# Legal Research Basics For Librarians

Hi, my name is Cheri Harris



#### Roadmap

- Overview of legal authority (Primary vs. Secondary) 15 mins
- Finding Federal Authority 10 mins
- Finding State Authority 20 mins
- Providing Research Assistance Only 5 mins
- Q & A 10 mins

# Overview of Legal Authority

#### Four Main Sources of Law

- Constitution (Federal & State)
- Statutes (Federal, State, local ordinances)
- Case Law (Court opinions)
- Administrative Regulations (Executive branch rules)

## Two Separate Systems: Judicial Branch

#### State:

- Superior or Circuit Ct.
- IN Ct. of Appeals
- IN Supreme Court

#### Federal:

- Federal District Ct.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Cir. Ct. of Appeals
- US Supreme Court

Two Separate Systems: Legislative Branch

State:

Federal:

IN General Assembly passes Indiana Code (IC)

US Congress passes

US Code

### Two Separate Systems: Executive Branch

State:

Federal:

State Agencies pass
Indiana Administrative
Code (IAC)

Federal Agencies pass

Code of Federal

Regulations (CFR)

## Types of Authority

#### **Primary**

- Statute
- Rule/Regulation
- Case law-CourtOpinion

#### Secondary

- Law Journal Article
- Treatise on a topic
- Newspaper or magazine article

# Expungement: An Example of Primary vs. Secondary Authority

- Primary
  - What the Indiana Code says about expungement: IC 35-38-9
  - What Indiana Courts say about expungement: Key v. State, 48 N.E.3d 333 (Ind. Ct. App. 2015)
- Secondary
  - Brian M. Murray, <u>A New Era for Expungement Law Reform? Recent</u>

    <u>Developments at the State and Federal Levels</u>, 10 Harv. L. & Pol'y Rev. 361 (2016).

#### Anatomy of a legal citation

• Key v. State, 48 N.E.3d 333, 340 (Ind. Ct. App. 2015)

Parts: (Parties to the case) (Volume) (Reporter) (Page & Pinpoint Cite) (Court & Year)

• Brian M. Murray, A New Era for Expungement Law Reform? Recent Developments at the State and Federal Levels, 10 Harv. L. & Pol'y Rev. 361 (2016).

Parts: (Author) (Title) (Volume) (Name of Law Review) (Page) (Year)

#### Anatomy of a legal citation

Brown v. Board of Education, 347 U.S. 483, 74 S.Ct. 686, 98 L.Ed. 873 (1954)

Parts: (Parties to the case) (Volume Reporter Page) x 3 (Year)

## FEDERAL RESOURCES

#### Example from resource sheet

US Department of Justice - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

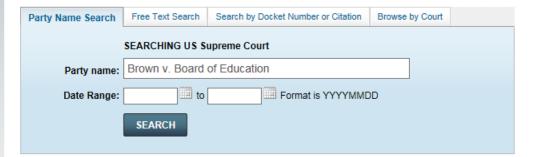
- How to file an ADA complaint:
   <a href="https://www.ada.gov/fact\_on\_complaint.htm">https://www.ada.gov/fact\_on\_complaint.htm</a>
- Publications and Resources: <a href="https://www.ada.gov/ta-pubs-pg2.htm#resources">https://www.ada.gov/ta-pubs-pg2.htm#resources</a> includes materials for state & local governments, and for businesses and non-profits.





#### United States Supreme Court Search Results

You searched for **Brown v. Board of Education** 



Showing Result 1 - 5 of 5

Page 1 of 1

Description	Date	Docket #
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION v. BROWN, 393 U.S. 222 (1968)	December 9, 1968	No. 553
BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION, 347 U.S. 483 (1954)	May 17, 1954	No. 10
BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION, 344 U.S. 1 (1952)	October 8, 1952	No. 101
BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION, 344 U.S. 141 (1952)	November 24, 1952	No. 8
BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION, 349 U.S. 294 (1955)	May 31, 1955	No. 1



