Constitution & Codes

When most people want to know “the law”, this is what they are looking for. These are the laws of the state as they have been written.

Indiana Constitution
http://iga.in.gov/legislative/laws/const/

The state constitution is the basis for the entire state government, and no law passed in Indiana may conflict with it. The current version, as amended in 2010 is available on the state government website. Citations to the Indiana Constitution will read as either, “IND. CONST. art. #, §#.” or “IND. CONST. amend. #, §#.”

Indiana Code
http://iga.in.gov/legislative/laws/2019/ic/

The Indiana Code is a compilation of all general laws currently in force in Indiana, arranged by topic. Laws that have expired, been removed, or were of limited effect are not included in the code. Citations to the Indiana Code will be in order of Title, Article, Chapter, and Section, so they will look something like: IC §#-#-#-# (year). West’s Indiana Code is published by Thompson Reuters, while the Burns Indiana Statutes Annotated is published by Lexis.

Indiana Administrative Code
http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/

The Indiana Administrative Code is made of regulations promulgated by administrative agencies under the authority granted to them by the legislature and compiled by topic. As such, they tend to be very focused and narrow. Citations to the Indiana Administrative Code are in the form of Title, Indiana Administrative Code, Article, Rule, Section, so they look like # IND. ADMIN CODE #---# or # IAC #---#. West also publishes an unofficial Indiana Administrative Code.

Indiana Building, Electrical & Plumbing Codes
http://www.in.gov/dhs/2490.htm

Excerpted from the Indiana Administrative Code are these specialized sections relating to buildings and maintenance. This is particularly useful for those people who are mostly interested in ensuring compliance when making home repairs or additions.
Indiana Municipal Codes
https://library.municode.com/in

These are the codes of city ordinances for Indiana. They are similar to the state statutes, but more limited in scope and application. This is not a comprehensive list, but will include many of the larger cities and towns.

Current Bills
http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2019/bills/

These are bills under consideration during the current legislative session. If they are passed by the legislature, signed into law by the governor, and are of general and enduring importance, they will be compiled into the statutory code.

Cases & Case Law Tools

While statutes are what the law says, the courts interpret what that actually means. Therefore, important cases are listed in books called reporters. Case law is binding in the jurisdiction where it was made, and so patrons should be directed to ensure that they find cases, not just code sections that relate to their matter. Most reporters are not available online for free, but many of the included cases may be obtained from services such as Google Scholar.

Case citations are recognizable by having the case name; the volume, title and page number of their reporter; and the court and date. They will look something like: Party 1 v. Party 2, ## N.E./N.E.2d./N.E.3d. ### (yyyy). Party names (such as Smith v. Jones) may also be replaced with procedural terms such as: ex parte, ex rel, or in re.

Indiana Attorney General’s Opinions

Attorney General’s Opinions are not binding law, like the decisions of a court. They are advisory opinions given to the government by the attorney General as guidance.

Attorney General’s Opinions from 2017-Present
http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/2355.htm

Attorney General’s Opinions from 2001-2016
http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/2358.htm

Attorney General’s Opinions 1931-1976
https://scholarworks.iupui.edu/handle/1805/237
Indiana Court Decisions (Supreme, Appellate, and Tax)
http://www.in.gov/judiciary/2730.htm

This page allows you to browse decisions of the state Supreme, Appellate, and Tax courts. These decisions are binding law, and modify the state code or administrative code. They are organized chronologically, with references to the lower court case numbers.

Indiana Digest
The Indiana Digest is the finding aid for Indiana Cases. It is very similar to the North Eastern Digest as listed below.

North Eastern Reporter & Indiana Cases
The North Eastern Reporter is a regional reporter, meaning it covers state cases from Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, and Ohio. It is published by Thompson-Reuters, formerly Thompson-West. Not all cases are included, only ones important enough to serve as precedent are reported. Indiana Cases, also published by Thompson-Reuters, contains only the Indiana cases from the North Eastern Reporter.

North Eastern Digest
The Indiana Digest is the finding aid for cases included in the North Eastern Reporter. It organizes cases by topic according to the West Key Number System. It is also published by Thompson-Reuters, and is similarly not available for free online. As a finding tool, one generally does not cite to this series.

Shepard’s Indiana Citations
Shepard’s Citations is a type of book called a citator. It is used to see what cases have cited a given case or statute to determine if a point of law is still good or not. Like the digest, one does not typically cite to Shepard’s or any electronic citatory service.

Secondary Sources

Indiana House and Senate Journals
http://www.in.gov/legislative/session/archives.html
These are the official records of the activities of the state legislature. The results of votes, speeches made on the floor and reports of committees are all contained in this series.

