

melting

The conversion of a solid to a liquid by the application of heat and/or pressure.

Note:

For a liquid crystal, melting occurs when the three-dimensional periodic structure of a solid collapses to give a liquid-crystal phase in which the molecules have orientational order, but not long range translational order.

Source:

PAC, 1994, 66, 577 (*Definitions of terms relating to phase transitions of the solid state (IUPAC Recommendations 1994)*) on page 585