#### FindLaw Career Center



Search Jobs Post a Job | View More Jobs

View More















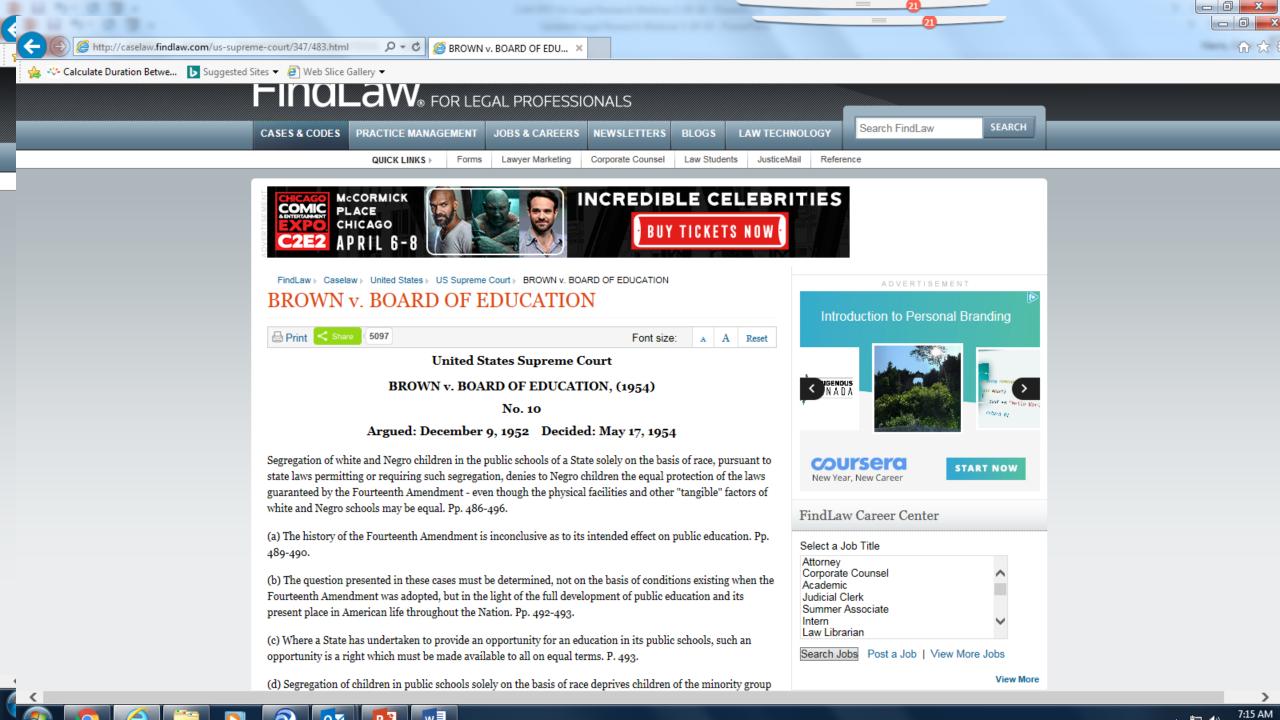


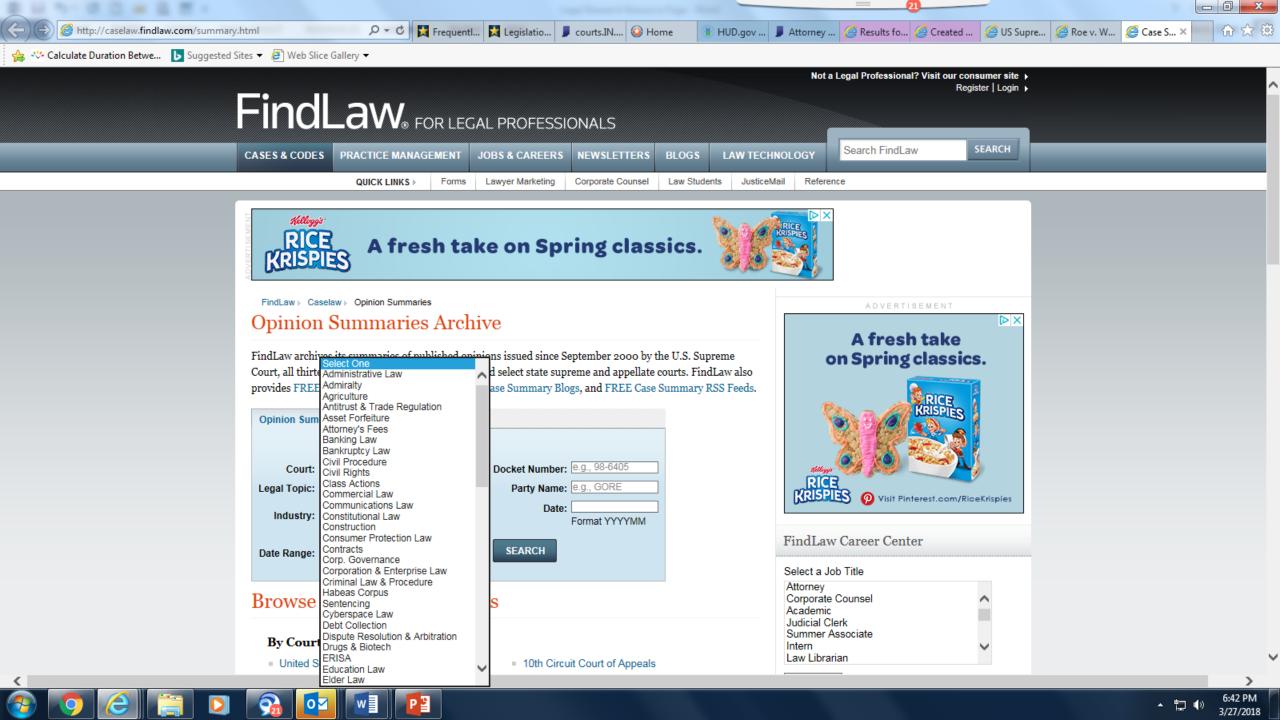


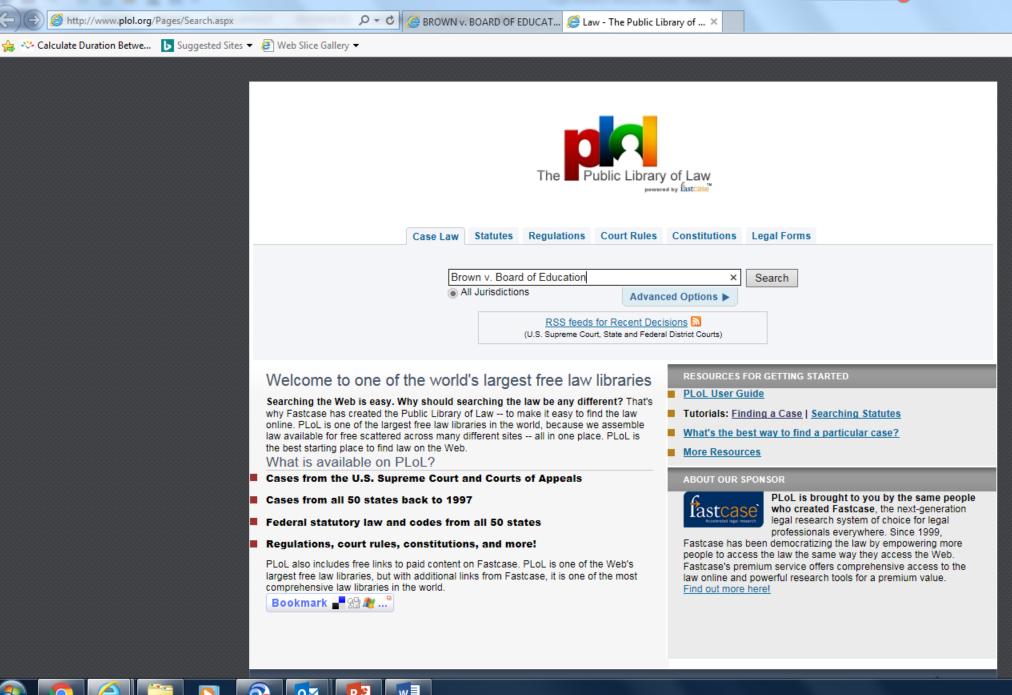






















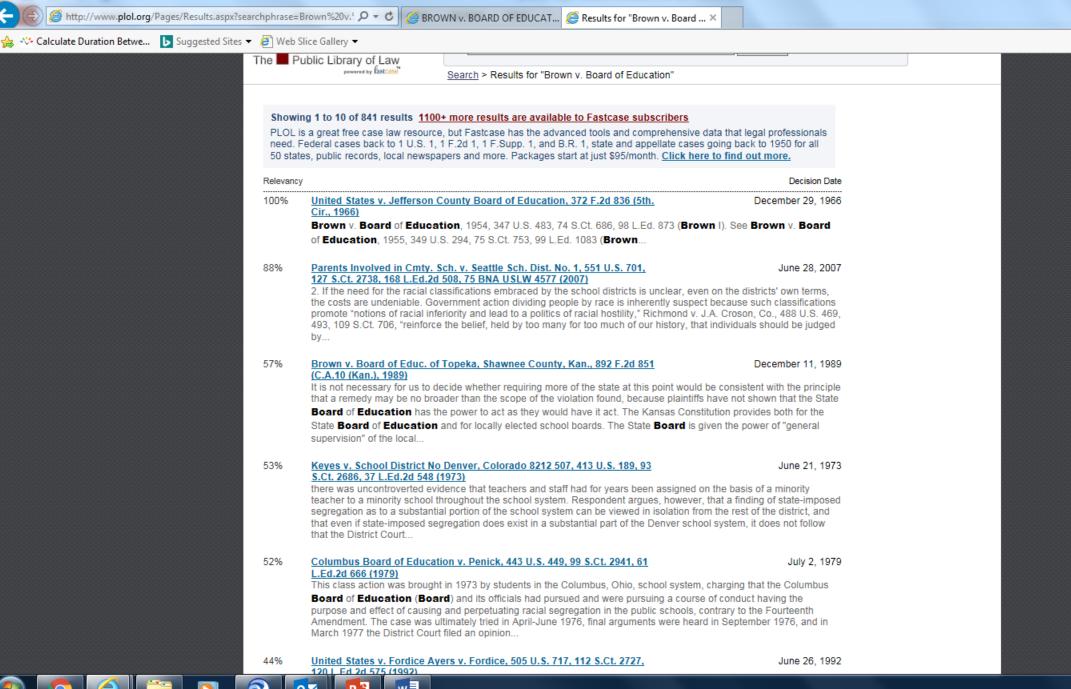
































