

IOWA

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Online Legal Information

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

	Session Laws	Code of Statutes	Register	Administrative Code	Appeals Court Opinions	Supreme Court Opinions
Publications Title	Iowa Acts	Iowa Code	Iowa Administrative Bulletin	Iowa Administrative Code	Iowa Court of Appeals Opinions	Iowa Supreme Court Opinions
Official Status	Yes (PDF)	Yes (PDF)	Yes (PDF)	Yes (PDF)	No	No
(Notes)	The Legislative Services Agency (LSA) publishes the official versions of the acts, code, and administrative code and bulletins (Iowa Code § 2A.1(2)(d)). These can be either print or electronic (Iowa Code § 2A.5). On the General Assembly website, the LSA has clearly designated the PDF versions of these sources official.				The Iowa Supreme Court has designated West's North Western Reporter, starting with vol. 158, the official reporter of Iowa appellate decisions (Iowa Ct. R. 21.22(4)). In case of any discrepancies, "the latest version of the opinion on file in the clerk's office is the controlling opinion" (Iowa Ct. R. 21.29).	
Authentication	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
(Notes)	Iowa Code 2B.18 designates the Iowa Code editor the custodian of the Iowa Acts, Iowa Code and Code Supplement (applicable from 1979-2011) and the Iowa Administrative Code editor the custodian of the Iowa Administrative Bulletin and the Iowa Administrative Code. In the capacity as custodian, each editor may "attest to and authenticate" any portion of the legal publications under their control for admission in court. Iowa Code 2B.35 provides that the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) shall authenticate any legal material LSA publishes in an electronic record that is designated as official. LSA "shall provide a method for a user to determine that the record received by the user from the legislative services agency is unaltered from the official record published by the legislative services agency."					
Online Preservation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

<p>(Notes)</p>	<p>Archived from 1838</p> <p>Although information does not need to be preserved online, it does need to be preserved. Iowa Code 2B.10(1) requires the LSA to “control and maintain in a secure electronic repository custodial information used to produce the Iowa Acts.” Iowa Code 2B.37 indicates that for legal material designated as official. LSA “shall provide for the preservation and security of the record in an electronic form or a form that is not electronic.” For legal material preserved in an electronic record, LSA shall ensure the record integrity, for its backup and disaster recovery, and for its continuing usability.</p>	<p>Archived from 1839</p> <p>Although information does not need to be preserved online, it does need to be preserved. Iowa Code 2B.12(1) requires the LSA to “control and maintain in a secure electronic repository custodial information used to publish the Iowa Code.” Iowa Code 2B.37 indicates that for legal material designated as official. LSA “shall provide for the preservation and security of the record in an electronic form or a form that is not electronic.” For legal material preserved in an electronic record, LSA shall ensure the record integrity, for its backup and disaster recovery, and for its continuing usability.</p>	<p>Archived from 7/14/1975.</p> <p>Although information does not need to be preserved online, it does need to be preserved. Iowa Code 2B.5A(1) requires the LSA to “control and maintain in a secure electronic repository custodial information used to produce the Iowa administrative bulletin and the Iowa administrative code.” Iowa Code 2B.37 indicates that for legal material designated as official. LSA “shall provide for the preservation and security of the record in an electronic form or a form that is not electronic.” For legal material preserved in an electronic record, LSA shall ensure the record integrity, for its backup and disaster recovery, and for its</p>	<p>Archived from 7/1/1975. In addition, the publication preceding the IAB, the Iowa Departmental Rules, is available from 1952-1975. Although information does not need to be preserved online, it does need to be preserved. Iowa Code 2B.5A(1) requires the LSA to “control and maintain in a secure electronic repository custodial information used to produce the Iowa administrative bulletin and the Iowa administrative code.” Iowa Code 2B.37 indicates that for legal material designated as official. LSA “shall provide for the preservation and security of the record in an electronic form or a form that is not electronic.” For legal material preserved in an electronic record,</p>	<p>Archived from 4/26/2006</p>	<p>Archived from 1/6/2006</p>
<p>Permanent Public Access</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>

(Notes)	Iowa Code 2B.38 provides that as part of the preservation of legal material in an electronic record, the LSA “shall ensure that the legal material is reasonably available for use by the public on a permanent basis.”				Although no explicit policy or law ensures permanent public access to electronic opinions, that is the clear intent. Iowa Ct. R. 21.28 indicates the opinions will be made available on the court website shortly after they are filed with the clerk’s office, including corrected opinions.	
Copyright Claimed	No	No	No	No	No	No
(Notes)						
UELMA Adopted	Yes. 2019 Iowa Acts chapter 92 (88 G.A., H.F. 743). Codified at Iowa Code 2B.31-2B.40. (Also amended or repealed parts of 2B.5, 2B.5B, 2B.13, 2B.17, and 2B.18). Defines legal materials as including the Constitution of the State of Iowa, the Iowa Acts, the Iowa Code, the Iowa Administrative Bulletin, and the Iowa Administrative Code. (Iowa Code 2B.32). “[A]pplies to all legal material in an electronic record that is designated as official ...and which is first published electronically on or after January 16, 2020.” (Iowa Code 2B.33) If the LSA only publishes legal material in an electronic record, that material shall be designated as official. (Iowa Code 2B.34(1)). Legal material published both in an electronic record and in another format may be designated as either official or unofficial. (Iowa Code 2B.34 subsections 2 and 3).					
Universal Citation Adopted	No. Iowa Code 2B.17 designates names for the session laws, code of statutes, register and administrative code, provides some citation rules, and allows the Legislative Services Agency to adopt a citation style manual.					

Public Law Libraries in the State

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

Public Law Libraries	Website	Phone	Email	Provide Services to Inmates?
Drake University Law Library Opperman Hall 2604 Forest Ave. Des Moines, IA 50311-3014	https://www.drake.edu/law/library/	515-271-3189		No
Iowa State Law Library 1007 E Grand Ave. Des Moines IA 50319	https://www.statelibraryofiowa.gov/index.php/about/locations/law-library	515-281-5124	law.library@iowa.gov	Yes

University of Iowa Law Library 220 Boyd Law Building Iowa City, IA 52242	https://library.law.uiowa.edu/	319-335-9005	lawlib-ref@uiowa.edu	No
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