

## **Public Libraries Toolkit New Hampshire**

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This is a list of New Hampshire state legal titles and other resources. Print resources are linked to the library catalogs, to show researchers which libraries in New Hampshire carry the titles. Online versions are included if they are freely available.

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## State constitution

### *Abbreviated as:*

N.H. CONST.

The annotated version of the New Hampshire Constitution of 1784 is published in the Constitutions volume of the *New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated* (see below under [State code](#)). An online version without annotations is on the [official state website](#).

Annotations provide references to case law along with brief summaries of the issues involved.

Also of interest: [The New Hampshire State Constitution : a Reference Guide](#) by Susan E. Marshall.

## State code

### *Abbreviated as:*

R.S.A.

N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann.

Statutes are laws passed by the legislature. There are public and private laws. Public (or general) laws apply to the state as a whole. A private law applies to an individual, a family, a small group, or a specific entity.

New Hampshire's statutory code is called the Revised Statutes Annotated (R.S.A.). The code contains only the general and permanent laws of New Hampshire and is arranged more or less by topic.

New Hampshire has two print versions of the Revised Statutes Annotated. The official version is published by Thomson/West and is titled [New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated, 1955](#). The unofficial version is published by LexisNexis and is titled [Lexis New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated, 1955](#). "Official" in this case means that Thomson/West contracts with the state and works in cooperation with the [Office of Legislative Services](#) to publish the code.

The online version, the [Revised Statutes Online](#), does not contain case [annotations](#) or other legal research aids but is keyword searchable.

The New Hampshire Law Library keeps current and retrospective versions of both print sets.

## State session laws

### *Abbreviated as:*

N.H. Laws  
Laws

Session laws are all the laws: general and private, permanent and temporary, passed by the New Hampshire General Court in a single session. They're also sometimes called chapter laws. At the end of each session, all the legislation and resolutions passed during the session are published annually in print under the title [\*Laws of the State of New Hampshire\*](#). The spine title is *N.H. Laws* and is often used instead of the complete title.

The Internet Archive and Hathi Trust have digitized some print volumes of session laws; a list of what's available is on the New Hampshire Law Library's [website](#).

Individual session laws from 1989 to the present are online at the New Hampshire General Court's [website](#). They are called the "final version" or the "chaptered final version."

## State bills

### *Abbreviated as:*

HB  
SB

A bill may go through many changes as it moves through the legislative process. A "bill as introduced" is the first version. If a bill is amended, the amendments are published in the state legislative journals and calendars. If a bill is passed, it appears in its "final version" or "chaptered final version." All passed bills are gathered into one volume and published in print as [session laws](#).

Bills as introduced are collected in print by the New Hampshire State Library and the New Hampshire Law Library.

Bills from 1989 to the present are available through the [Advanced Bill Status Search](#) on the New Hampshire General Court's website.

## State legislative journals and calendars

### *Abbreviated as:*

N.H.S. Jour.

N.H.H.R. Jour.

Legislative calendars list all the business that has been scheduled in the legislature. They include hearing notices and committee reports and amendments. The [House](#) and the [Senate](#) have separate calendars which are online at the General Court's website. During the legislative session the calendars may be published several times a week.

Journals are the records of what occurs on the floor of the Senate and House of Representatives. There are two versions of journals: the daily or working journals which are published within a few days of each completed floor session, and the permanent journals which are bound and edited versions of the daily journals. The daily journals for the [House](#) and [Senate](#) are online at the General Court's website.

The permanent journals titled [Journal of the Senate of New Hampshire](#) and [Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire](#) are distributed in print to libraries, agencies, and offices throughout the state. Many volumes have been digitized and are online at the [Internet Archive](#).

## State administrative code

### *Abbreviated as:*

N.H. Code Admin. R. Ann.

N.H. Admin. Rules

The General Court delegates lawmaking power to agencies by granting [agencies](#) rulemaking authority. [Rules](#) have the force and effect of laws. An administrative code contains the rules adopted by agencies.

New Hampshire has two commercial print versions of its administrative code: a 15-volume, loose-leaf publication titled [Code of New Hampshire Rules](#) and a smaller, 5-volume version titled the [New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Annotated](#) containing rules from selected agencies. Both are published by LexisNexis.

In addition to the codes, each agency publishes its own rules. These are found on the Office of Legislative Services, Administrative Rules [website](#) or on individual agency [websites](#).

The New Hampshire Law Library and the New Hampshire State Library collect and preserve the print versions of agency rules.

## State cases

### *Abbreviated as:*

N.H.

A.

A.2d

A.3d

The official version of New Hampshire's supreme court opinions is published by LexisNexis in the [New Hampshire Reports](#). The unofficial version is published by Thomson/West in the *Atlantic Reporter* series.

Individual opinions (a.k.a. "slip opinions") from 1995 to the present are online at the New Hampshire Judicial Branch [website](#). [Google Scholar](#) has New Hampshire's supreme court opinions from 1950 to the present.

Final orders from the supreme court's 3JX panel are [here](#).