Indiana Law Encyclopedia
This is an encyclopedia of legal topics, but which cites to Indiana statutes, regulations, and cases. It is not available for free online.
The Indiana Lawyer
http://www.theindianalawyer.com/

This is a biweekly newspaper devoted to happenings in the legal profession in Indiana. It focuses more on changes in the law or legal practice, than in depth analysis of particular legal topics, as one would find in an encyclopedia.

Indiana Practice Series

These are a series of form books for lawyers. Many public libraries will have books that contain legal forms written for non-practitioners, but these are the version that lawyers turn to when drafting documents. They also contain explanations of the relevant areas of Indiana law.

Indiana Register
Current: http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/irtoc.htm
Archive: http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/showIRArchive

This is where rules and regulations are posted as they are officially promulgated and before they are codified. Opinions or actions by the Governor or Attorney General regarding them are also posted here.

Listing of Law Libraries in Indiana

Of course, some patrons will require more in-depth assistance. In those instances, referring them to a specialized law library, or calling a reference librarian at a law library, which will have the additional resources necessary may be the best option. For your convenience, a list of law libraries is included in this toolkit.

Indiana Supreme Court Law Library
Supreme Court Law Library
State House, Room 316
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Tel: 317-232-2557
Fax: 317-233-8693
Website: http://www.in.gov/judiciary/supreme/2329.htm

Jerome Hall Law Library
Indiana University
Maurer School of Law – Bloomington
211 S. Indiana Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47405
Tel: (812) 855-2938
Please contact them by e-mail via their website’s Ask a Librarian function
Website: https://www.law.indiana.edu/lawlibrary/index.shtml
Kresge Law Library
University of Notre Dame
P.O. Box 535
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0535
Tel: 574.631.7024
Fax: 574.631.6371
E-mail: askus@nd.edu
Website: https://law.nd.edu/faculty-scholarship/kresge-law-library/

Ruth Lilly Law Library
Indiana University
Robert H. McKinney School of law
530 W. New York St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Tel: 317-274-4026
Website: http://mckinneylaw.iu.edu/library/

William H. Miller Law Library
Civic Center Complex
City-County Courts Building, Room 207
825 Sycamore Street
Evansville, IN 47708-1849
Tel: 812-435-5175

**ORALL**
The Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries is the local chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries covering Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. Their website is http://orall.org/.

**Federal Depository Libraries in Indiana**
Federal depository libraries collect legal materials as published by the federal government. The size and content of the collection are determined by the level of the depository library.

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**Bar Associations**

Indiana State Bar Association
[https://www.inbar.org/default.aspx](https://www.inbar.org/default.aspx)

This is the official bar association for the state of Indiana. Only members admitted to the bar here may practice law in the state, with the exception of certain federal law issues, as defined by the federal government. The ISBA maintains the official roll of attorneys in the state, but does not offer a referral service.

Specialized Bar Associations

These bar associations are based on common interests or areas of practice. They may also provide referrals to member attorneys.

Indiana Trial Lawyers Association
[https://www.indianatriallawyers.org/index.cfm](https://www.indianatriallawyers.org/index.cfm)

Indiana Chapter, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Inc.

Woman Lawyers Association of Indiana
## Local Bar Associations

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<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
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<td>Cory Sprunger</td>
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<td>Edward O. Martin</td>
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Legal Services Programs

Pro bono legal services, those made available for free or at a reduced cost, are available through several different programs throughout the state. Many of them are restricted in the types of cases they can handle and/or the income level of the clients represented. Many of those income restrictions are based on the federal poverty guidelines, which can be found at: https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines

Indiana Foreclosure Prevention Service
http://www.877gethope.org/
This organization is devoted entirely to foreclosure matters. They do not work on other landlord-tenant matters or general legal services. Clients may have to meet certain conditions to be eligible for services.

Indiana Legal Answers
https://indiana.freelegalanswers.org/
Indiana Legal Answers is a joint project of the Indiana Bar Foundation and the Indiana Pro Bono Commission. The system allows qualifying clients to post a question to a private messaging system to be answered by volunteer attorneys. All information other than the name of the client is anonymous to insure complete privacy.

Indiana Legal Services
https://www.indianalegalservices.org/
Legal Services Corporations (LSC's) are non-profit organizations who receive substantial funding from the federal government to provide legal representation to low-income individuals. They usually handle civil matters, like consumer protection, family law and landlord-tenant issues.

Indiana Pro Bono Commission
https://www.in.gov/judiciary/selfservice/2353.htm
The state Pro Bono Commission is not a legal service provider, but they maintain a tool for finding services throughout the state. Their website also has a list of providers for other services, such as assistance for people representing themselves in court.

