



## Legal vs Lawful: Why Our Children Deserve to Know the Difference

Most of us grow up assuming that anything *legal* must be right, and anything *illegal* must be wrong. But there's a deeper conversation waiting to be had, especially with our children: one that explores the vital distinction between what is *legal* (man-made rules enforced by governments or corporations) and what is *lawful* (natural principles rooted in truth, honour, and universal rights).

This isn't just semantics. It shapes how we live, the choices we make, and the freedoms we unknowingly surrender or reclaim.

### What's the Difference?

**Legal** systems are built on statutes and acts created by governments. These rules change across borders and timelines and are often enforced with little understanding of how they came to be.

**Lawful**, by contrast, refers to natural or common law - the kind of law that says "do no harm," "honour your word," and "take responsibility for your actions." It's simple, intuitive, and timeless.

The issue arises when something is *legal* but not necessarily *lawful*. Many statutory rules override or obscure our natural rights... especially when we don't know they exist.

### Teaching Children the Truth

So why don't schools teach any of this?

Perhaps because **informed, sovereign individuals are much harder to control**. But that's exactly why we must begin these conversations at home and in alternative learning spaces.

A curriculum for children aged 10+ could include:

- The history of law and governance (from natural law to statutes)
- Language literacy (words like "person," "consent," and "contract")
- Real-life examples of lawful vs legal decisions
- Critical thinking, logic, and emotional discernment
- Roleplay, storytelling, and mock courts to explore responsibility and honour

When taught in **empowering, age-appropriate ways**, these topics don't need to be scary. Children naturally *know* when something feels fair or unjust. We're simply giving them the vocabulary and context to trust their inner knowing.

## Raising Creators, Not Consumers

We live in a world that nudges us to consume: information, products, opinions. But young people are being called to **create**: businesses, art, communities, solutions.

When we say, "*You either consume or create,*" we're really saying: *Are you waiting to be told what to do? Or are you stepping into your own power to shape the world around you?*

Signs of a sovereign teenager might include:

- Questioning rules instead of blindly obeying them
- Wanting to earn their own money or create something of value
- Showing interest in ethics, community, and truth
- Thinking critically about media, government, and education

## Preparing for a Lawful Future

Teens don't need to wait until they're adults to begin living with sovereignty. A 15-year-old can:

- Learn about private business structures
- Understand how contracts and consent work
- Find a skill they love and offer it to their community
- Explore alternative economic systems like barter, gifting, or energy exchange
- Practice honorable agreements in everyday life—starting with family and friends

Ultimately, sovereignty isn't about rebellion. It's about *remembering who we are*—as responsible, creative, and lawful beings capable of shaping a future that reflects truth, not just policy.

This is the kind of education that changes lives. And it's one that our children deserve.

Enjoy!

Teresa

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