



# HOW DO YOU DECIDE IF A LIMIT TO YOUR CHARTER RIGHTS OR FREEDOMS IS REASONABLE AND JUSTIFIED?

ASK AND ANSWER THE CCLLET'S ACORN TEST QUESTIONS AND DECIDE FOR YOURSELF!

## START

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LIMIT? IS THAT AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE?** WHAT DOES THE GOVERNMENT HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH BY LIMITING A CHARTER RIGHT OR FREEDOM WITH A PARTICULAR LAW OR ACTION?

**YES**

**NO**

**DOES IT WORK? DOES THE LAW OR ACTION ACHIEVE ITS INTENDED OBJECTIVE?** IS THE LAW OR ACTION RATIONALLY CONNECTED TO ITS PURPOSE?



CHARTER RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS ARE VERY IMPORTANT. IF WE MUST PLACE LIMITS ON THEM, WE SHOULD BE DOING SO ONLY TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO SOCIETY. A LAW OR ACTION THAT LIMITS RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS WITHOUT AN IMPORTANT PURPOSE IS ARBITRARY AND UNREASONABLE.

**YES**

**WHAT ELSE DOES THE LIMIT DO? BESIDES ACHIEVING ITS INTENDED PURPOSE, WHAT OTHER OUTCOMES, SIDE-EFFECTS, OR CONSEQUENCES MAY RESULT FROM THE LAW OR ACTION?**

LAWS AND GOVERNMENT ACTION CAN HAVE DIFFERENT EFFECTS ON DIFFERENT PEOPLE/ GROUPS/STAKEHOLDERS. A LAW THAT BENEFITS ONE GROUP MAY DO SO AT THE EXPENSE OF ANOTHER. CONSIDER HOW THE LAW OR ACTION AFFECTS DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS, AND THINK ABOUT WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO BALANCE ALL COMPETING INTERESTS.

**NO**



IF THE LAW OR ACTION DOES NOT HAVE ANY CONNECTION TO ITS PURPOSE AND IS NOT AT ALL EFFECTIVE IN ACHIEVING ITS GOAL, ITS NOT REASONABLE. CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE LAW THAT COULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE AND PERFORM THE ACORN TEST AGAIN!

**DOES THE LAW OR GOVERNMENT ACTION ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE WHILE IMPAIRING RIGHTS OR FREEDOMS AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE?**

**YES**

**DOES THE LAW OR GOVERNMENT ACTION DO MORE GOOD THAN HARM?** DO THE BENEFITS OF THE LAW OR GOVERNMENT ACTION OUTWEIGH THE HARMS CAUSED BY LIMITING THE RIGHT OR FREEDOM?

**NO**



IF THE SAME OBJECTIVE CAN BE ACHIEVED WITH AN ALTERNATIVE LAW OR GOVERNMENT ACTION THAT CAUSES LESS HARM TO THE RIGHT OR FREEDOM, THEN THE LAW OR ACTION BEING CONSIDERED MAY NOT BE REASONABLE. CONSIDER A LESS HARMFUL ALTERNATIVE AND PERFORM THE ACORN TEST AGAIN!

**NO**



A LAW OR ACTION THAT VIOLATES RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS SIGNIFICANTLY WHILE PROVIDING RELATIVELY LITTLE BENEFIT IS NOT REASONABLE.

**YES**



THE LIMIT ON THE CHARTER RIGHT OR FREEDOM IS REASONABLE AND JUSTIFIED.







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