

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Updated: May 13, 2022

Online Legal Information

This chart provides status information about free online access to D.C. primary legal materials.

| | Session Laws | Code of Statutes | Register | Administrative Code | Appeals Court Opinions | Supreme Court Opinions |
|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Publications Title | District of Columbia Statutes-at-Large | District of Columbia Official Code | District of Columbia Register | District of Columbia Municipal Regulations | | DC Court of Appeals Opinions and MOJs |
| Official Status | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A | No |
| (Notes) | Session laws for the District of Columbia are published in the District of Columbia Register. They are also available through the DC Council's Legislative Information Management System (LIMS), lims.dccouncil.us | The DC Official Code is published in print by LexisNexis. West publishes an unofficial code. | | Published in the District of Columbia Register. | DC has a trial court of general jurisdiction (Superior Court) and an equivalent to a state supreme court (Court of Appeals). There is no mid-level court for DC. | Provides notice that opinions are subject to formal revision before publication in the Atlantic and Maryland Reporters. |
| Authentication | No | No | No | No | N/A | No |
| (Notes) | D.C. Code § 2-651.04 | D.C. Code § 2-651.04 | D.C. Code § 2-651.04 | D.C. Code § 2-651.04 | | |
| Online Preservation | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A | No |
| (Notes) | D.C. Code § 2-651.06 | D.C. Code § 2-651.06 | D.C. Code § 2-651.06 | D.C. Code § 2-651.06 | | Opinions back to January 1999 currently provided. |
| Permanent Public Access | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A | No |
| (Notes) | D.C. Code § 2-651.07 | D.C. Code § 2-651.07 | D.C. Code § 2-651.07 | D.C. Code § 2-651.07 | | |

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|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|---|-----|----|
| Copyright Claimed | No | No | No | No | N/A | No |
| (Notes) | "There are no restrictions on the republication of any portion of the District of Columbia Register." | "The codes and laws on this website are in the public domain." | "There are no restrictions on the republication of any portion of the District of Columbia Register." | "There are no restrictions on the republication of any portion of the District of Columbia Register." | | |
| UELMA Adopted | Yes. D.C. Law 21-251. Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act of 2016, effective April 7, 2017. | | | | | |
| Universal Citation Adopted | No. | | | | | |

Public Law Libraries in D.C.

Public law libraries provide access to primary legal sources and other materials.

| Public Law Libraries | Website | Phone | Email | Provide Services to Inmates? |
|---|---|--------------|--|------------------------------|
| DC Courts Libraries "The D.C. Court of Appeals (DCCA) Library, located at the Historic Courthouse (Court of Appeals), is not open to the public but their librarian is available via email for reference help, and the D.C. Superior Court Library, located at the Moultrie Courthouse, is open to the public, but is currently closed due to the coronavirus pandemic." | https://www.dccourts.gov/services/dccourts-libraries | | library@dcsc.gov (DC Superior Court Library); lmoorer@dcappeals.gov (DC Court of Appeals Library) | |
| University of the District of Columbia, Mason Law Library "Non-UDC patrons with research needs may use the library's print collection and some electronic resources within the library, providing use does not conflict with its primary responsibility to members of the UDC community. " | https://udclaw.libguides.com/home | 202-274-6280 | lawlibraryhelp@udc.edu | |