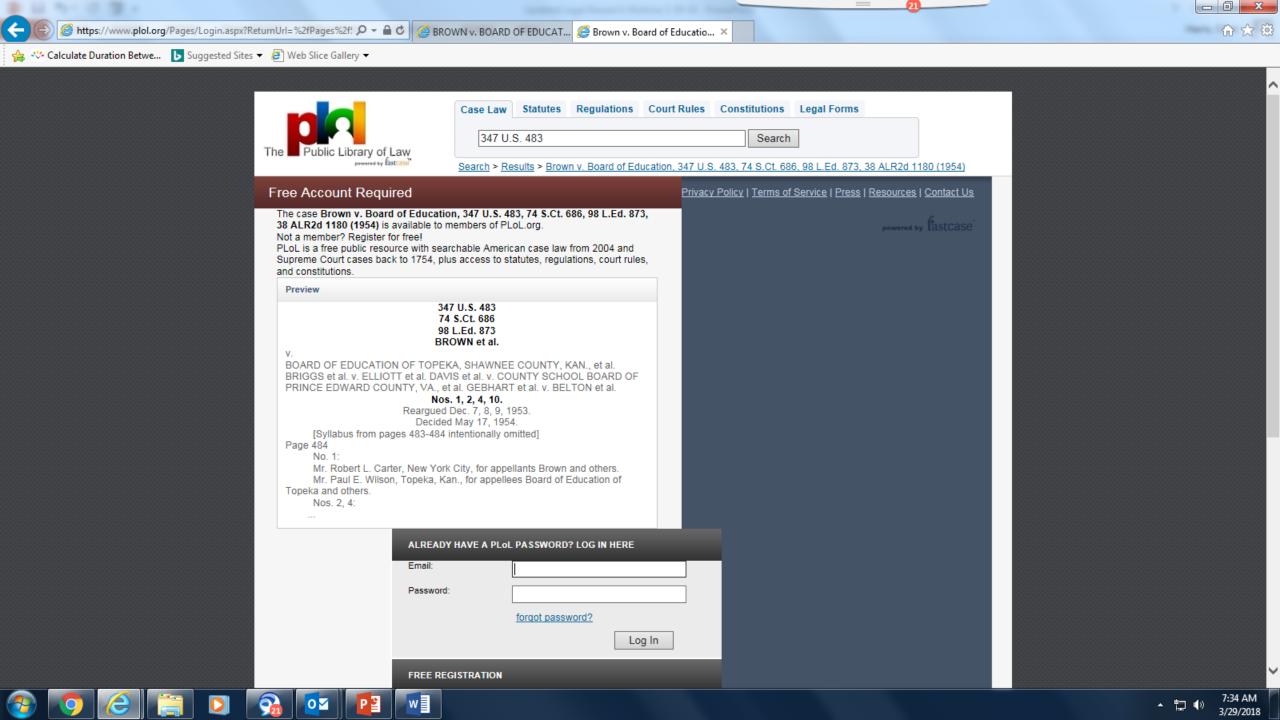










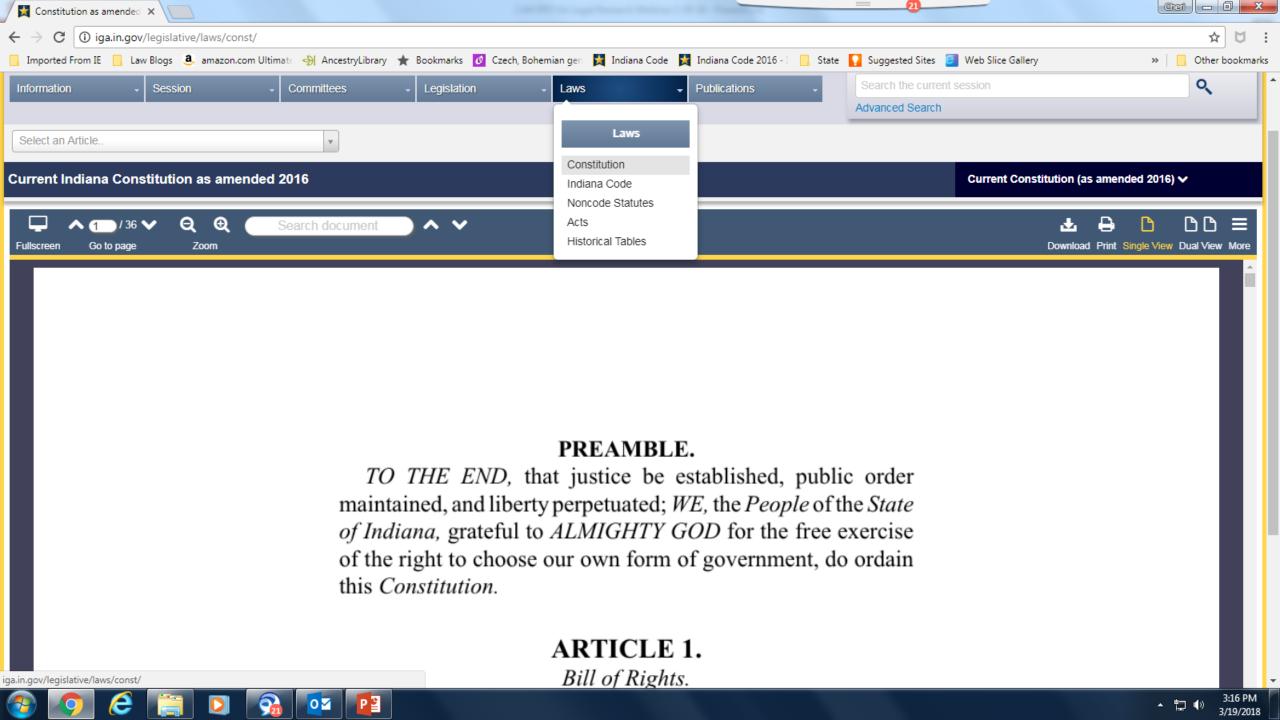


Lets look at iga.in.gov

http://iga.in.gov/legislative

#### The Indiana Constitution

From the iga.in.gov website: under the Laws button chose the menu item Constitution.



