

Law Module- Week 3: Rights, Duties, and Legal Personality

Objective:

- ✚ Understand the relationship between rights and duties.
- ✚ Recognize who can have legal personality.
- ✚ Identify different kinds of rights in law.

Introduction to Legal Personality

Legal personality is the recognition by law that a person or entity can own property, enter contracts, sue or be sued. Without legal personality, a being or entity cannot engage in legal relations.

Types of Legal Personality

Type	Definition	Example
Natural Person	A human being with rights and duties	Juan, a student
Juridical Person	An organization or corporation recognized as having legal rights	Apple Inc., Red Cross

Key Points: Natural persons gain legal personality at birth. Juridical persons gain legal personality when formally registered under law. Both can enter contracts, own property, and be held liable.

Example: Juan can own a car (natural person). A company like Jollibee can own buildings and be sued (juridical person).

Rights and Duties Rights and duties are closely related in law. Every right generally corresponds to a duty.

Definition:

Right: A legal claim or privilege that allows an individual to act or demand something.

Duty: A legal obligation to respect the rights of others or perform certain acts.

Examples of Rights and Duties

Right Corresponding	Duty Scenario
Right to property	Duty not to steal Juan owns a car; Pedro must not take it without consent
Right to free speech	Duty not to defame Maria can express opinions but cannot spread lies about someone
Right to vote	Duty to follow election laws Voting in national elections according to rules

Discussion Question:

Can someone have rights without duties? Why or why not?

Kinds of Rights

A. Personal Rights

- Rights related to life, liberty, and security.

Examples: Right to life, right to freedom of movement, right to privacy.

Scenario: Police cannot arrest a person without legal cause due to the right to liberty.

B. Property Rights

- Rights over ownership and use of property.

Examples: Owning a house, land, or car.

Scenario: If Juan buys a laptop, no one can take it without his permission.

C. Political Rights

- Rights allowing participation in governance.

Examples: Voting, running for public office.

Scenario: Maria casts her vote in local elections.

D. Social Rights

- Rights ensuring access to essential social services.

Examples: Right to education, healthcare, social welfare.

Scenario: A child attending public school exercises the right to education.

Correlation Between Rights and Duties Principle: “Your rights end where another person’s rights begin.”

Illustration Table:

Right Exercised	Duty Observed	Example
Freedom of speech	Do not incite violence	Maria writes an article but avoids hate speech
Ownership	Respect property of others	Juan cannot damage Pedro’s car
Right to assembly	Do not disrupt public order	Protesters hold a rally peacefully

Case Study:

Scenario: Juan posts on social media claiming false statements about a public official.

Analysis: Juan has freedom of speech (right) but violates the duty not to defame.

Legal Capacity and Limitations Legal capacity: Ability to acquire rights and perform duties.

Limitations: Some individuals or entities have restricted capacity due to age, mental condition, or law.

Minors: Limited capacity to enter contracts

Persons of unsound mind: Cannot fully exercise legal rights

Example: A 15-year-old cannot legally sign a binding lease contract without parental consent.

Case Studies and Examples

Case 1: Natural Person Juan, a 20-year-old student, buys a motorbike. He can enter a valid contract and own property because he has legal personality.

Case 2: Juridical Person A school corporation like Ateneo de Manila University owns buildings, hires employees, and can be sued for negligence.

Case 3: Rights vs Duties Conflict Scenario: Maria wants to exercise free speech to criticize a company, but her statements include false accusations. Legal Principle: Rights are limited by duties; defamation laws apply.

A. Discussion Questions / Exercises

1. Identify 5 rights you exercise daily and the duties that correspond to each.

2. Discuss a scenario where someone's rights conflict with another person's rights. How should it be resolved?
3. Find an example of a juridical person in your community. What legal capacities do they have?
4. Why is legal personality important for both natural and juridical persons?

Summary

Legal personality allows natural and juridical persons to participate in legal relations. Rights and duties are interdependent; every right corresponds to a duty. Rights can be personal, property, political, or social. Limitations exist for certain groups (minors, unsound mind). Understanding rights and duties ensures responsible and lawful behavior.

Homework

Create a table of 10 rights and duties you observe in school, home, or community.

Write a one-page reflection on a situation where your rights conflicted with someone else's duties.

Homework

Create a table of 10 rights and duties you observe in school, home, or community.

Write a one-page reflection on a situation where your rights conflicted with someone else's duties.