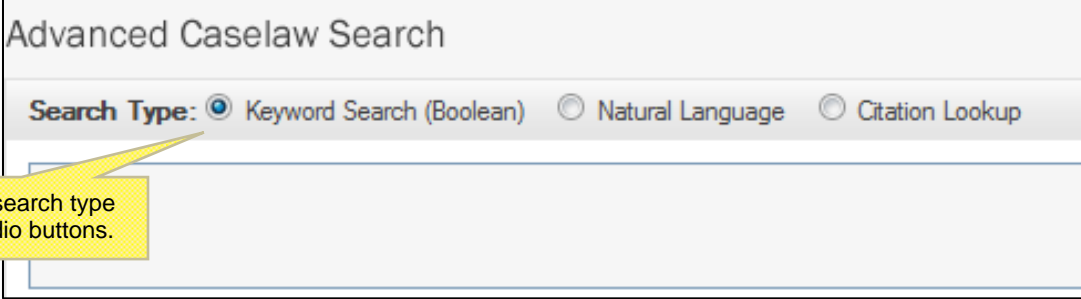


2 | SEARCH FOR DOCUMENTS

Searching for Caselaw

There are three ways to search for cases on Fastcase: by Keyword, Natural Language or Citation Lookup.



The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Caselaw Search' interface. At the top, the title 'Advanced Caselaw Search' is displayed. Below the title, there is a 'Search Type:' section with three radio buttons: 'Keyword Search (Boolean)' (which is selected), 'Natural Language', and 'Citation Lookup'. A yellow callout box with a pointer to the radio buttons contains the text: 'Select your search type using the radio buttons.'

KEYWORD SEARCH (with Boolean operators)

Searching by Keyword using Boolean operators is the most powerful and flexible way to search for electronic information. It is also very easy to use. Fastcase uses the standard Boolean operators described below:

| OPERATOR | EXAMPLE | DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------|---|---|
| AND, & | copyright AND preemption | Results must contain <i>both</i> the words “copyright” and “preemption” |
| OR | landlord OR lessor | Results must contain <i>either</i> the word “landlord” <i>or</i> the word “lessor.” (They may contain both words). |
| NOT | vehicle NOT car | Results <i>must contain</i> the word “vehicle” but <i>must not contain</i> the word “car.” |
| w/3, /3 | capital w/3 punishment | Results must contain the word “capital” within 3 words of the word “punishment.” You must specify a number for how far apart the terms may found. |
| * | litig* | Results must contain some variation of the stem “litig” such as litigation, litigated, litigator, etc. |
| ? | advis?r | The ? works as a single letter wildcard. Results must contain some variation of the word advis_r, such as adviser or advisor. |
| “ ” | “felony murder” | Results must contain the precise phrase “felony murder.” |
| () | (security OR pledge) AND assignment | Parentheses are used to define the order of operations when you use multiple Boolean operators. |

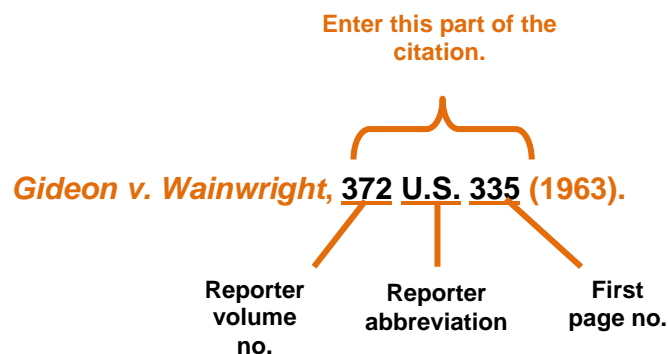
The operators are also available in the Show Search Tips box in the Advanced Caselaw Search page.

Here are a few more things to keep in mind when you are performing a keyword search on Fastcase:

- Our search engine automatically **omits certain common words** (e.g., the, it, etc.) from your query. The search runs more efficiently without these common “noise” words.
- Fastcase uses an “implied AND” operator. This means that if there are multiple words in your search query and you do not specify a Boolean operator to connect them, Fastcase will treat your search as if you had placed an “AND” between each term. For example, if you type: **summary judgment order**, Fastcase will read that as: **summary AND judgment AND order**. Only cases containing ALL of those terms will be returned as results.
- At the moment, our search engine will accommodate a search up to **500 words long**. For the purposes of search length, a Boolean operator counts as a word.