## Looking up Indiana Code

## How Indiana Code is Organized

IC 29-3-5-1

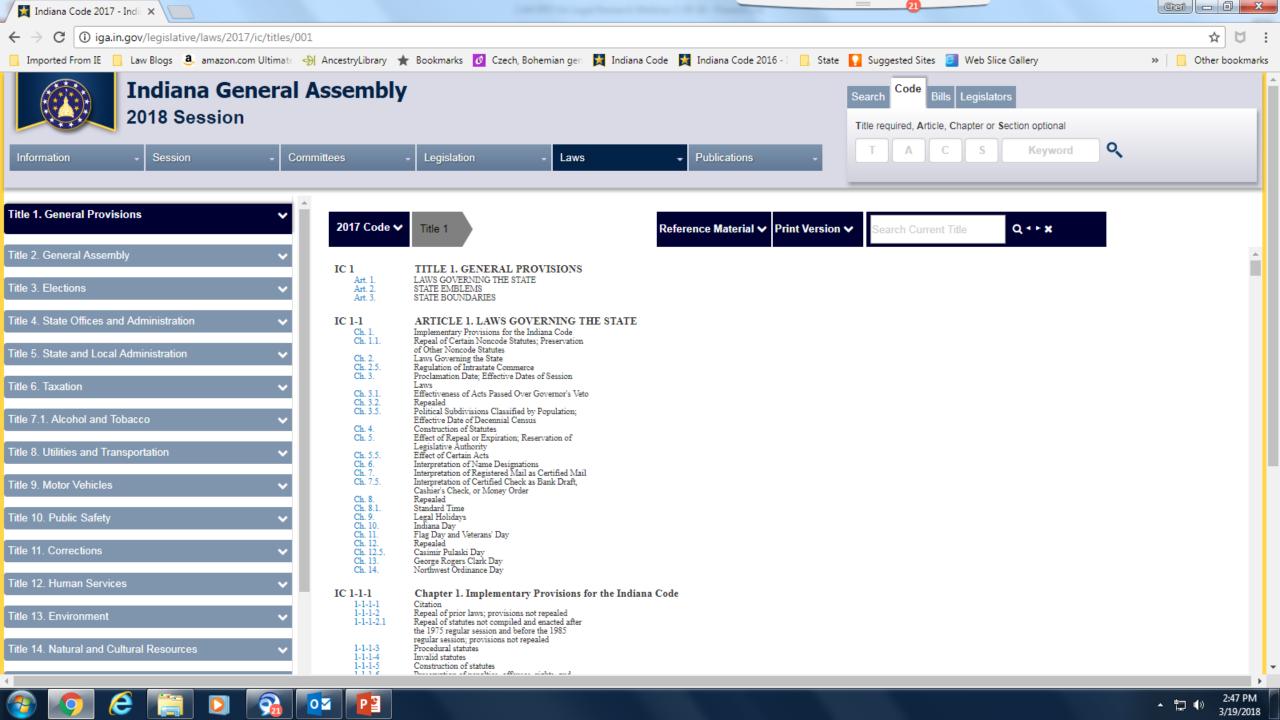
Title – Article – Chapter – Section

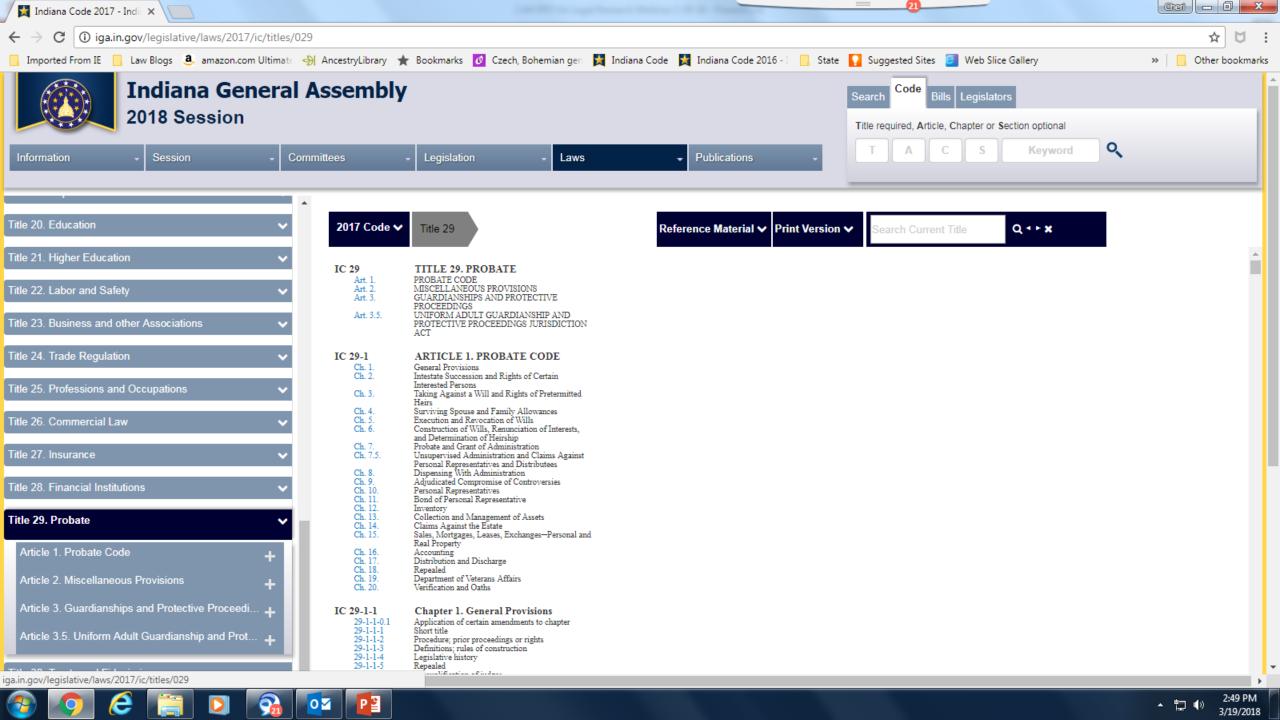
