



Legal Resources in Iowa

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This pathfinder will be useful in finding information about free legal resources in Iowa.

The Library cannot provide legal advice or perform legal research. Legal research includes researching the law and determining how the law applies to a particular situation. Helping patrons decide what actions they should take is practicing law.

Key Resources at a Glance:

- Code of Iowa
<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/IowaLaw.html>
- Iowa Administrative Code
<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/IAC.html>
- Iowa Judicial Branch
<http://www.iowacourts.gov>
Explains the court system in Iowa.
- Iowa Courts Online
<http://www.iowacourts.gov>
Covers child support payment histories, criminal and traffic records, and cases that have come before all Iowa counties and appellate courts.

Reference Background

- *Code of Ordinances of the City of Urbandale* (R 348.77758 URB)
- *Iowa Court Rules*
<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Rules/Current/court/courtrules.pdf>
- *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory* (R 340.03 MAR)
- *Black's Law Dictionary* (R 340.03 BLA)

Resources

Books

- *Legal Research: How to Find & Understand the Law*, by Stephen Elias, 2009 (340.072 ELI)
- *101 Law forms for Personal Use*, by Robin Leonard & Ralph Warner, 2009 (346 WAR)

Search Aids

Search Terms

(Use for computer searches)

- Law and Popular Works
- Law and Iowa
- Forms and Wills
- Forms and Custody

Subject Headings

(Use in card catalogs and print indexes)

- Law—Iowa
- Wills

Call Number

- 346 to 346.73 (Dewey Decimal)

Indexes and Abstracts

- EBSCOhost
<http://search.ebscohost.com>
- First Search
<http://firstsearch.oclc.org>

Library catalogs

- Urbandale Public Library
<http://www.urbandalelibrary.org>
- SILO - (Iowa Locator) State-wide catalog
<http://z3950.silo.lib.ia.us/cgi-bin/zform/CGI?SILO>
- World Cat - World-wide Catalog <http://worldcat.org>

Web Pages and Web Portals

- State Library of Iowa Law Library
<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/services/collections/law-library>
- Findlaw (Findlaw for the Public)
<http://www.findlaw.org>
- LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell
<http://www.lawyers.com>
- Legal Information Services to the Public
<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/lisp/research.htm>

Legal Forms

- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Iowa
<http://www.iasd.uscourts.gov>
- FindLaw
<http://www.findlaw.org/>

Other Sources for Resolving Disputes:

- Iowa Mediation Services
<http://www.iowamediationservice.com> ; Phone: 515-331-8081
- Consumer Protection Division, Iowa Attorney General's Office
<http://www.state.ia.us/government/ag/consumer> ; Phone: 515-281-5926
- Consumer Affairs, Iowa Division of Insurance
<http://www.iid.state.ia.us> ; Phone: 1-877-955-1212
- Iowa Civil Rights Commission,
<http://www.state.ia.us/government/crc/index.html> ; Phone: 1-800-457-4416
- Iowa Department of Human Services, Child Support Customer Services Unit
http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/consumers/child_support/generalinfo.html; Phone: 1-888-229-9223
- Iowa Utilities Board, Customer Service Section
<http://www.state.ia.us/government/com/util/customers.html>; Phone: 1-877-565-4450
- Iowa Department of Workforce Development
<http://www.iowaworkforce.org> ; Phone: 1-800-562-4692
- Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman (issues involving state agencies or state institutions)
Phone: 1-888-426-6283

** You can evaluate other resources using criteria at:
<http://www.THEpathfinderproject.org/evaluate.html> **

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