

Common Legal Citations and How to Find Them

Revised June, 2016 (PDF version)

Citation	Name of authority	Sample citation	Website and Search Notes
PA	Michigan Public Act	1969 PA 306	Michigan Legislature, http://legislature.mi.gov . To find the current version of the act in the MCL, use the "Public Act MCL Search" link
MCL	Michigan Compiled Laws	MCL 257.18	Michigan Legislature, http://legislature.mi.gov . Type the MCL number into the MCL Section box to retrieve the text.
SB or HB	Michigan legislative bills	1995 SB 81	Michigan Legislature, http://legislature.mi.gov , see Bill Number search box or "Bills" link for bills from an older session (from 1997 to date). It is only necessary to put in the number
MCLA or MCLS	Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated Michigan Compiled Laws Service	MCLA 257.18 MCLS 257.18	MCLA and MCLS are commercially published, annotated editions of MCL available in both print and online formats. The text of an MCLA or MCLS statute section is the same as MCL. A subscription or payment is required for online access. For possible places of public access, see Michigan Directory of Law Libraries at http://www.michigan.gov/lawlibrary
P.L.	Public Law (federal)	P.L. 111-148	FDSys: Federal Digital System, http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys Congress.gov, http://congress.gov
U.S.C.	United States Code	11 USC 354	LII/Legal Information, http://www.law.cornell.edu FDSys: Federal Digital System, http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys

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USCA or USCS	United States Code Annotated United States Code Service	11 USCA 354 11 USCS 354	USCA and USCS are commercially published, annotated editions of the United States Code (USC) available in both print and online formats. The text of a USCA or USCS statute section is the same as USC. A subscription or payment is required for online access. For possible places of public access, see Michigan Directory of Law Libraries at http://www.michigan.gov/lawlibrary
MI Admin C	Michigan Administrative Code	R 322.1	Office of Regulatory Reinvention , http://www.michigan.gov/orr . Click on the Publications carousel icon.
MR	Michigan Register	2010 MR 17	For proposed administrative rules and regulations, see the Office of Regulatory Reinvention website at http://www.michigan.gov/orr . Click on the Publications carousel icon.
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	10 CFR 2.1509	The Electronic Code of Federal Regulations , http://www.ecfr.gov , is considered to be the unofficial version of the CFR, but it updates more quickly than the official version.
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	10 CFR 2.1509	The annual edition of the Code of Federal Regulations , considered to be the official edition, may be found at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys .
FR	Federal Register	74 FR 67051	The Federal Register publishes rules and regulations of federal agencies at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys
Cases filed in federal courts	Docket number	98cv104 (civil case) 98cr104 (criminal)	Copies of documents filed in federal bankruptcy, district and circuit court cases may be found on PACER at http://www.pacer.gov . There is a charge of \$0.10 per page for searches and downloads.

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F Supp	Federal District Court decision	1 F Supp 456	The US Courts website, http://www.uscourts.gov , has links to individual federal court sites on which more recent decisions handed down by that court may be freely available. Use the Google Scholar , http://scholar.google.com , "Case Law" radial button to find copies of federal decisions.
F2d	Federal Circuit Court decision	201 F2d 233	The US Courts website, http://www.uscourts.gov , has links to individual federal court sites on which more recent decisions handed down by that court may be freely available. Use the Google Scholar , http://scholar.google.com , "Case Law" radial button to find copies of federal decisions.
U.S., LEEd, SCt	U.S. Supreme Court decision	239 US 1	US Supreme Court , or SCOTUS, http://www.supremecourt.gov .
Mich App	Michigan Court of Appeals	123 Mich App 1	Michigan Court of Appeals at http://courts.mi.gov/courts/coa . Use the Resources link and then choose Court Opinions from the drop down menu. Use the Google Scholar , http://scholar.google.com , "Case Law" radial button to find copies of state court decisions.
Mich	Michigan Supreme Court decision	451 Mich 1	Michigan Court of Appeals at http://courts.mi.gov/courts/coa . Use the Resources link and then choose Court Opinions from the drop down menu. Use the Google Scholar , http://scholar.google.com , "Case Law" radial button to find copies of state court decisions.
Cases filed in Michigan state courts	Michigan circuit court case number	99-123456 DO	Information on Michigan trial courts may be found at http://courts.mi.gov/courts/trialcourts/pages/default.aspx Generally, circuit court cases are NOT available online. Some circuits have electronic docket or filings information available.

Citation	Name of authority	Sample citation	Website and Search Notes
MCR	Michigan Court Rule	MCR 2.116	Copies of the Michigan Court Rules may be found at http://courts.mi.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/rules/Pages/current-court-rules.aspx
MRE	Michigan Rule of Evidence	MRE 805	Copies of the Michigan Rules of Evidence may be found at http://courts.mi.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/rules/Pages/current-court-rules.aspx
OAG or Op Atty Gen	Michigan Attorney General Opinion	OAG, 1985-1986, No 6406, p431 Op Atty Gen 6406	Michigan Attorney General Opinions back to 1969 may be found online at http://www.michigan.gov/ag , under the "Opinions" link. An index to the Opinions may be found on the Governing Michigan website at

Additional information about citations relevant to Michigan legal research may be found in the [Michigan Appellate Opinion Manual](http://courts.mi.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/Pages/reporters-manual.aspx) at <http://courts.mi.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/Pages/reporters-manual.aspx>.