Title 29. Probate

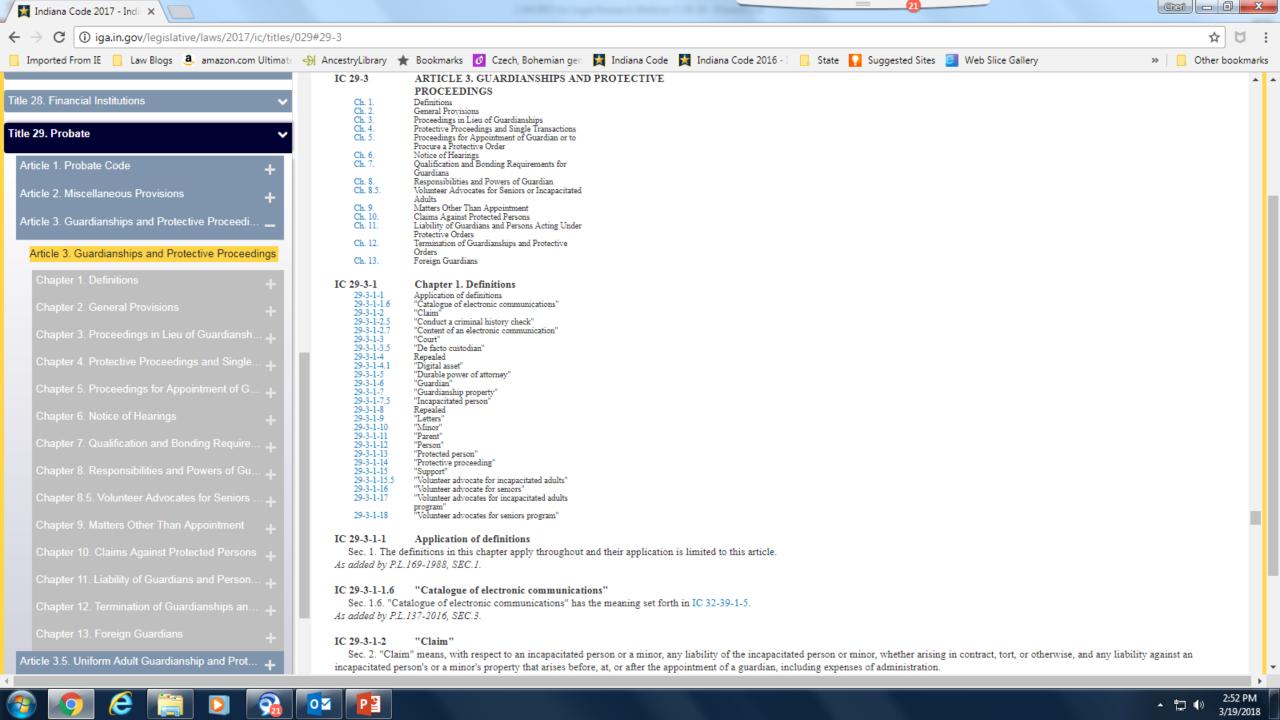
Article 3 Guardianships and Protective Proceedings

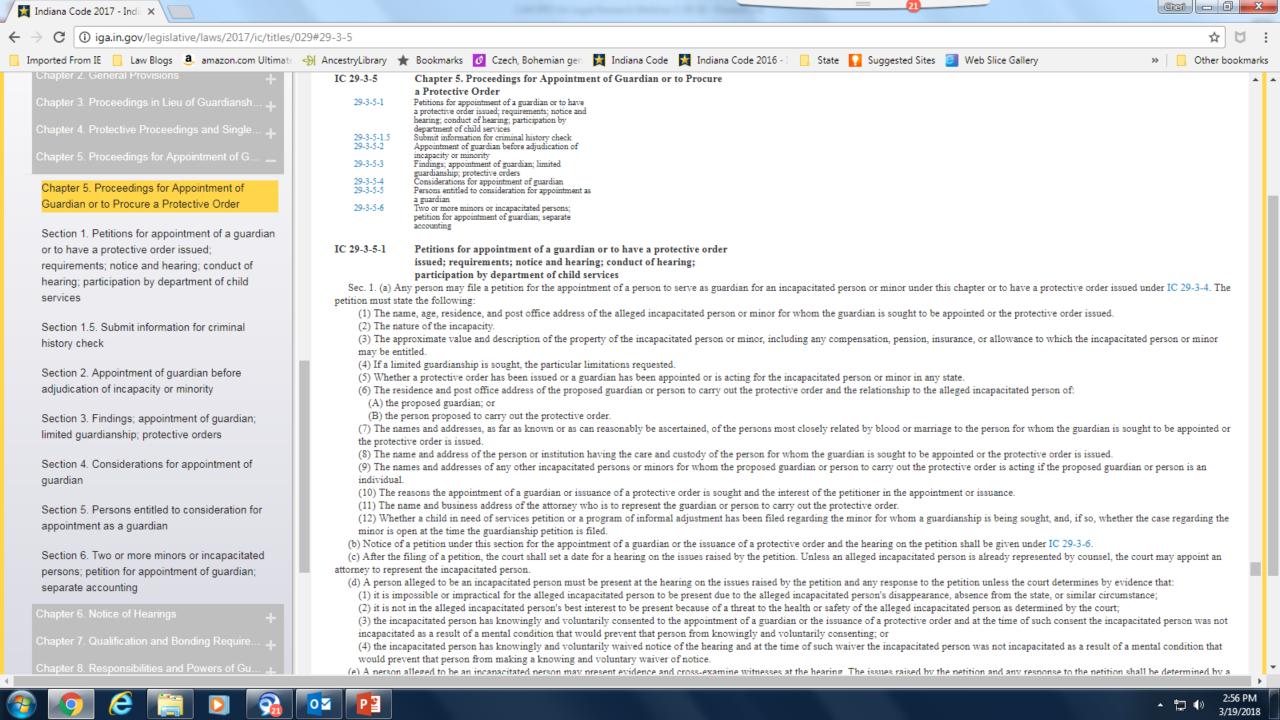
Chapter 5 Proceedings for Appointment of Guardian . . .

