

# RESEARCHING A LEGAL ISSUE?

## Try these tips from the Washington County Law Library

[Washington County Law Library](#)  
Washington County Courthouse, 1 S. Main St. Suite G004, Washington, PA 15301  
724-228-6747



[PREPARE](#) TO RESEARCH YOUR QUESTION

[VISIT](#) THE LAW LIBRARY

[USE](#) THESE RELIABLE WEBSITES:

[KNOW](#) THESE HELPFUL ORGANIZATIONS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY RESIDENTS

MORE ABOUT THE [WASHINGTON COUNTY LAW LIBRARY](#)

### Prepare to research your question

Legal resources have their own vocabulary, formatting, indexing and updating methods. Expect to spend some time learning the system before you research your specific questions.

The Washington County Bar Foundation has provided a copy of the following books to [every public library in Washington County](#)—check them out!

- [Legal research: how to find and understand the law](#), Nolo Press.
- [Pennsylvania legal research](#), Carolina Academic Press.

Basic instruction is also available on these websites:

- [How to Research a Legal Problem: A Guide for Non-Lawyers](#)
- [Locating the law](#)
- [Zimmerman's Research Guide](#)

### Visit the Washington County Law Library for

- legal forms, treatises, encyclopedias and practice manuals
- public access Lexis and Westlaw
- court rules
- annotated statutes
- reported court opinions
- agency regulations
- ordinances and codes from many Washington County municipalities

## Use these reliable websites for Pennsylvania-specific content:

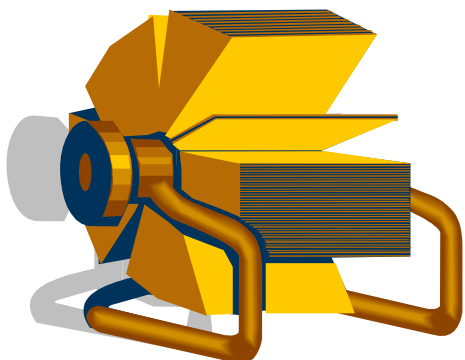
- [PALawHelp](#): civil info sponsored by PA Legal Aid Network and the Legal Services Corp.
- [Washington County Court of Common Pleas](#): see especially Portal for Case Participants
- [Pennsylvania Code](#) : PA agency regulations; especially useful are titles 210 –246, PA Court Rules
- [Pennsylvania Legislature](#): includes enacted legislation since 1975 and proposed legislation since 1971
- [Unofficial Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes from West](#) : PA statutes currently in force
- [Webjunction](#): legal information portal specifically for Pennsylvania librarians

## Use these websites for organized links to state and federal law:

- [University of Pittsburgh Law Library](#) (includes Marc Silverman's helpful guide to [Pennsylvania Legal Research](#))
- [Jenkins Law Library](#), Philadelphia (includes [Getting Started: PA ... Legal Research on the Internet](#))
- [Duquesne University's Center for Legal Information](#)
- Cornell Law's [Legal Information Institute](#)

## Helpful organizations for Washington County residents:

- [Lawyer Referral Service](#), Washington County Bar Association. Help finding an attorney to hire. 724-225-671
- [Legal Aid](#), Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services. Help with selected civil matters for low-income individuals. 724-225-6170
- [Legal Services for the Elderly](#), Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging. Help for Washington County residents age 60 and older. 724-228-7080
- [Low Income Tax Practicum](#), Duquesne University Law. Help for taxpayers in IRS disputes of less than \$50,000. 412-396-1872
- [Public Defender](#), Washington County. Help for those meeting income guidelines who are charged with a criminal offense. 724-228-6818
- [Securities Arbitration Practicum](#), Duquesne University Law. Help for small investors in investment disputes. 412-396-5877



- [Washington County Court of Common Pleas Mortgage Diversion Program](#). Contact Southwestern PA Legal Services, 1-866-940-7257.
- [Washington County Women's Shelter, Inc.](#) Help with PFA orders including filing & court accompaniment. 724-223-8349.

## About the Law Library

The Washington County Law Library is open to the public for research weekdays from 9-4:30; the library is closed on court holidays.

Law Library staff cannot give legal advice but will attempt to help users find books or other materials relating to the subject of their search.

Library staff also assists genealogists and historians in using county records and local materials.

Photocopying is available at \$.25/standard page; some results may be emailed at no charge.

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