CITATION LOOKUP

- Pull up a case using the reporter citation by entering the reporter volume number, the reporter abbreviation, and the first page number.
- This type of search works in both Quick Caselaw Search and Advanced Caselaw Search.



NATURAL LANGUAGE SEARCH

Natural language searches are much less precise than Keyword searches, but they are good place to start if you are new to legal research, or if you are delving into a new area of the law. There are a few important aspects of a natural language search that you should bear in mind:

- The results are the cases with the highest relevance scores based on your overall mix of search terms.
- Your search results may not contain each and every one of your search terms.

SELECT A SPECIFIC JURISDICTION FOR YOUR SEARCH

- Scroll down to the middle of the Advanced Caselaw Search page to the heading **Select Jurisdiction**.
- Select one of the groups of jurisdictions listed, or to specify a specific court or state, select **Individual Jurisdictions**.
- Expand any category under Individual Jurisdictions by clicking on the plus sign. States are listed under the **State Supreme and Appeals Courts** category.
- Check the box next to the name of the state or court you wish to select.
- You can select as many courts as you would like and you can select courts across different levels and jurisdictions.

fastcase

Start Search Results Document Print My Library Options Help

Select Jurisdictions **Recently Searched Jurisdictions**

All Jurisdictions WI

All Federal Appellate AR

All State FL

All District Courts IA

All Bankruptcy Courts

Individual Jurisdictions...

[U.S. Supreme Court and U.S. Courts of Appeal](#)

[U.S. District Courts](#)

[U.S. Bankruptcy Courts](#)

[State Supreme and Appeals Courts](#)

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> South Dakota |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California | <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> New York | <input type="checkbox"/> Vermont |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania | |

[Select All](#) [Clear All](#)

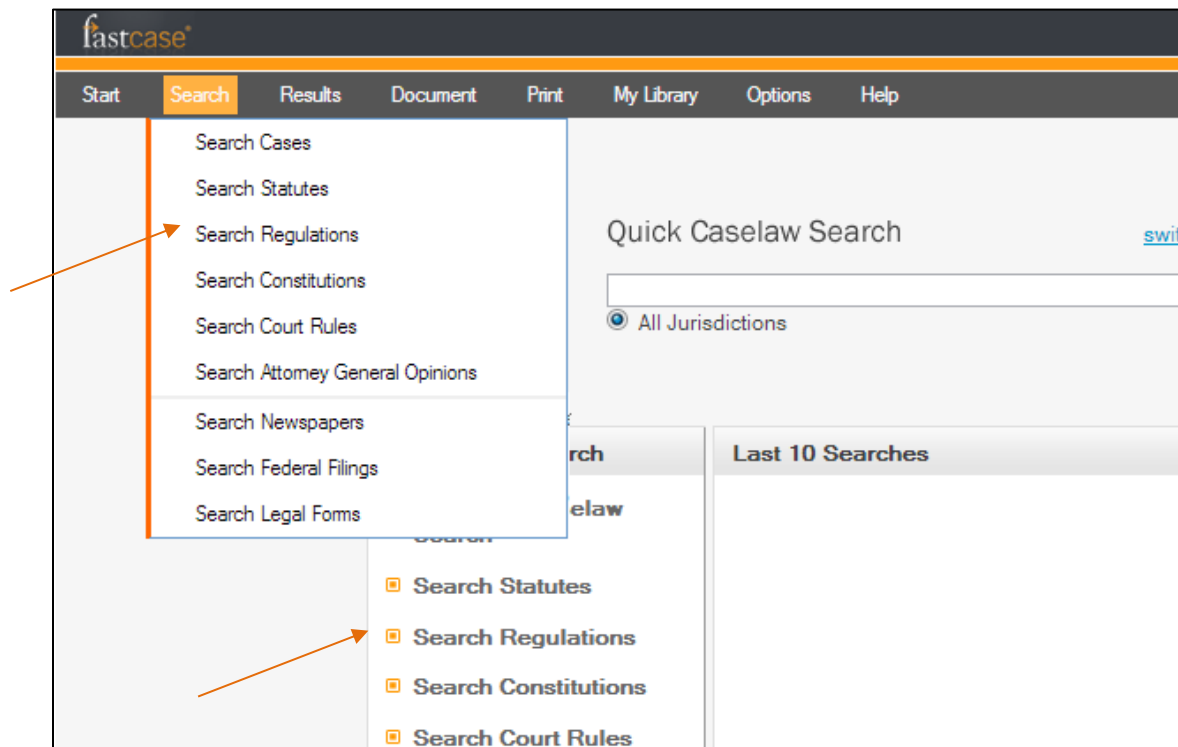
Searching for Statutes, Regulations, Constitutions and Court Rules

