

Statutes are the laws promulgated by the state legislature. Florida Statutes are codified and printed annually. Before 1999, the re-codification was done in odd-numbered years. In even-numbered years a Supplement was issued. The statutes may be found online at:

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?Tab=statutes&submenu=1>

INDEX

- 1) Use the current index volume of Florida Statutes to guide you to the type of law, legal situation, etc. you are researching.
- 2) When searching the index, remember these tips:
 - A) Look up the main subject, not the secondary subject.
Examples: For attorney fees, look under attorneys at law NOT fees. For motor vehicle registration, look under motor vehicles NOT registration.
 - B) Look for the noun and not the adjective.
Examples: For foreign companies, look under companies NOT foreign. For life insurance, look under insurance NOT life.
 - C) Look up related headings.
If your research under one heading is fruitless, try another related heading.
 - D) Make full use of cross references.
- 3) Also contained in the same index volume as the subject index are the following: a **tracing table** from session law numbers to statute numbers, a **tracing table** from the 1885 Florida Constitution to statute numbers, **section changes made by the previous legislature**, a **table of repealed and transferred sections**, and the most recent decennial **census**. The spine will be labeled for the volume that contains the **Florida Constitution**, the **United States Constitution**.
- 4) Consult the Preface for details of former revisions and compilations of The Florida Statutes.

LOOKING UP THE STATUTE

- 1) Once you find the subject heading(s) that pertains to your legal research, a cite will be given to a section of the statutes.

For example:

STATE SYMBOLS

Marine mammal 15.038

The cite 15.038 refers you to chapter 15.038.

Numbers preceded by "A" followed by "S" and another number, are referring to the Florida Constitution.

- 2) To find chapter 15.038, look at the spines of the statute volumes. For example, volume 1 of Florida Statutes 1995 contains chapters 1-236.
- 3) Because laws change, the statutes are updated each year. Consult the Table of Section Changes in the Index Volume for repealed and transferred statutes.

FLORIDA STATUTES ANNOTATED (FSA)

FSA, published by West and also by Harrison, provide additional treatment for locating statutes and continuing with your research. The library retains superseded sets on microfiche for historical research purposes. FSA is kept current through pocket parts in the back of the volume, or in a supplementary pamphlet. Be sure to update your research by checking the pocket part.

LOCATION HELPERS

- 1) The index in FSA is much more extensive than in the official Statutes. If your search of the Statute index volume was fruitless, check the FSA index.
- 2) Numerical and alphabetical tables of the chapters are included in volume one of FSA.
- 3) "Popular" in the index lists the laws that are known by a given name.

RESEARCH HELPERS

- 1) History and source of law information is given at the end of the statutory section.
- 2) Cross references to related statutes are also presented.
- 3) Citations to Corpus Juris Secundum and West key digest numbers are given.
- 4) "Annotations" - brief summaries of judicial interpretation - are set out with the citation to the case in a court reporter.