The New Mexico Public Library Legal Toolkit provides information about the following New Mexico state legal resources:

**New Mexico Constitution**: the state constitution

**Legislative**: statutes (including prior versions of statutes and legislative history), session laws, and bills

**Executive**: administrative code and register, executive orders, and Attorney General opinions and advisory letters

**Judicial**: Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions, District, Magistrate, and (Limited) Municipal Court materials, general information about New Mexico courts, court rules and materials (including jury instructions, evidentiary and procedural rules, and more), and court forms.

**Local**: county and municipal ordinances, tribal codes

The Toolkit also provides information about:

**Historical and Legal Research**: historical research on the New Mexican territorial government and statehood, New Mexico research guides

**Libraries**: Southwestern Association of Law Libraries, law libraries and federal depository libraries in New Mexico

**State Bar and Community Legal Assistance**: the state bar, and legal organizations and community legal assistance

The Toolkit has hyperlinks to several websites and webpages that are free for everyone to use. The footnote at the end of each sentence containing a hyperlink has the full URL to the hyperlinked site or page. Many of the resources we describe in this Toolkit are on NMOneSource, the New Mexico Compilation Commission's free and publicly accessible online database.¹

**New Mexico Constitution**

The Constitution of the State of New Mexico was adopted on January 21, 1911, and became effective on January 6, 1912, when New Mexico became the 47th state to join the union. The Constitution is on NMOneSource² and is currently printed in Pamphlet 2 of the first volume of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978. The printed New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978 are in the New Mexico law libraries listed below.

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¹ [http://nmonesource.com](http://nmonesource.com).
**Legislative Resources**

**New Mexico Statutes**

New Mexico statutes are state laws enacted by the state legislature. The New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978 is the current official codification of the New Mexico statutes. It is published in print and on NMOneSource by the New Mexico Compilation Commission. Historical versions of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated are also in print and on NMOneSource. The printed New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978 are in the New Mexico law libraries listed below. The printed and online versions of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated include detailed annotations that are not part of the official text of the statutes. The annotations cite to New Mexico court decisions, law journal articles, legal encyclopedias, and American Law Reports. They help to explain legal concepts and how courts have interpreted and applied the statutes. The annotations also provide cross-references to relevant constitutional and statutory citations.

Two other publishers—ThomsonWest and Michie’s/LexisNexis (Matthew Bender)—also publish annotated versions of the New Mexico statutes in print and online. To use the online databases, you need a paid subscription. The printed and online versions of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated include detailed annotations that are not part of the official text of the statutes.

A note about prior versions of New Mexico statutes and legislative history.

To learn how to find a prior version of a New Mexico statute, consult the “Prior Versions of New Mexico Statutes” tab in the University of New Mexico Law Library’s Legislative History Quick Guide. To learn about how to research New Mexico legislative history, visit the University of New Mexico Law Library’s New Mexico Legislative History Quick Guide.

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3 Article IV, Section 22, of the New Mexico Constitution describes the roles of the state legislature and governor in passing and approving legislation to make state law. https://laws.nmonesource.com/w/nmos/const-nm#!b/aIVs22.


6 West’s New Mexico Statutes Annotated and Michie’s Annotated Statutes of New Mexico.

7 Westlaw and LexisNexis are databases that require paid subscriptions. A few libraries, including the University of New Mexico and New Mexico Supreme Court libraries, provide public access to Westlaw (https://www.westlaw.com) at library computer terminals. Some libraries may provide public access to LexisNexis (https://www.lexisnexis.com) as well. To find the New Mexico statutes on Westlaw Next, first click on “state materials,” then click on “New Mexico,” and finally click on “New Mexico Statutes & Court Rules.” To find the New Mexico statutes on LexisNexis Advance, first click on the “state” tab, then click on “New Mexico,” and finally click on “NM - Michie’s Annotated Statutes Of New Mexico.”


A note about the New Mexico legislature.
To learn more about the New Mexico legislature and the legislative process, consult the New
Mexico Legislature’s Legislative Handbook,10 Glossary of Legislative Terms,11 and Key
to Abbreviations.12

New Mexico Session Laws
Session laws are collections of legislation enacted by the New Mexico legislature in a particular
session. Session laws are in the order the legislature passed them.

