



## Summary of the Delhi Tree Act, 1994

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The Tree Act was intended to protect Delhi's trees. Here are some things you need to know about this act, in order to use it.

- What does the Law define a tree as?

A tree" means any woody plant whose branches spring from and are supported upon a trunk or body and whose trunk or body is not less than five centimeters in diameter at a height of thirty centimeters from the ground level and is not less than one meter in height from the ground level.

- What actions can be seen as felling (or cutting) a tree?

To fell a tree means severing the trunk from the roots, uprooting severing the trunk from the roots, uprooting the tree and includes bulldozing, cutting, girdling, lopping, pollarding, applying arboricides, burning or damaging a tree in any other manner.

- Does a person or organization have to take permission to cut a tree?

Yes. There is no choice, even if the tree is in the middle of your private garden and no one else can see it. Felling, removal or disposal of any tree or forest produce in any land whether in his ownership or occupancy or otherwise except with the previous permission of the tree officer is an offence under the Act. Permission is valid only for 30 days from the date of its issue so make sure you check the date of permission issue. If it has been more than 30 days since it was issued, the permission is invalid unless accompanied by an extension warrant

- How do people apply for permission to fell or prune a tree?

The rule specified by the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, "if a private individual/company wants to fell tree/trees anywhere in Delhi owned by them, an application, in Form 'B' has to be made to the Tree Officer, Deputy Conservator of Forests (South/Central/West) and to Conservator of Forests, Delhi. The forms are available with the nearest Forest Office. The permission for felling is deemed to have been granted if no reply is received from the Tree Officer within 60 days.

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- What punishment can someone face for breaking the law?

Any person who fells a tree on conviction can be punished with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to Rs. 1,000 or both. However a forest offence under the said Act can be compounded by paying value of forest produce or compensation which may extend to Rs. 10,000 or both.