Fastcase also includes statutes, regulations, court rules and constitutions from nearly all fifty states and the District of Columbia. In most cases, we have incorporated the content into our database so that you can browse and search the relevant statute, regulation, court rule or constitution within Fastcase.

In some cases, Fastcase provides hyperlinks to the free official versions of these resources from the Web as a convenience for our subscribers. Collecting them all in one place allows you to find these resources quickly without having to search for them each time.

Select a Type of Document

- Begin your search by selecting the type of document you want to search from the “Search” menu or the “Start a New Search” panel on the Quick Caselaw Search page.



Statutes

- Next, select a jurisdiction for the type of document you would like to search.

The integrated statutes within Fastcase are on the left and have check boxes next to each jurisdiction's name. Select the jurisdiction(s) you want to search by clicking on the check box. On the right is a list of hyperlinks that lead to our non-integrated content.

Select Statutes

Current Editions:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> United States Code | <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> North Dakota |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California | <input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> South Dakota |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> Vermont |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> New York | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina | |

Archived Editions

Search State Websites

Some states (and commercial publishers) claim copyright on their statute collections. We link to the official legislative websites for these states and some other resources here:

[Arkansas Acts](#)

[Mississippi](#)

[Ohio](#)

[Pennsylvania](#)

[Wyoming](#)

Regulations, constitutions and court rules

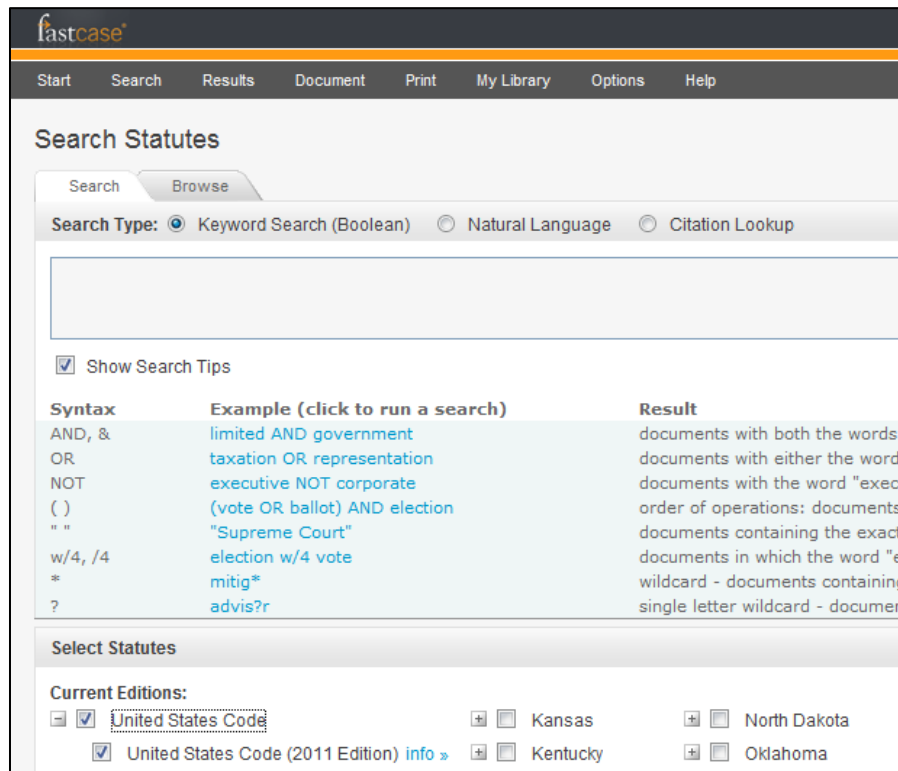
Click on the bolded hyperlinks to select content that is integrated and searchable within Fastcase. Non-bolded hyperlinks lead to the official versions of non-integrated content, which are not searchable within Fastcase.