New Mexico Session Laws from 1993 to the present are in print and on NMOneSource.13 Session
laws from before 1993 are in print in the New Mexico law libraries listed below. Territorial and
state session laws from 1846 to the present are also on HeinOnline, which requires a
subscription to access.14

New Mexico Bills
Bills are proposed laws.15 Bills from 1996 to the present are on the New Mexico Legislature’s
NMLegis site.16 Bills from before 1996 are in print in the New Mexico law libraries listed below.

Executive Resources
New Mexico Administrative Code and Register
The executive departments promulgate rules to implement the New Mexico statutes.17 Article 4
of Chapter 14 of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated establishes the process for promulgating
rules, publishing them in the New Mexico Register, and compiling them in the New Mexico
Code.18

The New Mexico State Commission of Public Records publishes the New Mexico Register and
compiles the New Mexico Code. Volumes of the New Mexico Register from 2001 to the present
are on the New Mexico State Commission of Public Records’ website.19 The current compilation
of the New Mexico Code is also the Commission’s website.20

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12 https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Action_Abbreviations.
15 Under Article IV, Section 15, of the New Mexico Constitution, a bill may originate in the New Mexico
House or Senate. https://laws.nmonesource.com/w/nmos/const-nm#!b/aIVs15.
16 https://nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Bill_Finder.
17 Chapter 9 of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated describes the executive departments and their roles
and responsibilities. Under NMSA 9-1-5(B)(5), the Secretaries of the executive departments have the
responsibility to implement and ensure compliance with the law.
19 http://164.64.110.134/nmac/all-volumes. Additionally, certain libraries, including law libraries, have back
copies of the Register in print; consult your nearest Law Library for more information on researching the
New Mexico Register.
20 http://164.64.110.134/nmac/nmac-titles.
Read about the history and structure of the New Mexico Code on the [New Mexico Commission of Public Records’ New Mexico Administrative Code site](http://164.64.110.134/nmac/explanation-of-code).

**New Mexico Executive Orders**
The Governor issues executive orders to make policy. The 2019 Executive Orders are on the [Governor’s website](https://www.governor.state.nm.us/about-the-governor/executive-orders). Hundreds of executive orders from 2003 through 2018 are on the [Online Computer Library Center](http://cdmresolver.worldcat.org/oclc/897981142/viewonline). The University of New Mexico Law Library also has printed Executive Orders from 1981 to 1986 (with some gaps) and from 1987 to 1998.

**New Mexico Attorney General Opinions and Advisory Letters**
The Office of the Attorney General issues official opinions and informal advisory letters answering requests from legislators, elected or appointed state officials, and district attorneys. Opinions and letters from 1909 to the present are on [NMOneSource](https://nmonesource.com/nmos/ag/en/nav_date.do). Opinions and letters from 1983 to the present are on the New Mexico Attorney General’s [website](https://www.nmag.gov/opinions-and-advisory-letters.aspx). Opinions and letters are also on [HeinOnline](https://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=sag/sagnm&collection=sag), a subscription database.

**Judicial Resources**

**New Mexico Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Opinions**
Appellate opinions from the [New Mexico Supreme Court](https://nmonesource.com/nmos/nmsc/en/nav_date.do) (1852–present) and the [New Mexico Court of Appeals](https://nmonesource.com/nmos/nmca/en/nav_date.do) (1966–present) are on NMOneSource. Appellate opinions are also in print in the [New Mexico Appellate Reports](https://caselookup.nmcourts.gov/caselookup/app) (2012–present) and the [New Mexico Reports](https://nmonesource.com/nmos/nmsc/en/nav_date.do; https://nmonesource.com/nmos/nmca/en/nav_date.do) (1852–2011). *West’s New Mexico Digest* is a subject index to New Mexico appellate opinions that is in print and on Westlaw, a subscription database.

