

LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC (LISP) PUBLIC LIBRARY TOOLKIT FOR FLORIDA

1. Florida constitution:

The current constitution, the Constitution of the State of Florida as Revised in 1968 and Subsequently Amended, can be found in the print version of the Florida Statutes, the Florida Statutes Annotated, and the Florida state official website at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Statutes/index.cfm?Mode=Constitution&Submenu=3&Tab=statutes>.

2. State code

Official code: Florida Statutes, online official site: <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/>. The website contains statutes back to 1997.

The official session laws, Laws of Florida, are published annually at <http://laws.flrules.org/>. Session laws back to 1997 can also be found online at that website.

3. State bills:

Senate Bills (2010 session to current) are available at <http://www.flsenate.gov/>. At archive.flsenate.gov, one can find historical information on bills, statutes and committee publications from 1997 to 2010; also 2002 redistricting information. <http://archive.flsenate.gov/Welcome/index.cfm?CFID=13398386&CFTOKEN=68383584>. The staff analysis accompanying each bill describes the legislative intent and is kept in the State of Florida Archives.

House of Representative Bills (1998 session to current) are found at: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/bills.aspx>.

For legislative history research from 1857 to 1971, the Summary of Senate Bills and the Summary of House Bills provided short summaries of bills. Since 1972, the Daily Bill History, Index, Citator, and Sponsor Report appears every day during the legislative session with citations to the House or Senate journal and to the session law chapter number for bills become law. The Journal of the Senate and the Journal of the House of Representative record only the formal actions taken by the two houses of the Legislature and their committees. Searchable historic Journals of the Senate and House of Representatives are found at [http://sb.fileg.gov/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm\\$vid=Senate:all](http://sb.fileg.gov/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm$vid=Senate:all) and <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Search/HistoricalJournal/HistoricalJournal.aspx>, respectively.

4. State administrative materials

a. Administrative code - Florida Administrative Code Annotated: the Official Compilation of the Rules and Regulations of Florida Regulatory Agencies, has been published since 1963. The current version of Florida Administrative Code can be found at <https://www.flrules.org>. The Florida Administrative Register is found online at <https://www.flrules.org/>. Previously, Florida published Florida Administrative Weekly (1974-2012) and Florida Administrative Register (1962-1974); both provide public notice of agency rulemaking actions and text of proposed rules.

b. Administrative decisions – Florida Administrative Law Reports (FALR, FALR, Inc.) is the official reporter of many agencies. The official site of the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings, at <http://www.doah.state.fl.us/ALJ/>, provides opinions of various agencies since 1975. Most Florida administrative agencies have individual websites with rules and/or decisions and can be accessed via <http://dos.myflorida.com/library-archives/research/florida-information/government/state-resources/state-agency-homepages/> or www.myflorida.com.

5. County/municipal/city codes

Many counties and cities cease to publish ordinances in print and, instead, provide links from their official websites. For those still maintain printed copies, the online versions usually are more current. Users can access many municipal unofficial codes at <https://www.municode.com/library/> or <http://www.amlegal.com/library/>.

6. State jury instructions

The Florida Supreme Court publishes Florida Standard Jury Instructions for both civil and criminal matters online at http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/jury_instructions.shtml. Researchers can also refer to the *Florida Forms of Jury Instruction* (currently published by LEXIS, formerly by Matthew Bender and still is known under that name.) for civil jury instructions.

7. State form books

Quite a few Florida Bar publications (by subject) include forms. *Florida Jurisprudence Forms, Legal and Business* and the *Florida Pleading & Practice Forms* (both published by Thomson Reuters) are fairly comprehensive.

Forms used frequently in civil matters, with a focus on rules of procedure can be found in *Trawick's Florida Practice & Procedure Forms* (a companion publication to

Trawick's Florida Practice & Procedure) and *LaCoe's Pleadings Under the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, with Forms*.

The Florida Courts website (www.flcourts.org) has links for the Florida Supreme Court approved family law forms (<http://www.flcourts.org/resources-and-services/court-improvement/problem-solving-courts/family-courts/family-law-forms.shtml>). Landlord-tenant forms can be found at the website for the Florida Bar (<http://www.floridabar.org/tfb/TFBConsum.nsf/0a92a6dc28e76ae58525700a005d0d53/a2490d4fa31363a88525771200482bdd!OpenDocument>).

8. State legal encyclopedias

Florida Jurisprudence®, 2d. Commonly referred to as “FlaJur,” this encyclopedia contains narrative descriptions of legal topics with citations to primary law, such as cases and statutes.