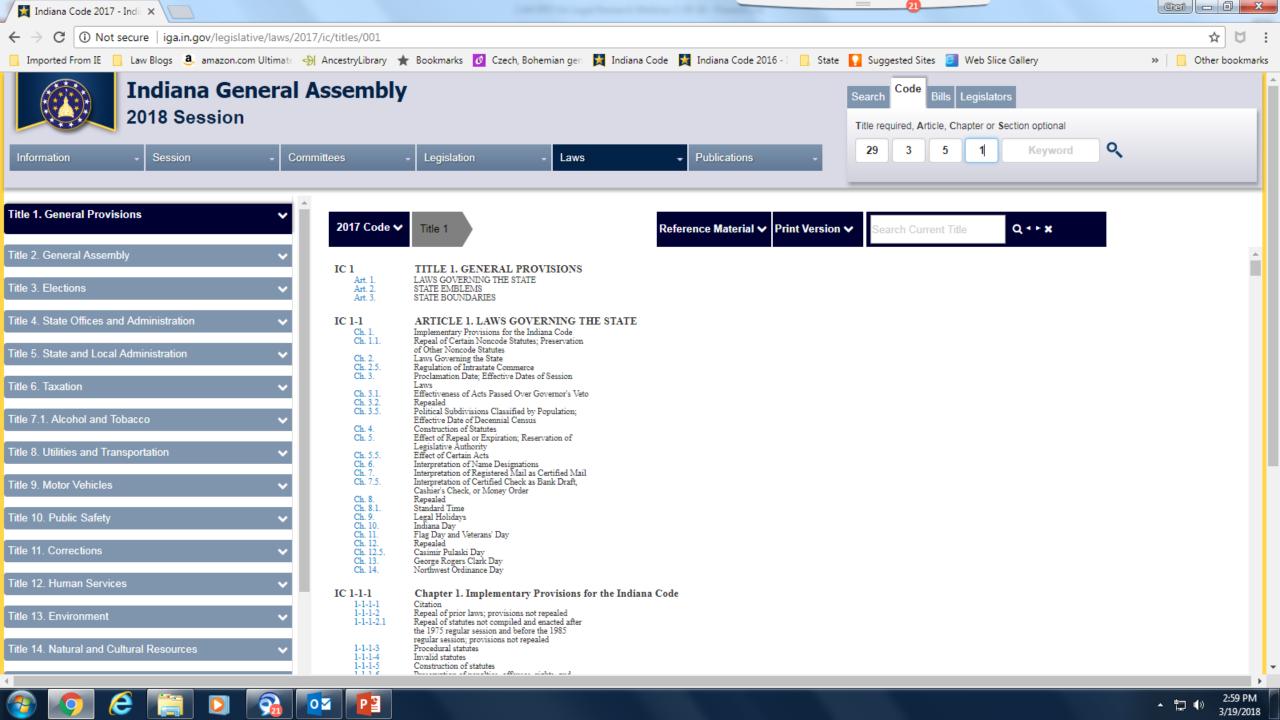
Section 1. Petitions for appointment of a guardian . . .

