

William A. Wise Law Library tip sheet:

How to find Colorado statutes

Colorado has two versions of its statutes. The official state version published by LexisNexis is called **Colorado Revised Statutes** (KF1830.C66 in Colorado Section). This **red** set is reissued in its entirety every year. Current and superseded (old) versions can be found at the reserve desk as well as in the Colorado section of the Law Library on the second floor.

The second, unofficial version is **West's Colorado Revised Statutes Annotated** (KFC1830 1973.A47 in Colorado Section). This **blue** set is updated annually by pocket parts. Current versions and superseded pocket parts can be found in the Colorado section of the Law Library.

The text and the numbering of the statutes in the two sets is **exactly the same**, although each publisher independently chooses which annotations to include in their publication. Depending on your specific area of interest, one publisher may include more annotations of interest than the other, so it is best to look at both sets.

The statutes are online from the state legislature, although statutes can be difficult to use online.

To find a statute by topic in either print set, begin in the **index volume(s)**. These are shelved at the end of the set. There are several ways to use the indexes:

- Look up your subject in the A to Z section.
- Use the Words and Phrases section towards the back of the index to look up common English words and find the corresponding code section(s) which deals with that issue.
- The index also includes short title and popular names sections where you could look up a statute's popular name like "Blue Sky Law."
- The comparative tables section translates the numbering system for older statutes to the current numbering system adopted in 1973.

Court rules volume(s) contain the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure and various other state court rules. Annotated versions of the rules are also available in the **Colorado Practice Series** volumes 4 and 5 (KFC1880.C6 in Colorado Section).

Making sure your statute is up-to-date is just as important as finding it in the first place.

- **The Red Book**, produced at the end of each legislative session, comprises tables that list changes to statutes. Look up your section in the table to see if it has been affected by a recently passed law. If so, you'll need to read the new law to see what the change is.
- The annotated (blue) statutes are updated by pamphlets called pocket parts in the back of each volume. West also publishes a biweekly **legislative service** (when the legislature is in session) and a semiannual **interim annotation service** to update the statutes and annotations. First, look up your section in the pocket part at the back of the book, then look up your section in the table of the most recent legislative service pamphlet to see if a recent law has changed your section. Finally, check the interim annotation service to see if there are recent court opinions that interpret your statute.