**New Mexico District, Magistrate, and (Limited) Municipal Court Materials**
New Mexico Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, District Court, Magistrate Court, and Municipal Court data are on the [NM Courts’ Case Lookup page](https://caselookup.nmcourts.gov/caselookup/app). Municipal court data is limited to criminal domestic violence and driving while intoxicated convictions from September 1, 1991, to the present. To access district and magistrate case files, you must contact the court clerk’s

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21 [http://164.64.110.134/nmac/explanation-of-code](http://164.64.110.134/nmac/explanation-of-code).
24 [https://unmlawlibrary.on.worldcat.org/oclc/3874890](https://unmlawlibrary.on.worldcat.org/oclc/3874890).
29 Westlaw and LexisNexis are databases that require paid subscriptions. A few libraries, including the University of New Mexico and New Mexico Supreme Court libraries, provide public access to Westlaw ([https://www.westlaw.com](https://www.westlaw.com)), including *West’s New Mexico Digest*, at library computer terminals. The University of New Mexico Law Library, the New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library, and other law libraries have print copies of *West’s New Mexico Digest*.
30 [https://caselookup.nmcourts.gov/caselookup/app](https://caselookup.nmcourts.gov/caselookup/app).
office. The NM Courts' "Find-A-Court" tool has a map showing New Mexico courts and contact information. Members of the New Mexico bar and other approved users may read case files on the New Mexico Secure Court Case Access site.

A note about New Mexico Courts.
For information about the New Mexico judiciary and the courts, visit the NM Courts’ “About the Courts” and “State Courts” pages.

New Mexico Court Rules and Other Materials
The New MexicoCompilation Commission publishes court rules and materials on NMOneSource. These include criminal and civil procedural rules, probate rules, rules of evidence, and civil and criminal jury instructions, among other materials.

New Mexico Court Forms
The New MexicoCompilation Commission publishes several court forms on NMOneSource. The New Mexico Courts site has forms for District Court, Magistrate Court, Metropolitan Court, Municipal Court, Probate Courts, and Tribal Courts. The Metropolitan Court's Self-Help Center also has several forms and guidance on how people may represent themselves in landlord-tenant and small claims matters. Several of the individual district court websites also have links to forms. Finally, an older, unofficial form book is in several libraries: Michael Poulson, New Mexico legal forms: a book of legal forms designed for pro se litigants in the district courts of New Mexico (1991).

Local Resources
New Mexico County and Municipal Ordinances, Tribal Codes
New Mexico counties and municipalities enact ordinances, which are local laws. Several New Mexico counties’ and municipalities’ ordinances are on three websites: Municode, AmLegal, and SterlingCodifiers. The University of New Mexico Law Library maintains a guide with a list of county and municipal ordinances.

Counties. Bernalillo County, Doña Ana County, Los Alamos County, Otero County, Sandoval County, and Valencia County.

33 https://www.nmcourts.gov.
35 Id.

Tribal Codes. Pueblo of Laguna.

Historical and Legal Research

Historical Research on the New Mexico Territorial Governments and Statehood

For historical research on the New Mexico Constitution, we recommend consulting the New Mexico Constitution Collection in the Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections at

56 https://library.municode.com/NM/corrales.
66 https://library.municode.com/NM/las_cruces.
79 https://library.municode.com/nm/truth_or_consequences/codes/code_of_ordinances.
the University of New Mexico. The Collection contains constitutional documents and publications including the 1850 and 1889 Territorial Constitutions and documents on the drafting of the New Mexico Constitution. NMOneSource.com has also published several New Mexico Territorial Laws and Treaties.

New Mexico Research Guides
For an overview on how to research New Mexico law, visit the University of New Mexico Law Library’s New Mexico Legal Research Guide. For an overview on how to research New Mexico legislative history, visit the University of New Mexico Law Library’s New Mexico Legislative History Quick Guide. For a compilation of web-based resources on New Mexico law and government, visit the Library of Congress’ Guide to Law Online: New Mexico.

Libraries
Southwestern Association of Law Libraries
The Southwestern Association of Law Libraries (SWALL) is a Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), the national organization of law librarians and legal information professionals. SWALL includes members from New Mexico, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.

For information about SWALL, visit its website or the SWALL profile page on AALL, which requires a subscription to view.

Law Libraries in New Mexico
The New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library and the University of New Mexico Law Library both provide services to the public.