Indianapolis Legal Aid Society
https://www.indylas.org/
The Indianapolis Legal Aid Society is a non-governmental non-profit organization which handles primarily family law, but will take on other civil cases as well. Clients must be below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines.
Legal Lines
In some locations throughout the state, there are free phone services where people can call for a mini-consultation with an attorney to get information about legal matters. Times and dates vary by location.
  Allen County: (260) 423-2358
  Marion County: (317) 269-2000 (See also: https://www.indybar.org/index.cfm?pg=LegalAdvice-LegalLine)

Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic
https://www.nclegalclinic.org/
The NCLC offers free legal assistance to those who meet their financial criteria. They offer support in immigration, bankruptcy, tax, housing and limited family law issues, but not criminal matters nor divorce cases.

Volunteer Lawyer Program
www.vlpnei.org
The Volunteer Lawyer Program provides legal assistance in many areas of civil law including divorce, bankruptcy, contracts, consumer issues, real estate, health care and estate law for persons of minimal resources. They do not provide help with criminal law or Children in Need of Services (CHINS). They are only available to residents of Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wells, & Whitley counties.

Legal Self-Help Resources
These sites and agencies can provide some guidance on the legal system for people who choose to represent themselves pro se (also called in propria persona). However, the assistance that be provided in such cases is, necessarily, limited.

Indiana Forms & Court Rules
http://www.in.gov/icpr/2362.htm
The first page links to many of the forms needed to file for permits, licenses or otherwise needed to work with state administrative agencies. If you do not have an form’s name or number, it may be most helpful to search all agencies, and simply select an agency in the field at the bottom. Searching without any other information will return a list of all of their publicly available forms.

Indiana Court Forms & Rules
http://www.in.gov/judiciary/2684.htm
The second page links to many of the forms needed in legal practice, as below, but also contains the rules for appearing before and filing in Indiana courts.
Indiana Non-Profit Corporations
http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/2991.htm
   This page not only provides the forms needed for incorporating a non-profit organization in Indiana, but also provides some general information about how non-profits must be organized and how they must operate.

Indiana Self-Service Legal Center
http://www.in.gov/judiciary/selfservice/
   The Indiana Legal Self-Service Center is a project of the state court system which provides direction in determining what resources are available for many different types of pro se representation. It also has links to many of the most commonly needed legal forms available through the state judiciary’s website.

State Government Links
   These are some of the most important law-related links at In.gov, the official state website. For any agency not listed, please see the general website.

Agency Finder
http://www.in.gov/core/find_agency.html
   This tool will help you find state administrative agencies. Administrative agencies are departments like the BMV, the Department of Revenue or other parts of the government responsible for specific functions.

Indiana Attorney General’s Office
http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/2352.htm
   This page is home to information about the office of the Attorney General. The Attorney General is in charge of representing the state in legal matters, advising the state on potential legal issues, and returning unclaimed property to citizens of the state of Indiana.

Indiana Courts
https://www.in.gov/judiciary/index.htm
   This page serves as the general clearinghouse for information about the judicial branch in Indiana. It also contains links to many of the pages included in this toolkit.

Indiana General Assembly
http://iga.in.gov/
   The state legislature’s site has not only the code, bills, and past journals, it also offers streaming video of the current legislative session for many hearings and votes.
Indiana Governor’s Office
http://www.in.gov/gov/
   This is the official page for the Indiana Governor’s office. It contains information about the legislative process and the gubernatorial agenda.

Indiana Supreme Court
http://www.in.gov/judiciary/supreme/index.htm
   This is the page for the Indiana Supreme Court. Their decisions are indexed with those of the Appellate and Tax courts, but the biographies of the current justices, history of the court, docket, and oral arguments video archive are all located here.

Odyssey Case Lookup
Old version: https://mycase.in.gov/default.aspx
   This is the search system or civil cases filed in Indiana courts. While it does allow for searching of case status, it does not currently allow for electronic submission of documents by parties to the case.

Offender Search
http://www.in.gov/apps/indcorrection/ofs/ofsofs
   The Indiana Department of Corrections offers this website where you can look for information on previously or currently incarcerated offenders. It does not cover federal prisons, or immigration detainees housed in state jails, however.

**Federal Government Links**

Federal District Courts
   Northern District of Indiana http://www.innd.uscourts.gov/
   Southern District of Indiana http://www.insd.uscourts.gov/

Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals
http://www.ca7.uscourts.gov/
   The Seventh Circuit is the federal appellate court having jurisdiction over Indiana federal cases. It is located in Chicago, but some of the judges also have offices in Indiana.

For additional reading on legal research in Indiana, please see the guide from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law available at; http://law.indiana.libguides.com/c.php?g=1644&p=5392