

BASIC LEGAL RESEARCH-RESOURCE GUIDE

Current as of March 2018

Note: This is for information only. It is NOT legal advice. For legal advice, contact an attorney.

FEDERAL LAW

Finding Federal Law:

- [USA.gov](#) Federal government information including links to the websites of departments, agencies and branches of government, good source for statutory and legislative materials.
- [FindLaw](#) Browseable, searchable database offers U.S. Supreme Court opinions since 1893 and a [database of case summaries](#) for lower court opinions since 2000.
- [The Public Library of Law](#) Database provides free resources including, state and federal cases, court rules, statutes, regulations, forms, and constitutions. *Note: Access is free but requires logging in to see full text of case. Can search and get citation without logging in.*

US Department of Justice:

-Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

How to file an ADA complaint: https://www.ada.gov/fact_on_complaint.htm

Publications and Resources: <https://www.ada.gov/ta-pubs-pg2.htm#resources> includes materials for state & local governments, and for businesses and non-profits.

-Civil Rights Division: How to file a complaint <https://www.justice.gov/crt/how-file-complaint>

-Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC):

How to file an EEOC Charge of Discrimination: <https://www.eeoc.gov/employees/charge.cfm>

Note: Potential grounds include race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information.

EEOC Publications & Fact Sheets: <https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/publications/index.cfm>

What to do if you've been harassed at work:

https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/newsroom/wysk/harassed_at_work.cfm

-Hate Crimes: <https://www.justice.gov/crt/hate-crimes-0>

US Department of Labor:

-FMLA (Family & Medical Leave Act): <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/benefits-leave/fmla>

-Wage & Hour Division, Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA): <https://www.dol.gov/whd/flsa/>

INDIANA LAW

Finding Indiana Law:

-Indiana General Assembly (IGA) Website: <http://iga.in.gov/>

[Indiana Constitution](#) and [Indiana Code](#)

Note: If you struggle with using IC on line, this article may be helpful: [how to](#) use the 2017 code

[Find your Legislator](#)

[Digest of Enactments](#) – The digest of every bill passed during the 2018 session.

Look for bills by [bill number](#) , [subject](#) or [legislator](#).

[Indiana Administrative Code](#)

[Indiana Register \(Current\)](#)

Indiana Courts: <https://public.courts.in.gov/home/portal> and <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/selfservice/index.htm>

Child Support Guidelines: http://www.in.gov/judiciary/rules/child_support/index.html

Child Support Calculator: <http://mycourts.in.gov/csc/parents/>

Indiana Child Support Hotline 800.840.8757

Automated payment information available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Customer service representatives available 7:00 AM until 6:00 PM EST Monday-Friday.

Divorce: <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/selfservice/2486.htm>

Expungement forms: [Expungement forms](#)* *Note: Tread carefully. Separate statutes govern expunging arrests vs. expunging convictions. FAQ [here](#) says no form, yet there are forms [here](#).*

Guardianship: Self Service Legal Center FAQ [here](#) explains why no form for guardianship

Marriage license, Apply for: <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/2605.htm>

Mortgage Foreclosure help: <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/selfservice/2359.htm>

Parenting Time Guidelines: <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/rules/parenting/>

Parenting Time Calendar: <https://public.courts.in.gov/PTC/#/> (for ages 3 and up, enter info and it proposes calendar based on guidelines)

Indiana Parenting Time Helpline 844.836.0003

Available from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. EST Monday – Friday. Staffed by licensed attorneys who can provide education about parenting time guidelines, information about visitation questions, and relevant referrals for assistance.

Small Claims Court: Damages limited to \$8,000. Rules for small claims in Marion County differ from those in the rest of the state. [Video: Going to Small Claims Court without a Lawyer](#)

[Small Claims in Marion County, rules](#) and [forms](#)

[Small Claim Outside of Marion County](#)

Indiana Legal Services:

Eviction: <https://www.indianalegalservices.org/topics/39/evictions>

Immigration: <https://www.indianalegalservices.org/topics/68/immigration>

Finding an attorney:

Local Bar Associations: http://www.inbar.org/?page=local_bars *

**Note: Local bar referrals are not going to be for low cost or free services.*

Indiana Pro Bono Districts, contact information:

<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/selfservice/files/selfservice-probono-district-contact-info.pdf>

Power of Attorney Forms: More than one type. Only found reliable form for Health Care POA.

Appointment of Health Care Representative (also known as living will) and Power of Attorney for Health Care Decisions:

Indiana State Department of Health - Advance Directive Resource Center:

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/25880.htm>

AARP: <https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/relationships/caregiving/2014/advance-directives/Indiana.pdf>

Finding a notary:

Try your bank, city or town hall, county court house, printing and shipping businesses.

UPS Stores: <https://www.theupsstore.com/store-services/notary-services>

Secretary of State Notary Search (use Option 2 to search by city, zip code, or county):

<https://myweb.in.gov/SOS/notaryapp/Common/NotarySearch.aspx?isReapplying=0>

Standard Reference: Black's Law Dictionary

Other Useful Guides:

[How to Read a Legal Citation](#) (BYU Law Library)

[Introduction to Shepard's Citators](#) (BYU Law Library)

[The Basics – Self-Help Legal Research Guide](#) (University of Missouri Libraries)