AALL LISP Public Library Toolkit
Massachusetts

1. State Constitution

Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
In Print: In the General Laws of Massachusetts
Available online at: https://malegislature.gov/Laws/Constitution
Original document held by Massachusetts Archives at Columbia Point:
http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arccol/colidx.htm

2. State Statutes

General Laws of Massachusetts
Official Edition: Prepared under the Direction of the General Court, published every other year with annual supplements and monthly updates by the General Court and Thomson Reuters
Unofficially available online at: https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/Search
Annotated Statutes
Annotated Laws of Massachusetts, Lexis Nexis. “black books”
Massachusetts General Laws Annotated, Thomson West. “green books”
Historical Codifications (1836-1932)
Listed and linked at: http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/124177

3. State Bills

Session Laws: Acts and Resolves
Official Editions: published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth
Acts from 1997 on available online at: https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Search
Acts and Resolves, 1692-2009, available online from the State Library of Massachusetts at: http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/123456789/2, searchable by year and chapter number
Bills: https://malegislature.gov/Bills

4. State Administrative Law

Code of Massachusetts Regulations in print available at the Mass. Trial Court Law Libraries
Official Edition: published in print by the Secretary of the Commonwealth
New regulations are published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth bi-weekly in the Massachusetts Register to be filed in the Code
The Secretary of the Commonwealth sells individual titles and access electronically to the entire Code through the State Bookstore: http://www.sec.state.ma.us/spr/spridx.htm

Current regulations (updated bi-weekly) available from the Mass. Trial Court Law Libraries:
http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/source/mass/cmr/index.html
Index, compiled by the Mass. Trial Court Law Libraries:
http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/source/mass/cmr/cmrindex.html
Guide to the Code of Massachusetts Regulations
Collection of six indexes to the Mass. regulations formerly called Weil’s Guide, now published (in print) by LexisNexis
5. Municipal (City and Town) Codes
Copies of Municipal codes are available from the City or Town Clerks –
M.G.L. c. 40A § 5, “A true copy of the zoning ordinance or by-law with any amendments thereto
shall be kept on file available for inspection in the office of the clerk of such city or town.” A
Directory with contact information for the Clerks is available at:
http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleclk/elkidx.htm
City and Town Bylaws or Ordinances available online indexed by municipality:
http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/source/mass/bylaws.html

6. State Jury Instructions
District Court Criminal Model Jury Instructions available online at:
Supreme Judicial Court Model Jury Instructions on Homicide available online at:
Massachusetts Superior Court Civil Practice Jury Instructions, 2nd ed. M.C.L.E., 1st supp. 2011.

7. State Forms
Forms available from Massachusetts Courts: http://www.mass.gov/courts/forms/
Other Massachusetts Legal Forms available for free on the internet, compiled and indexed by
the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries:
http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/subject/forms/index.html
Other forms are available in a variety of treatises including West’s Massachusetts
Practice series and Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (M.C.L.E.) manuals.

8. State Legal Encyclopedia
There is no current legal encyclopedia for Massachusetts.
Massachusetts Jurisprudence, a 22 volume encyclopedia was published between 1992 and 1996
by Lawyers Cooperative Publishing. Publication ceased with a 1998 supplement published by
West Group.
components dealing with separate practice areas including Summary of Basic Law, 4th, v. 14-14D,
which covers topics from agency to workers’ compensation, A-W.

9. State Case Law and Administrative Reporters
Massachusetts Court Cases at: http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/source/mass/cases/index.html
Massachusetts Agency and Commission Opinions and Bulletins available at:
http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/source/mass/agencydecisions.html
Landlaw Legal Publishers publishes seven administrative and case-law reporters from
Massachusetts trial courts and state agencies: http://www.landlaw.com/
Social Law Library Administrative Databases (covering state agency decisions) are available
for remote access by subscription: http://socialaw.com/article.htm?t=inlibonly