9. State cases

The State of Florida does not publish its own reporter. For cases one can use the West’s Southern Report Florida Cases and the Florida Law Weekly. FLW is online and requires subscription.

State Courts

- Florida Supreme Court - www.floridasupremecourt.org. Cases at:
 - <http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/decisions/opinions.shtml>
- Florida District Courts of Appeal - <http://www.flcourts.org/florida-courts/district-court-appeal.shtml>. Cases at:
 - http://www.1dca.org/opinions/opinions_default.html
 - <http://www.2dca.org/opinions/opinions.shtml>
 - <http://www.3dca.flcourts.org/Opinions/Opinions.shtml>
 - <http://www.4dca.org/opinions.shtml>
 - <http://www.5dca.org/opinions.shtml>
- Florida Circuit Courts - <http://www.flcourts.org/florida-courts/trial-courts-circuit.shtml>. Cases are generally not available online.
- Florida County Courts - <http://www.flcourts.org/florida-courts/trial-courts-county.shtml>. Cases are generally not available online.

Federal Courts

- Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals – <http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov>
- U.S. District Courts - http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov/?page_id=7850
 - Northern District - <http://www.flnd.uscourts.gov/>

- Northern District/Bankruptcy - <http://www.flnb.uscourts.gov/>
- Middle District - <http://www.flmd.uscourts.gov/>
- Middle District/Bankruptcy - <http://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/>
- Southern District - <http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov/>
- Southern District/Bankruptcy - <http://www.flsb.uscourts.gov/>

Access to opinions/court documents is available through Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER): <https://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/pscof/regWizard.jsf>

Court Rules

- Florida Rules of Court are available from the Florida Bar:
 - <http://www.floridabar.org/tfb/TFBLegalRes.nsf/>
- Federal Rules of Practice and Procedure are available at:
 - <http://www.uscourts.gov/RulesAndPolicies/rules.aspx>
- Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure:
 - <http://www.uscourts.gov/uscourts/rules/bankruptcy-procedure.pdf>

10. State digest

West's® Florida Digest, 2d. includes all Florida cases (state and federal) reported in the West system (from 1935 to current).

11. Links to local AALL chapter

Florida is in SEALL. See <http://www.seaall.org/>. People who are in South Florida may also want to check out SFALL at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/sfall/>.

12. Federal depository libraries in Florida

Currently there are 34 federal depositories (both regional and selective) in Florida. See <http://catalog.gpo.gov/fdlpdir/FDLPdir.jsp> for the entire list.

13. Links to legal, bar association pages in Florida

Florida Bar: <http://www.floridabar.org/>

Florida State Courts: <http://www.flcourts.org/>.

14. Links for Legal Aid in Florida

“Legal aid societies and legal services organizations in various counties are multi-sponsored and funded by federal, state and local governments, The Florida Bar Foundation, The Florida Bar, local bar associations and special grants. Florida is divided into seven regions, each having both programs receiving LSC funding and

programs that do not receive LSC funding, but are funded by other sources, and thus able to accept a broader range of cases. They are working toward the common goal of equal justice and legal representation for all under the legal system.” From the Florida Bar website.

The Florida Bar provides links to legal aid societies and legal services organizations throughout Florida. The links are organized by county, and information is provided: <http://www.floridabar.org/tfb/TFBConsum.nsf/0/a949d517a480a5a685256b2f006c5c77>

15. Links to pathfinders/research guides

All Florida law school libraries publish handouts and research guides. For contact information see different Florida Law School library’s websites:

Ave Maria School of Law Library

<http://www.avemarialaw.edu/library>

Barry University Law Library

<https://www.barry.edu/law/future-students/library/>

Florida A & M University Law Library

<http://law.famu.edu/go.cfm/do/Page.View/pid/135/t/Library.html>

Florida Coastal School of Law Library

<http://www.fcsl.edu/lc/>

Florida International University Law Library

<https://law.fiu.edu/library/>

Florida State University Law Library

<http://www.law.fsu.edu/library/>

Nova Southeastern University Law Library

<http://www.nsulaw.nova.edu/library/index.cfm>

St. Thomas University Law Library

<http://web.stu.edu/law/AlexHannaLibrary/tabid/668/Default.aspx>

Stetson University Law Library

<http://www.law.stetson.edu/lawlib/>

University of Florida Law Library

<http://www.law.ufl.edu/lic/>

University of Miami Law Library

<http://www.law.miami.edu/library/>

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