

# Statute Fields on Westlaw

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. 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.

For assistance using Westlaw, call **1-800-WESTLAW** (1-800-937-8529).

For free reference materials, visit [west.thomson.com/westlaw/guides](http://west.thomson.com/westlaw/guides).

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 these, the 'Selected Databases' section shows 'United States Code Annotated (USCA)' with a help icon and links for [Change Database\(s\)](#), [Notices](#), and [Tips](#).

The 'Terms and Connectors' section is active, with 'Natural Language' selected. The search box contains the query 'pr,ca(hazard! /p waste)'. To the right of the search box are buttons for 'Search Westlaw' and 'Thesaurus'. Below the search box is a 'Recent Searches & Locates' dropdown menu.

The 'Search sections effective on:' field is set to 'mm/dd/yyyy'. The 'Fields:' dropdown menu is open, showing a list of options: 'Select an Option', '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()'. The 'Add Conn' button is visible to the left of the dropdown.

At the bottom of the interface, there is a 'Copyright' link and a footer: 'Customer Service: 1-800-REF-ATTY (1-800-733-2889) | [Help](#)'.

Fields drop-down list using the Terms and Connectors search method

## 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 <a href="#">Section 502</a> , 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 <a href="#">Sections 26840.1</a> and <a href="#">26840.8 of the Government Code</a> and any fee imposed pursuant to the authorization of <a href="#">Section 26840.3 of the Government Code</a> .
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 2009 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 <a href="#">Family Code § 359</a> . County defined for purposes of this Code, see <a href="#">Family Code § 67</a> . License, Necessity, see <a href="#">Family Code §§ 300, 350</a> . Offense of solemnization of marriage without license or authorization, see <a href="#">Penal Code § 360</a> . Return of license to county recorder, see <a href="#">Family Code § 423</a> . Marriage registration, see <a href="#">Health and Safety Code § 103125 et seq.</a> Solemnization requirements, see <a href="#">Family Code § 420 et seq.</a>  LIBRARY REFERENCES 2004 Main Volume <a href="#">Marriage</a> ⇔ <a href="#">25(2)</a> , <a href="#">25(4)</a> , <a href="#">25(2)</a> . Westlaw Topic No. <a href="#">253</a> . <a href="#">C.J.S. Marriage § 27</a> .
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. <a href="#">Argonaut Ins. Co. v. Industrial Acc. Commission (App. 5 Dist. 1962) 23 Cal.Rptr. 1, 204 Cal.App.2d 805.</a> <a href="#">Marriage</a> ⇔ <a href="#">12.1</a>
Citation (ci)	West's Ann. Cal. Fam. Code § 501, CA FAM § 501  Current with urgency legislation through Ch. 1 of the 2009 Reg.Sess., Ch. 12 of the 2009-2010 2nd Ex.Sess., and Ch. 20 of the 2009-2010 3rd Ex.Sess.