

KEY POINTS

What's in a Field? A More Focused Search Result

Ex Libris

"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them."

Mark Twain (a.k.a. Samuel Clemens)

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Breaking a statute into parts, which on Westlaw® are called fields, and knowing what information is found in each part can help you focus your statutory research.

In addition to searching the full text of statutes using the Terms and Connectors or the Natural Language search method, you can restrict your Westlaw search by field.

You can use the *Fields* drop-down list at a database Search page to add field restrictions to your searches. Alternatively you can type the field abbreviation in the Search text box, followed immediately by the terms you want included in the field restriction enclosed in parentheses.

Citation Field: When looking up a statute in print, you may often begin by consulting the index. Short lines of information help pinpoint useful material.

On Westlaw, you can access a statutory index database, such as the United States Code Annotated–General Index (USCA-IDX). To retrieve an alphabetical list of all main index headings, search for the term *heading* in the citation field (ci), e.g., **ci(heading)**. Scroll through the list to identify headings that are of interest.

Alternatively, you can search the index for specific terms, e.g.,
machine-gun /10 penalty forfeiture

Editor's note: Because indexes are not written in sentences and paragraphs, use numerical connectors.

You can also access a statutory index from a database Search page. Click **Statutes Index** at the top of the page.

Click the statute citation to view the full text of the statute.

Prelim and Caption Fields: The two most useful fields to search in statutes databases are the prelim (pr) and caption (ca) fields. In statutes documents,

important terms are most likely to appear in the main headings under which the provision falls and in the catch line, which is a short description of the contents of the section. In statutes databases on Westlaw, the prelim field contains the main headings and the caption field contains the section number and the catch line. Searching in these fields is often an effective way to retrieve statutes related to a general subject.

For example, to retrieve federal statutes relating to endangered species, access the United State Code Annotated database (USCA) and formulate a Terms and Connectors query such as the following:

pr,ca(endangered & species)

To retrieve federal statutes related to civil forfeiture that are classified to title 18, formulate a Terms and Connectors query like the following:

pr("title 18") & ca(civil /3 forfeiture)

The Table of Contents service puts a specific statutory section in a broader context. This can help you identify additional relevant provisions. While viewing a statute, click **Table of Contents** on the Links tab.

Words-Phrases Field: Many statutes provide definitions of terms. Some sections may be devoted to definitions; other definitions may be contained within statutory text. One way to retrieve statutory provisions that define terms is to restrict your search to the words-phrases field (wp).

For example, to retrieve federal statutes that define *continental shelf*, access the USCA database and formulate a Terms and Connectors query like the following:

wp("continental shelf")

Editor's note: You might also search for the term *defin!* in the caption field and for your general search term in the prelim field, e.g.,

ca(defin!) & pr(antarctic)

Credit Field: To retrieve sections from the *United States Code Annotated*[®] (USCA[®]) affected by a particular public law, search for the public law number in the credit field (cr), e.g., **cr(103-3)**.

Annotations Field: Notes of decisions summarize points of law from cases and attorney general opinions relating to a constitution or statutory provision. Notes of decisions are contained in the annotations field (an).

For example, to retrieve annotations in the USCA that mention *lemon law*, access the USCA database and type

an("lemon law")

To retrieve annotations that construe a specific term within a title of the USCA, search for the term in the annotations field and for the title number in the prelim field, e.g.,

an(entrap!) & pr("title 39")

Editor's note: To view consecutive statutory documents, even if they were not retrieved by your search, click **Next Section** or **Previous Section** at the top of the page.

Identifying Fields in Statutes

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Citation (c) | West's Ann. Cal. Fam. Code § 501 |
| Prelim (pr) | West's Annotated California Codes <u>Currentness</u> 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 COMMENT Enactment (Revised Comment) Section 501 continues the second sentence of former <u>Civil Code Section 4213(a)</u> without substantive change. [23 Cal. L. Rev. Comm. Reports 1 (1993)] HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES 2007 Electronic Update 2006 Legislation Stats. 2006, c. 816 (A.B. 1102), inserted "together". For cost reimbursement and operative effect provisions relating to Stats. 2006, c. 816 (A.B. 1102), see Historical and Statutory Notes under <u>Family Code § 300</u> . 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 <u>Family Code § 359</u> . County defined for purposes of this Code, see <u>Family Code § 57</u> . License, Necessity, see <u>Family Code §§ 300, 350</u> . Offense of solemnization of marriage without license or authorization, see <u>Penal Code § 360</u> . Return of license to county recorder, see <u>Family Code § 423</u> . Marriage registration, see <u>Health and Safety Code § 103125 et seq.</u> Solemnization requirements, see <u>Family Code § 420 et seq.</u> |
| Annotations (an) | LIBRARY REFERENCES 2004 Main Volume - <u>Marriage</u> ⇐ 25(2), 25(4), 25(2) - WESTLAW Topic No. 253 - C.J.S. <u>Marriage</u> § 27 |
| Citation (c) | 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. <u>Argonaut Ins. Co. v. Industrial Acc. Commission</u> (App. 5 Dist. 1962) 23 Cal. Rptr. 1, 204 Cal. App. 2d 805; <u>Marriage</u> ⇐ 12.1 |
| Citation (c) | West's Ann. Cal. Fam. Code § 501, CA FAM § 501 Current through Ch. 2 of 2008 Reg. Sess. and Ch. 6 of 2007-2008 Third Ex. Sess. urgency legislation. |

ADVANCED SEARCH TIP

A Time-Saving Change to WestCheck®

A new enhancement to WestCheck can save you time and eyestrain.

The QuoteRight® feature in WestCheck 4.56 has a pinpoint citation feature that comes in handy when you need to track down a quotation on Westlaw or in a West reporter print volume.

Now a QuoteRight citation specifies the page number of the quotation—e.g., 446 F.3d 884, *888—not simply the beginning page number—e.g., 446 F.3d 884.

Editor's note: If you enter a citation in Find using a page number that is not the starting page of the document, e.g., 446 f3d 888, you will still retrieve the document. Westlaw will display the portion of the document where the nonstarting page begins. To view the first page of the document, use the scroll bar.

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