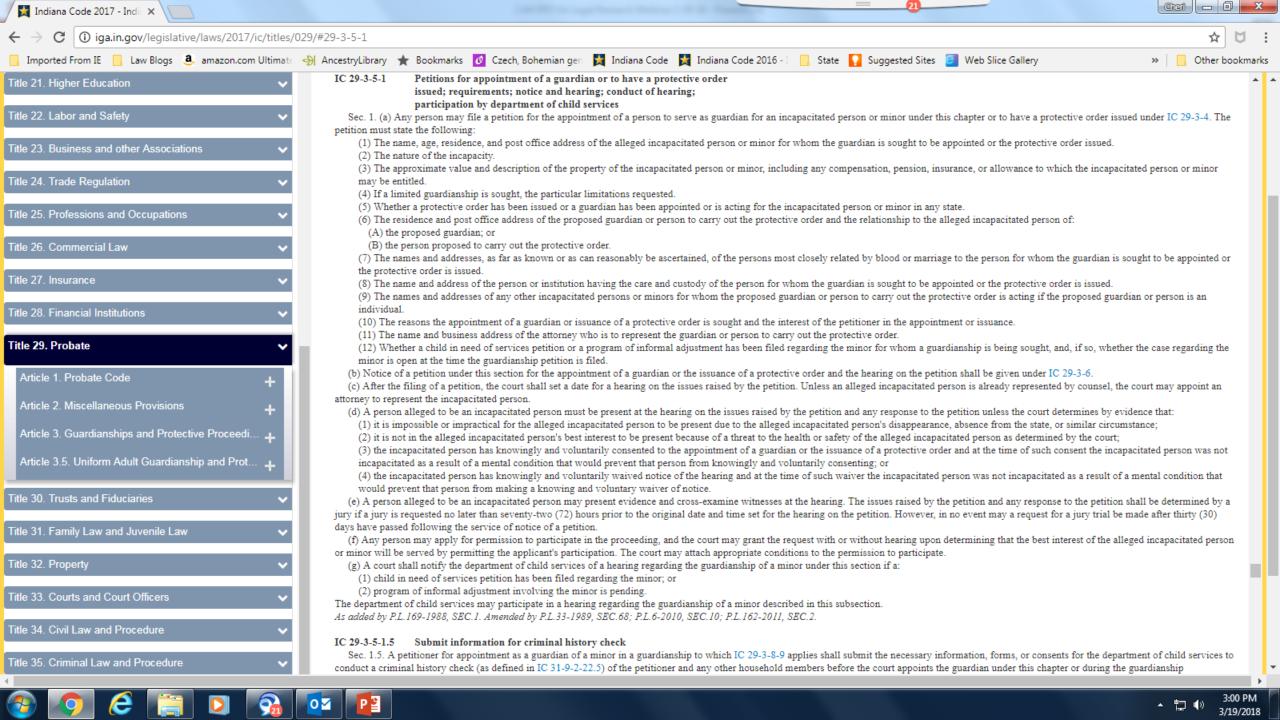






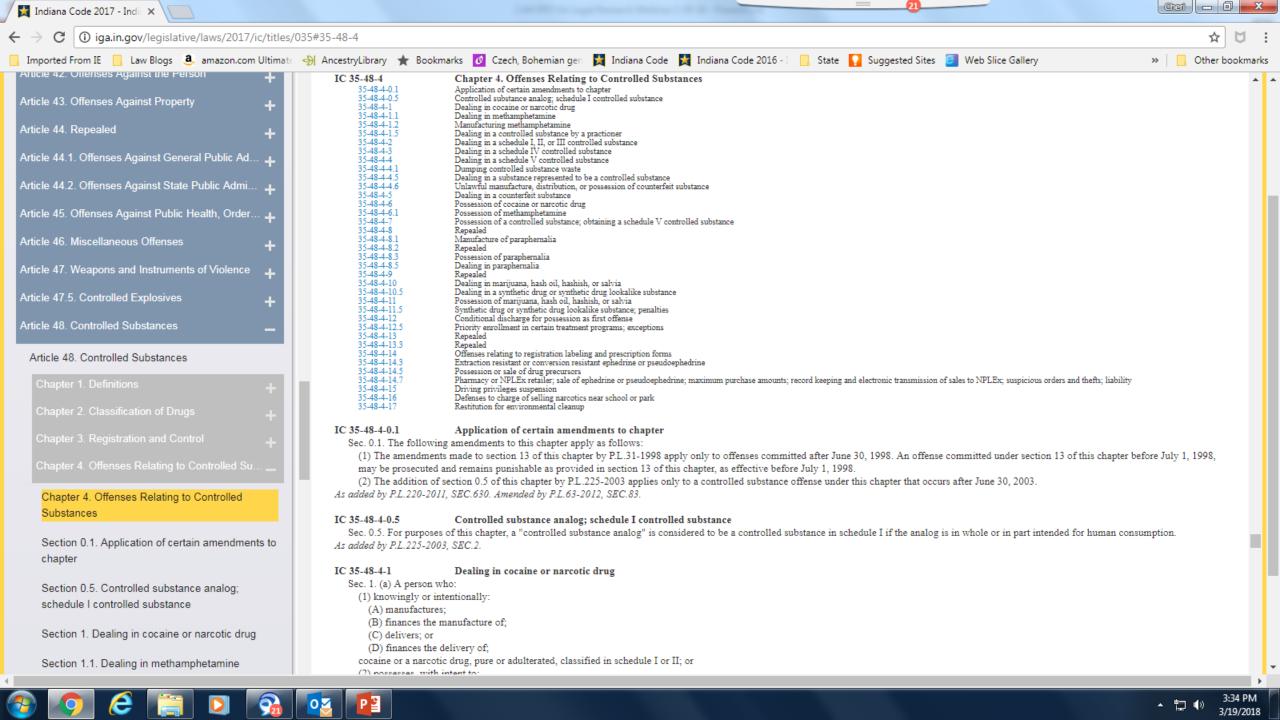


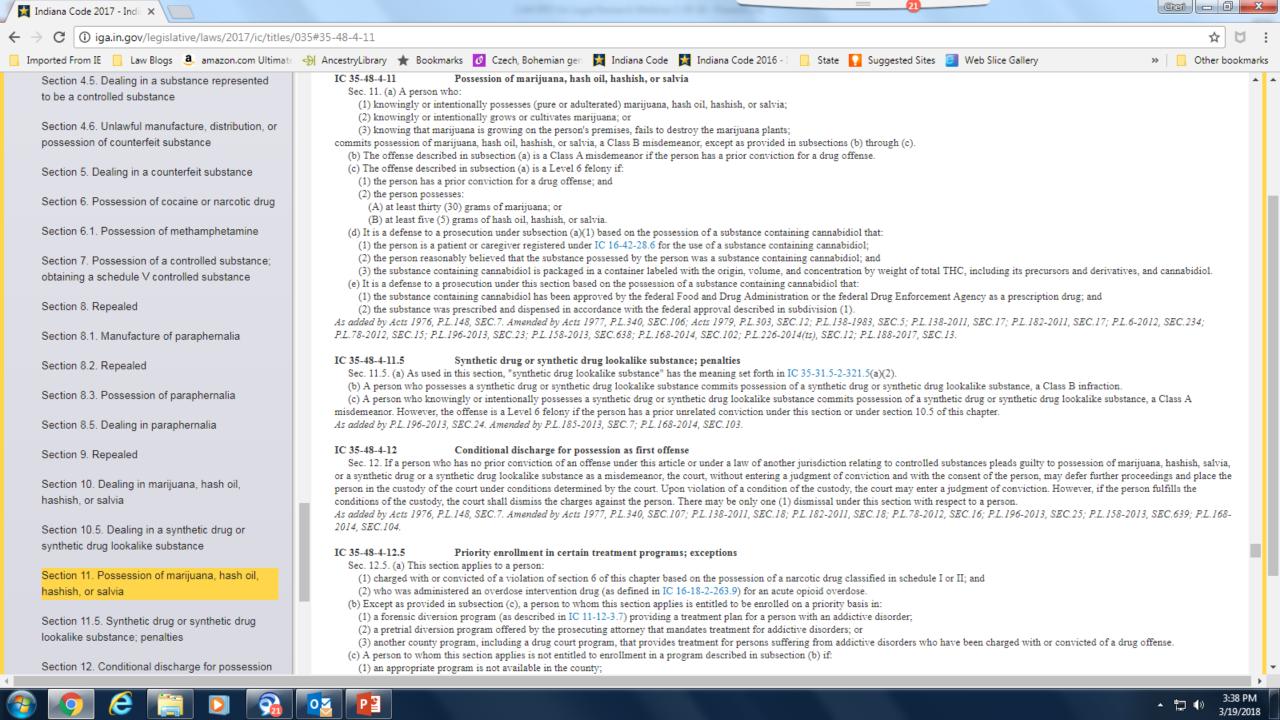




#### Is it against the law?

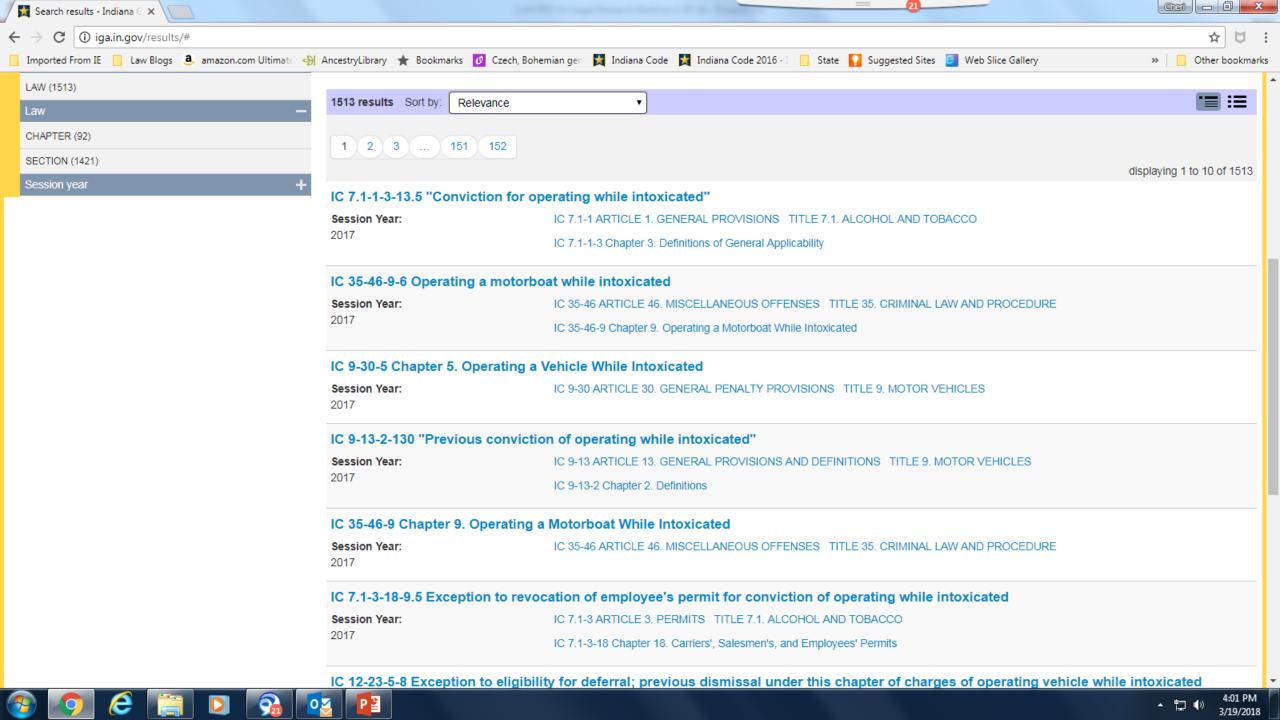
- You could check the criminal code, IC 35.
- That won't tell you if there are civil penalties.
- Plenty of criminal law falls outside of IC 35 see IC 35-52 for a list of cross references.





#### Criminal Laws Outside of IC 35

- Public Intoxication is in Title 7.1 ALCOHOL & TOBACCO
  - Article 5 Crimes and Infractions IC 7.1-5-1-3
- Drunk Driving is in Title 9 MOTOR VEHICLES
  - Article 30 General Penalty Provisions
  - Chapter 5 Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated



#### What else can you find at IGA?

- Let's say you want to track a bill as it goes through the legislative process. Look for bills by bill number, subject or legislator.
- Or you want to find out what bills your legislator offered this year. Find your Legislator.
- Or you want to know whether there is any new gun legislation this year. Look for bills by <u>subject.</u>
- Or find the library bill (HB 1412) so that you can see what all changed in it. Look for bills by bill number or subject.

# Questions so far?

# How To Avoid Practicing Law

The most important message of all!

# Indiana prohibits practicing law by nonattorneys

- IC 33-43-2-1 Engaging in practice by person not admitted Sec. 1. A person who:
- (1) professes to be a practicing attorney;
- (2) conducts the trial of a case in a court in Indiana; or
- (3) engages in the business of a practicing lawyer; without first having been admitted as an attorney by the supreme court commits a Class B misdemeanor.

#### Phrases to avoid:

- I think you should . . .
- In my opinion . . .
- Here's how you want to handle that situation . . .
- Here, let me fill that out for you . . .

#### Phrases to use often:

- I am not an attorney.\*
- That is outside of my area of expertise.
- It would be against the law for me to try and answer that question.
- I'm sorry, I can't help you with that.
- I can't offer you any advice. You would need to see an attorney to get legal advice on your individual situation.
- I don't know the answer. I can point you toward how to find someone who does.

#### Note that even Sylvia & I use disclaimers

Please note that the purpose of this email is to provide general information and not legal advice. The information in this email correspondence is not provided in the course of and does not create or constitute an attorney-client relationship. For legal advice, please contact your library attorney. This email correspondence may be disclosable to the public under IC 5-14-3 (Access to Public Records Act).

#### Time for Questions

What Questions Do You Have?

## Hit me up with your questions

#### Cheri Harris

Certification Program Director & Legal Consultant

#### Indiana State Library

140 N. Senate Avenue

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2296

Phone: 317.234.6217

Toll free: 800.451.6028

Email: ChHarris@library.IN.gov

