

CHILD, FAMILY AND THE STATE - Research guide

I. Topic Selection / **Secondary Sources** - where to start once decided on topic

A. Current Awareness - BNA Family Law Reporter - for topics and current issues in chosen topic

- ABA Center on Children and the Law - <http://www.abanet.org/child/home.html>
Child Law Practice - ask Reference librarian for login info
- Lexis Emerging issues, Search Analysis (Family Law Journals, Child related treatises)
- Westlaw - Directory > Area of Law by Practice > Family Law - Daily Reports, Law Reviews, Forms, Treatises . . . , 50 State Surveys
- Indexes
For Law Review articles - Index to Legal Periodicals (Wilson's) or Legal Trac
Law Library Online Resources > Article Finding
For Interdisciplinary articles - Academic Search Premier, Social Sciences databases - Axinn Research Databases

B. Treatises

- Westlaw - Directory > Topical Practice Areas > Family Law > Forms, Treatises . . . ; TP-ALL
- Lexis - Area of Law by Practice > Family Law > Search Analysis . . .
- Library Catalog
- WorldCat

C. Web sites - Google search - organizations,- be aware of perspective / bias

- Legal Information Institute - <http://www.law.cornell.edu/>
Well respected legal portal ; provides links to state and federal laws and topical resources, including organizations
- ABA Center for Children and the Law - <http://www.abanet.org/child/home.html>
- Family Law Organization - <http://www.familylaw.org/>
Resource designed for attorneys; provides links to states' laws in family law
- Google Scholar and Google Books

II. Primary Sources

A. Statutes - much of what you discuss governed by Federal and State statutes -will hopefully find references from Secondary sources

- advanced searching - *pr,ca(parent and consent) and medic! /s (treat! procedure)*
- Annotated code- note cross ref, regulations, key number, annotations
- 50 state surveys - great, if cover your topic, but don't count on it
 - Lexis - States > Combined > Find Statutes
 - Westlaw - Directory > States > Statutes - seeTOC
 - HeinOnline

B. Regulations - authority delegated by legislature to executive agencies - find state regulations online - e.g. Lexis, Westlaw, Legal Information Institute

C. Cases

- References from Secondary , annotated code
- Using digest on Westlaw - Really sophisticated
 - get topic and key number from known case (found in Secondary source or keyword search)
- combine in search - e.g. *198HK911 or 76Dk106 and (non-custod! or "joint custody")*