| Court Rules | | |
|---|--|--|
| Federal | Virginia Eastern Dist. Court | Missouri |
| 1st Circuit | Virginia Western Dist. Court | Montana |
| 2nd Circuit | State | N |
| 3rd Circuit | A | Nebraska |
| 4th Circuit | Alabama | Nevada |
| 5th Circuit | Alaska | New Hampshire |
| 6th Circuit | Arizona | New Jersey |
| 7th Circuit | Arkansas | New Mexico |
| 8th Circuit | Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct | New York |
| 9th Circuit | Arkansas Rules of Professional Conduct | NM Dist. Court |
| North Carolina Eastern Dist. Court | C | North Carolina |
| North Carolina Middle Dist. Court | California | North Carolina Appellate Court Rules |
| North Carolina Western Dist. Court | Colorado | North Dakota |
| 10th Circuit | Connecticut | O |
| 11th Circuit | D | Ohio |
| D.C. Circuit | Delaware | Oklahoma |
| Federal Circuit | District of Columbia | Oregon |
| Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure | F | Oregon Supplementary Local Rules |
| Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure | Florida | Oregon Uniform Trial Court Rules |
| Federal Rules of Civil Procedure | G | P |

Search within a Statute, Regulation, Constitution or Court Rule

Search within the document set that you selected by keyword, natural language, or citation, just as you would search for caselaw.

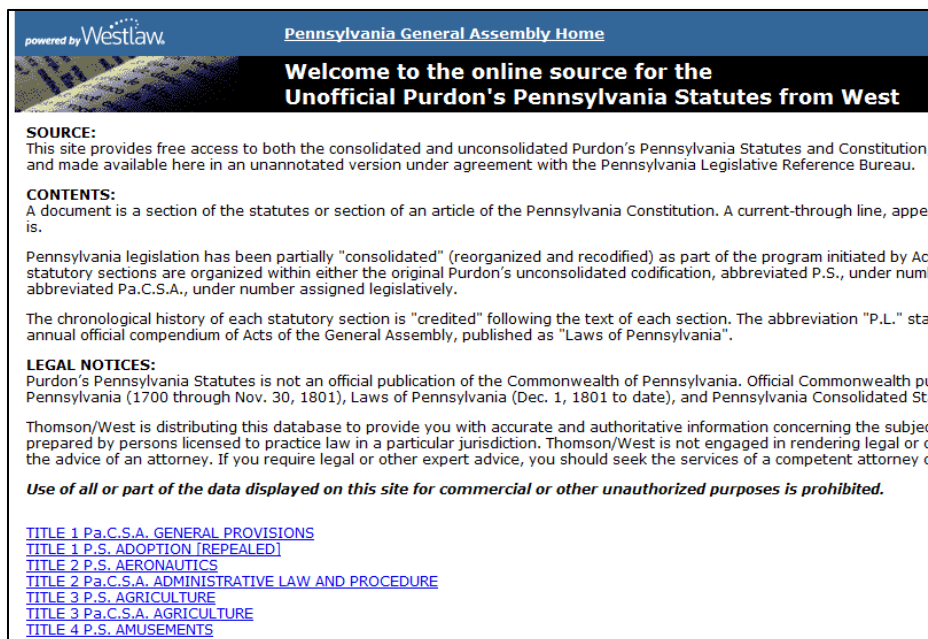
- Here, the [United States Code](#) has been selected and the search terms can be entered into the search box.



