

# DAVID W. TATE, ESQ. – A DEFINITION OF THE TERM “GOVERNANCE”

Litigation, Disputes & Mediator - Business, Trust & Probate, Real Property, Governance, Elder Abuse, Workplace, Litigious Administrations, Investigations & Other

- The following is one definition of the term "Governance" – I say “one definition” because there is no universally accepted definition.
- As with any effort at a broad definition, you really also must drill down into the actual facts and details, such as the wording of a particular governance charter, or the actual facts about how a specific person acts or doesn’t act in a specific situation.
- Why spend time on this topic – because governance does not receive sufficient discussion about specific definition, design, implementation, responsibilities, and rights.
- **Here’s the definition: Governance = the facts, actions and tasks relating to authority and exercise of authority; leadership; decision-making; expertise; accountability; demeanor; ability to communicate and communications; transparency, open-mindedness to questions, views or challenge; trustworthiness; and integrity, and related processes, style and optics.**
- Three additional comments:
  - Governance can be situational – it can depend on the particular actual facts at hand.
  - Governance and governance style and processes can change, improve, or decline from time to time, and situation to situation – thus, governance can improve, and be learned.
  - Governance can be evaluated as applicable to a specific person, group, organization, or entity – but the governance that actually occurs does so because of the actual facts and the actions or inactions of the specific, identifiable person (or people) by name.

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