

California Civil Code section 1709 establishes that anyone who intentionally deceives another, with the intent to cause them to alter their position to their injury or risk, is liable for any resulting damages. It essentially makes deceitful actions actionable, meaning the deceived party can sue for harm caused by the deception.

Key points:

- **Willful Deceit:**

The code requires the deception to be intentional, meaning the deceiver knew the statement was false and made it with the intent to mislead.

- **Intent to Induce Change:**

The deceiver must intend for the deceived person to rely on the deception and change their position because of it.

- **Injury or Risk:**

The deceived party must suffer an injury or be put at risk due to their reliance on the deception.

- **Liability for Damages:**

If all these elements are met, the deceiver is liable for the damages caused by their deceit.