Trial court decisions are not published in print and are rarely published online unless the case is of particular interest. Look on the Superior Court [webpage](#). Trial court decisions in print are available at the courthouses where the cases were heard.

## State digest

A digest is a subject index to case law with brief summaries of the issues of a case.

New Hampshire Supreme Court opinions are indexed by [West's New Hampshire Digest](#) and by *West's Atlantic Digest*.

## State court rules

State court rules are found in [New Hampshire Court Rules Annotated](#) published by LexisNexis and [New Hampshire Rules of Court : State and Federal](#) published by Thomson/West. Current and retrospective versions of state court rules in print are kept by the [New Hampshire Law Library](#).

Current, online state court rules are found at the New Hampshire Judicial Branch [website](#).

## State jury instructions

[New Hampshire Civil Jury Instructions](#) are published by LexisNexis.

Draft criminal jury instructions are available online at the [New Hampshire Bar Association](#).

## State forms

There are no New Hampshire form books.

To find forms, look in various [Continuing Legal Education](#) materials, the [New Hampshire Practice Series](#), the [New Hampshire Practice and Procedure Handbook](#), the state statutes, and the state court rules.

The Judicial Branch has created many online forms which are available on the [website](#). Click on the links for the individual courts to find their forms.

## State legal encyclopedia

There is no state legal encyclopedia. Use New Hampshire legal treatises instead.

## State treatises, practice guides, CLEs

[New Hampshire Practice Series](#) is a 17-volume treatise on New Hampshire law covering family law, civil and criminal procedure, wills, trusts and probate, real estate law, local government and municipal law, land use, planning and zoning, and personal injury.

Other treatises and practice guides include:

[Labor and Employment in New Hampshire: a Guide to Employment Laws, Regulations, and Practices.](#)

[New Hampshire Evidence Manual.](#)

[New Hampshire Land Use Law.](#)

[A Practical Guide to Discovery & Depositions in New Hampshire.](#)

[A Practical Guide to Divorce in New Hampshire.](#)

[A Practical Guide to Estate Planning in New Hampshire.](#)

[A Practical Guide to Evidence in New Hampshire.](#)

[A Practical Guide to Residential Real Estate Transactions and Foreclosures in New Hampshire.](#)

[A Practical Guide to Trying DWI Cases in New Hampshire.](#)

[New Hampshire Workers' Compensation Manual.](#)

New Hampshire Continuing Legal Education (CLE) materials are produced by the [New Hampshire Bar Association](#), the [New Hampshire Association for Justice](#), [Lorman Education Services](#), and the [National Business Institute](#). A list of the CLE titles held by the New Hampshire Law Library is found [here](#).

## State legal periodicals

Current and archived versions of the [New Hampshire Bar News](#) and [New Hampshire Bar Journal](#) are online at the New Hampshire Bar Association's [website](#). The print versions are held by the New Hampshire Law Library.

[IDEA: the IP Law Review](#) and the [UNH Law Review](#) are both published by the [University of New Hampshire School of Law](#).

## State government website

The official website of the State of New Hampshire is located at [www.nh.gov](http://www.nh.gov).

## City and town ordinances

Very few New Hampshire ordinances are published by commercial publishers but most local government websites have links to their ordinances. Check with the [city or town clerk](#) for more information.

## Law librarian associations

[Law Librarians of New England](#) (LLNE). LLNE was organized to promote the profession of law librarianship in the legal and library communities, and to provide members with opportunities for continuing education and networking.

Association of New Hampshire Law Librarians (ANHLL). The Association was established to promote law libraries and law librarianship. Any person connected with a law library or interested in promoting law libraries in New Hampshire may become an active individual member. For more information, contact Mary S. Searles at [msearles@courts.state.nh.us](mailto:msearles@courts.state.nh.us).

## Local law libraries

The [John W. King New Hampshire Law Library](#) (NHLL) is open to the public and collects state and federal primary and secondary sources and provides free online access to LexisNexis and Westlaw. NHLL also provides interlibrary loan and document delivery services. The [New Hampshire State Library](#) collects New Hampshire primary law and legislative and agency materials. Many public libraries throughout the state have law collections as well; check the state union catalog, [NHU-PAC](#). The [UNH School of Law Library](#) is not open to the public except to allow access to federal depository materials.

## Depository libraries

For a list, go to the [Federal Depository Library Directory](#)

## Bar associations

The [New Hampshire Bar Association](#)  
[County and local bar associations](#)

## **Pathfinders/research guides**

[AALL Public Library Toolkit \(Online\)](#)

[How to Research a Legal Problem](#)

[How to Find Legal Material if You Already Have a Citation](#)

[Public Library Collection Guidelines for a Legal Research Collection](#)

[Knowing When to Refer](#)

Law Librarians of New England: [New England Legal Research Links](#)

Library of Congress: [Guide to Law Online – New Hampshire](#)

New Hampshire Law Library: [Compiling a New Hampshire Legislative History](#)

New Hampshire Law Library: [NH Law About ...](#)

UNH School of Law: [IP Mall](#)

UNH School of Law Library: [Research Guides](#)