks out the content that extends beyond the defined boundaries.

In the context of Flutter and the 'ClipRect' widget, clipping restricts the visible area of the child widget to a rectangular shape. Any content of the child widget that falls outside the boundaries of the 'ClipRect' is not rendered or displayed on the screen.

Clipping is commonly used to achieve various effects, such as:

- 1. Cropping or displaying only a portion of an image or widget.
- 2. Creating rounded corners for a widget using 'ClipRRect'.
- 3. Masking or displaying a widget within a specific shape using `ClipPath`.
- 4. Creating custom clipping effects for unique visual designs.

By applying clipping, you have control over what part of the content is visible and what gets hidden or cropped. It allows you to create visually appealing layouts, achieve specific visual effects, or limit the display area of a widget to match your design requirements.

Flutter provides a range of clipping widgets, including 'ClipRect', 'ClipRect', 'ClipOval', and 'ClipPath', each offering different ways to clip and shape the visible area of the child widgets.

Overall, clipping plays a vital role in UI rendering and enables developers to control and manipulate the visible area of widgets, images, or graphics to achieve desired visual outcomes.