New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library
New Mexico Supreme Court
237 Don Gaspar Avenue
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Web
Reference: (505) 827-4850; libref@nmcourts.gov

University of New Mexico Law Library
1117 Stanford Drive NE
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001
Web
Circulation: (505) 277-6236
Reference: (505) 277-0935; libref@law.unm.edu

82 https://rmoa.unm.edu/docviewer.php?docId=nmu1mss171bc.xml.
84 http://libguides.law.unm.edu/NM.
85 http://libguides.law.unm.edu/legislativehistoryquickguide.
88 https://www.aallnet.org/forms/cas/login?service=/members_only/committee/CommitteeForm/view%3Fid%3D2100000000D9.
90 http://lawlibrary.unm.edu/.
Federal Depository Libraries in New Mexico

Federal Depository Libraries allow the public to access certain information from the federal government.91 To find a federal depository library near you, visit the Federal Depository Library Program.92 As of August 2019, New Mexico has one regional depository library at the University of New Mexico and eleven selective depository libraries.

<table>
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<th>New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Fe, NM 87501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depository Coordinator: (505) 827-4357</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Service: (505) 827-4850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax: (505) 827-4852</td>
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| Branson Library                      | Joseph R. Skeen Library                                                        |
| New Mexico State University          | New Mexico Inst. of Mining & Technology                                         |
| (Selective depository library #0382) | (Selective depository library #0382A)                                           |
| Frenger at Williams Street           |                                                                                  |
| Las Cruces, NM 88003-8006            |                                                                                  |
| Web: Depository and Catalog          |                                                                                  |
| Depository Coordinator: (575) 646-6925|                                                                                  |
| Public Service: (575) 646-5791       |                                                                                  |
| Fax: (575) 646-7477                  |                                                                                  |

| University Libraries                 | Golden Student Success Center                                                  |
| University of New Mexico             | Eastern New Mexico University                                                 |
| (Regional depository library #0383)  |                                                                                  |
| 1 University of New Mexico           |                                                                                  |
| Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001           |                                                                                  |

92 Id.
93 https://catalog.gpo.gov/fdlpdir/FDLPdir.jsp?mode=1&pid=0.
95 https://sites.google.com/site/supremecourtlawlibrarygoinfo/.
98 https://www.jaia.edu/academics/library/.
Thomas C. Donnelly Library  
New Mexico Highlands University  
(Selective depository library #0384)  
802 National Ave.  
Las Vegas, NM 87701  
Web: Depository and Catalog  
Depository Coordinator: (505) 277-9100  
Public Service: (505) 277-9100  
Fax: (505) 277-9100

Farmington Public Library  
City of Farmington  
(Selective depository library #0384A)  
2101 Farmington Avenue  
Farmington, NM 87401-6420  
Depository Coordinator: (505) 566-2203  
Public Service: (505) 599-1272  
Fax: (505) 599-1257

Pannell Library  
New Mexico Junior College  
(Selective depository library #0385)  
5317 Lovington Highway  
Hobbs, NM 88240-9121  
Depository Coordinator: (575) 492-2874  
Public Service: (575) 492-2870  
Fax: (575) 492-2883

J. Cloyd Miller Library  
Western New Mexico University  
(Selective depository library #0385A)  
1000 West College Avenue  
Silver City, NM 88062-0680  
Web: Depository  
Depository Coordinator: (575) 538-6358  
Public Service: (575) 538-6359  
Fax: (575) 538-6178

New Mexico State Library  
Department of Cultural Affairs  
(Selective depository library #0386)  
1209 Camino Carlos Rey  
Santa Fe, NM 87507-5166  
Web: Depository and Catalog  
Depository Coordinator: (505) 277-7180  
Public Service: (505) 277-2228  
Fax: (505) 277-2228

111 https://my.enmu.edu/web/golden-library/.  
120 https://unmlawlibrary on.worldcat.org/discovery.
State Bar and Community Legal Assistance

State Bar of New Mexico

Information about the State Bar of New Mexico is on the New Mexico Bar website, including voluntary bar association information, the biweekly Bar Bulletin, and lawyer referral information.

State Bar of New Mexico
5121 Masthead St NE Albuquerque, NM 87109
PO Box 92860 Albuquerque, NM 87199-2860
sbnm@nmbar.org
Phone 505.797.6000
Toll-Free 800.876.6227
Fax 866-588-9437

New Mexico Legal Organizations and Community Legal Assistance

The State Bar of New Mexico maintains a list of civil legal service providers. The University of New Mexico Law Library maintains another list of legal service providers, organized by legal specialty.

125 https://www.nmbar.org/Nmstatebar/For_Members/Voluntary_Bar_Associations.aspx.