The screenshot shows the Fastcase website's search interface for statutes. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Start, Search, Results, Document, Print, My Library, Options, and Help. Below this is a search bar with a "Search" button and a "Browse" tab. The search type is set to "Keyword Search (Boolean)". Below the search bar, there is a checkbox for "Show Search Tips" which is checked. A table provides search syntax examples and their results. Below the table is a "Select Statutes" section with "Current Editions:" and a list of states with checkboxes: United States Code (checked), Kansas, North Dakota, Kentucky, and Oklahoma.

| Syntax | Example (click to run a search) | Result |
|---------|---|----------------------------------|
| AND, & | limited AND government | documents with both the words |
| OR | taxation OR representation | documents with either the word |
| NOT | executive NOT corporate | documents with the word "exec |
| () | (vote OR ballot) AND election | order of operations: documents |
| " " | "Supreme Court" | documents containing the exact |
| w/4, /4 | election w/4 vote | documents in which the word "e |
| * | mitig* | wildcard - documents containing |
| ? | adv?s | single letter wildcard - documen |

By contrast, clicking on a jurisdiction's code that is not integrated within Fastcase, such as Pennsylvania, will lead you to an online version of that jurisdiction's code. This page is outside of Fastcase and does not have Fastcase search functionality. You may still be able to search the page using your browser's search function (CTRL+F) or another search engine on the page. Check with the administrator of the third-party site for more information.

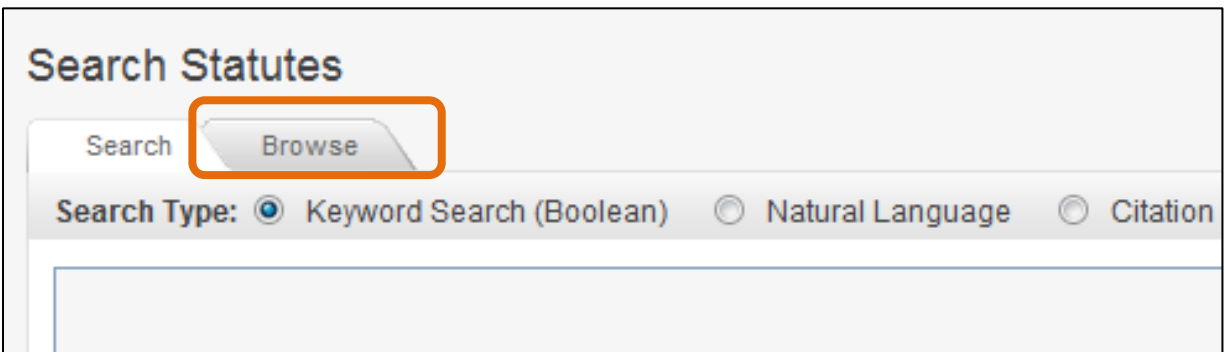


The screenshot shows the Pennsylvania General Assembly Home page. It features a header with "powered by Westlaw." and "Pennsylvania General Assembly Home". Below the header is a banner that reads "Welcome to the online source for the Unofficial Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes from West". The main content area includes sections for "SOURCE:", "CONTENTS:", and "LEGAL NOTICES:". The "SOURCE:" section states that the site provides free access to both the consolidated and unconsolidated Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes and Constitution, and made available here in an unannotated version under agreement with the Pennsylvania Legislative Reference Bureau. The "CONTENTS:" section explains that a document is a section of the statutes or section of an article of the Pennsylvania Constitution. The "LEGAL NOTICES:" section states that Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes is not an official publication of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. At the bottom, there is a list of titles: TITLE 1 Pa.C.S.A. GENERAL PROVISIONS, TITLE 1 P.S. ADOPTION [REPEALED], TITLE 2 P.S. AERONAUTICS, TITLE 2 Pa.C.S.A. ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND PROCEDURE, TITLE 3 P.S. AGRICULTURE, TITLE 3 Pa.C.S.A. AGRICULTURE, and TITLE 4 P.S. AMUSEMENTS.

Browse Statutes Using Outline View

In addition to searching, Fastcase also allows you to browse the integrated codes in our Outline View format.

- To get started, go to the Search Statutes page, then click the tab labeled “Browse.”



- This will display the statute or code you selected in an expandable outline format.
- Click the plus sign to expand any level and scroll up and down to find the section you are looking for.

