

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH

Almost all documents on Westlaw are composed of several parts called *fields*. Rather than searching entire documents, you can restrict your search to one or more fields. Doing so saves searching and browsing time and makes your search more efficient.

The two most useful fields to search in statutes databases are the prelim (pr) and caption (ca) fields, which contain the major headings and a description for each section. To add field restrictions to your Terms and Connectors search, use the *Fields* drop-down list at the database Search page (Figure 1). In the alternative, type the field abbreviation in the *Search* text box, followed immediately by the terms you want included in the field restriction enclosed in parentheses. For example, to retrieve statutes regarding hazardous waste, you could type the following Terms and Connectors query:

pr,ca(hazard! /p waste)

A sample document on the next page illustrates fields in a statute on Westlaw.

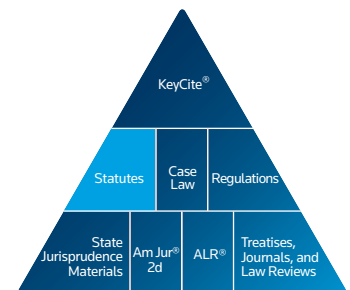
The screenshot shows the Westlaw search interface. At the top, there are navigation links: [Find by Citation](#), [Table of Contents](#), [Statutes Index](#), [Pop. Name Table](#), and [50 State Surveys](#). Below this, it says "Selected Databases" and "United States Code Annotated (USCA)". The main search area is titled "Terms & Connectors" and "Natural Language". The search box contains the query "pr,ca(hazard! /p waste)". There are buttons for "Search Westlaw" and "Thesaurus". Below the search box is a "Recent Searches & Locates" dropdown. Underneath, there is a "Search sections effective on:" field with a date input "mm/dd/yyyy". The "Fields:" dropdown is open, showing a list of options: "Citation - CI()", "Prelim - PR()", "Caption - CA()", "Text - TE()", "Credit - CR()", "Words and Phrases - WP()", "Substantive-doc - SD()", "Historical Notes - HN()", "References - RE()", and "Annotations - AN()".

Figure 1. *Fields* drop-down list using the Terms and Connectors search method

Category:

Research Fundamentals

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The Westlaw Research Pyramid

Using the Westlaw Research Pyramid

Statutes are the second category of primary legal sources.

Statutes on Westlaw are annotated to help you find relevant case law that interprets or applies a statute.

Identifying Fields in Statutes

Citation (ci)	West's Ann.Cal.Fam.Code § 501
Prelim (pr)	West's Annotated California Codes Currentness Family Code (Refs & Annos) Division 3. Marriage (Refs & Annos) ▣ Part 4. Confidential Marriage (Refs & Annos) ▣ Chapter 1. General Provisions
Caption (ca)	§ 501. Issuance of license
Text (te)	Except as provided in Section 502 , a confidential marriage license shall be issued by the county clerk upon the personal appearance together of the parties to be married and their payment of the fees required by Sections 26840.1 and 26840.8 of the Government Code and any fee imposed pursuant to the authorization of Section 26840.3 of the Government Code .
Credit (cr)	CREDIT(S) (Stats.1992, c. 162 (A.B.2650), § 10, operative Jan. 1, 1994. Amended by Stats.2006, c. 816 (A.B.1102), § 23, operative Jan. 1, 2008.)
Historical-notes (hn)	LAW REVISION COMMISSION COMMENTS Enactment (Revised Comment) Section 501 continues the second sentence of former Civil Code Section 4213(a) without substantive change. [23 Cal.L.Rev.Comm. Reports 1 (1993)] HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES 2010 Electronic Update 2004 Main Volume Derivation: Civil Code former § 79, added by Code Am.1877-78, c. 51, § 1. Civil Code former § 4213, added by Stats.1969, c. 1608, § 8, amended by Stats.1971, c. 1244, § 1; Stats.1973, c. 142, § 11; Stats.1977, c. 585, § 1; Stats.1980, c. 676, § 59; Stats.1981, c. 872, § 1; Stats.1982, c. 125, § 1; Stats.1982, c. 449, § 1; Stats.1983, c. 476, § 1; Stats.1984, c. 149, § 1; Stats.1985, c. 586, § 2; Stats.1986, c. 1460, § 3; Stats.1992, c. 318, § 9.
References (re)	CROSS REFERENCES Certificate of registry, preparation and filing, see Family Code § 359 . County defined for purposes of this Code, see Family Code § 67 . License, Necessity, see Family Code §§ 300, 350 . Offense of solemnization of marriage without license or authorization, see Penal Code § 360 . Return of license to county recorder, see Family Code § 423 . Marriage registration, see Health and Safety Code § 103125 et seq. Solemnization requirements, see Family Code § 420 et seq. LIBRARY REFERENCES 2004 Main Volume Marriage ⇨ 25(2) , 25(4) , 25(2) . Westlaw Topic No. 253 . C.J.S. Marriage § 27
Annotations (an)	NOTES OF DECISIONS In general 1 1 . In general Marriage license must be obtained by parties except in special situations dealt with by statute and there must be a solemnization. Argonaut Ins. Co. v. Industrial Acc. Commission (App. 5 Dist. 1962) 23 Cal.Rptr. 1, 204 Cal.App.2d 805. Marriage ⇨ 12.1
Citation (ci)	West's Ann. Cal. Fam. Code § 501, CA FAM § 501 Current with all 2009 Reg.Sess. laws; all 2009-2010 1st through 5th, 7th, and 8th Ex.Sess. laws; urgency legislation through Ch. 20 of the 2010 Reg. Sess; and propositions on the 6/8/2010 ballot.

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