10. State Digest
West’s Massachusetts Digest 2d, West Publishing Co., 1986-
Massachusetts Digest Annotated: covering cases from state and federal courts, West
Publishing Co., [1947-1984]. Includes references to cases “from 1761 to date[1947].”
11. Records and Briefs:
Microforms, 1918-present. Social Law Library has S.J.C. Briefs going back to 1840.
Vol. 1-, 1972-present.
**Supreme Judicial Court Briefs for recent cases** available online through [http://www.ma-appellatecourts.org/search.php](http://www.ma-appellatecourts.org/search.php)

12. State Court Websites
Massachusetts Courts: [http://www.mass.gov/courts](http://www.mass.gov/courts)
Links to Supreme Judicial Court, Appeals Court, and the Trial Court Departments:
Boston Municipal Court, District Court, Housing Court, Juvenile Court, Land Court, Probate and Family Court and Superior Court.

13. Regional Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) /Instructions on How to Subscribe to Listserv/Become a Member:
Law Librarians of New England – [llne.org](http://llne.org)
LLNE List: [http://llne.org/llne-list/](http://llne.org/llne-list/) “Subscribers are limited to LLNE members.”

Massachusetts Legal Referral: [http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/lawyer/referral.html](http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/lawyer/referral.html)
MassLegalHelp, Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corp.’s website for Massachusetts’ residents looking for civil legal services: [http://www.masslegalhelp.org/](http://www.masslegalhelp.org/)


16. Bar Associations
Affiliated Bar Services (links to local, county and specialty bar associations in Massachusetts): [http://www.massbar.org/for-attorneys/affiliated-bar-services](http://www.massbar.org/for-attorneys/affiliated-bar-services)

17. Massachusetts Research Guides – a representative selection
“Massachusetts Law About…, Over 150 Topics A-Z”:
[http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/subject/about/index.html](http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/subject/about/index.html)
”Massachusetts Legal Research,” Boston College Law Library Legal Research Guide: [https://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files-schools-law_sites/library/pdf/researchguides/MA.pdf](https://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files-schools-law_sites/library/pdf/researchguides/MA.pdf)
“Massachusetts Legal Research,” Harvard Law School Library Research Guide:
[http://guides.library.harvard.edu/massachusetts](http://guides.library.harvard.edu/massachusetts)
“Massachusetts Legal Research,” Suffolk University Law School:
“Massachusetts Resources,” New England Law/Boston:
[http://libraryguides.nesl.edu/mass](http://libraryguides.nesl.edu/mass)
18. Legal Reference for Non-Law Librarians – Not specific to Massachusetts
   By Joan Shear, Boston College Law Library
   http://sites.tufts.edu/sslbc2013/files/2013/06/Boot-Camp-Handout.pdf
   12 page Handout for the Social Science Librarians Boot Camp,
   held at Tisch Library, Tufts University, June 7, 2013

19. Four Recommended Massachusetts Titles for Answering Legal Reference Questions

   **Employment Law**
   *Your Rights on the Job: a practical guide to employment laws in Massachusetts,*
   Available from the Labor Guild:

   **Family Law, including all issues to divorce, adoption, name change, and paternity**
   *Family Law Advocacy for Low and Moderate Income Litigants,*
   Available online at:
   [http://www.masslegalservices.org/FamilyLawAdvocacyForLowAndModerateIncomeLitigants](http://www.masslegalservices.org/FamilyLawAdvocacyForLowAndModerateIncomeLitigants)
   Available from [www.mcle.org](http://www.mcle.org) for $35.00.

   **Landlord Tenant Law**
   *Legal Tactics, 7th ed.*
   Available online at: [http://www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/legal-tactics1](http://www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/legal-tactics1)
   Available from [www.mcle.org](http://www.mcle.org) for $45.00.

   **Small Claims**
   *Pursuing a Case in Small Claims Court,*
   Sean P. Coleman, Boston, MA : Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, c2010.
   Available from [www.mcle.org](http://www.mcle.org) for $35.00.

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Links to the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries website now at

Compiled by Barbara Schneider with help from Meg Hayden and Michelle Pearse for the Law Librarians of New England (LLNE)