Citation Guide
For
Constitutions
Statutes

Legal Research
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c2011
FEDERAL STATUTES

- If you are using the name of a statute, have you put that name first?
  
  • Rule 12.2.1(a)

- Have you put the title number before the name of the code?
  
  • Rule 12.3.1(b)

- Have you properly abbreviated the name of the code?
  
  • U.S.C. (United States Code)
  • U.S.C.A. (United States Code Annotated)
  • U.S.C.S. (United States Code Service)
  • Rule 12.3
  • Table 1

- Have you closed up (left no spaces between) all adjacent single capitals in the abbreviated named of the code?
  
  • U.S.C.A.
  • U.S.C.A.
  • Rule 6.1(a)

- Have you inserted a single section symbol for a single statute and a double section symbol for more than one statute?
  
  • Rule 3.3
  • Rule 6.2(c)

  • Rule 3.3(b)
  • Rule 6.2(c)
  • Rule 3.3(b) - Do not use "et. seq."

- Have you left a single space between the section symbol and the section number?
  
  • Rule 6.2(c)
• Have you closed up the section number and its subsections?
  • Rule 3.3(a)
  • Rule 3.3(b)

• Have you put the year of publication in parentheses at the end of your citation?
  • Rule 12.3.2
  • Note:
    • Provide the year that appears on the spine of the volume,
    • The year that appears on the title page,
    • Or the latest copyright year . . .
    • In that order of preference!

• If any of your cited material is included in a supplementary volume, have you indicated this in the date parenthetical?
  • Rule 12.3.1(e)
  • Rule 3.1(c)

STATE STATUTES

• Have you consulted Table 1 for the correct abbreviation of the state code?
  • N.C.G.S.

• Have you followed the format for the state statute given in Table 1?
  • Rule 12.3.1(b)
  • Rule 12.3.1(c)
  • N.Y. [subject] Law § x (McKinney year).
  • Del. Code Ann. tit. x, § x (year).

• Have you included the date in a parenthetical at the end of your citation?
  • Rule 12.3.2
  • Note:
    • Provide the year that appears on the spine of the volume,
    • The year that appears on the title page,
    • Or the latest copyright year . . .
    • In that order of preference!
• Does all the information cited appear in the main volume?
  • If so, then include only the year of the main volume in the parenthetical.
    • Rule 12.3.2

• If a portion of the statute cited is in a supplement, then include the date of the main volume and the supplement.
  • Rule 12.3.2

• Does all the information cited appear in a supplement? If so, then include the date of only the supplement.
  • Rule 12.3.2

• For States with subject matter codes, have you omitted the brackets used in the Table 1 formula?
  • Rule 12.3.1(c)

**FEDERAL CONSTITUTION**

U.S. Const. art. IV, § 9.

U.S. Const. amend. XIV.

• Cite the United States Constitution by "U.S." and the word "Const."
• Abbreviate the subdivisions of the Constitution, for example article and clause, according to Table 16.
  • Rule 11
  • Table 16

• If the Constitutional provision is currently in force, you do not give a date.
  • Rule 11

• Make sure you give the correct Roman Numerals when citing an article or amendment to the Constitution.

• Remember to leave a space before and after the section symbol.

• **Note: Do not make citing the Constitution more difficult than it is!**
STATE CONSTITUTIONS

N.C. Const. amend. XIII.

• Abbreviate the name of the state according to Table 10.
• Abbreviate the subdivisions of the Constitution according to Table 16.

• Rule 11
• Table 10
• Table 16