

LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC (LISP)
PUBLIC LIBRARY TOOLKIT FOR GEORGIA
Revised May 16, 2017

1. State Constitution

The Georgia Constitution is located in Volume 2 of the *Official Code of Georgia Annotated* (O.C.G.A.) and in Volumes 2 and 3 of the *West's Code of Georgia Annotated* (Ga. Code Ann.). The current Constitution as well as the ten prior historical versions are available online through GeorgiaInfo: <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/gacontoc.htm>.

2. State Code

The *Official Code of Georgia Annotated* is published by LexisNexis. Thomson/West publishes *West's Code of Georgia Annotated*. The Official Code of Georgia Code is available online at <http://www.lexis-nexis.com/hottopics/gacode/default.asp>. The online code does not include any of the annotations (suggested relevant cases, law review or encyclopedia articles, etc.) that are available in the print version.

3. State Session Laws

Georgia Laws is the print source that contains Georgia's session laws. The Georgia Legislative Documents database, a part of the Digital Library of Georgia, includes session laws from 1799-1999 with a few gaps. You can browse the database or search by date or keyword. It is available at <http://www.galileo.usg.edu/express?link=zlg>. A tutorial in using the database is available at <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/Help/>.

4. State Bills

The Georgia General Assembly provides free access to bills and bill tracking for laws dating back to 2001: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/Search.aspx>. These bills are searchable by keyword, member, session, committee, and by number. The website includes additional information such as votes, summaries of the statutes, and calendars.

Historical bills from 1995-2001 are archived and available online at <http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/Archives/Default.aspx>. The historical bills are listed in number sequence by chamber and are not searchable.

5. State Administrative Code

Since Darby Printing Company was liquidated in 2014, Georgia regulations have not been available for purchase in print format. Online access to regulations that have been filed with the Office of the Secretary of State are available at <http://www.galileo.usg.edu/express?link=znar>. To view the regulations, users are required to complete a click through including name and human verification, as well as agreeing that a violation of the user agreement causes at least \$20,000 damages to Lawriter.

6. Georgia State Cases & Court Rules

Georgia has eight non-federal courts, listed in the table below:

Court	Website
Supreme Court of Georgia	http://www.gasupreme.us/
Georgia Court of Appeals	http://www.gaappeals.us/
Superior Courts	https://georgiasuperiorcourts.org/
State Courts	http://statecourt.georgiacourts.gov/
Magistrate Courts	https://georgiamagistratecouncil.com/
Municipal Courts	http://municipal.georgiacourts.gov/
Probate Courts	http://gaprobate.gov/
Juvenile Courts	http://cjcj.georgiacourts.gov/

A diagram of the Georgia Court System is available at <http://www.georgiacourts.org/georgia-courts>. Additional information about each court's jurisdiction and structure is available at <http://www.georgiacourts.org/georgia-courts/learn-about-the-courts>.

Only decisions from the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Georgia are published. Opinions from 1950 – present are freely searchable via Google Scholar, available at <http://scholar.google.com/>.

Forthcoming opinions from the Supreme Court of Georgia are available at: <http://www.gasupreme.us/opinions/forthcoming-opinions/>.

Opinions of the Georgia Court of Appeals from 1993 – present are available through the Georgia Court of Appeals' Docket/Case Inquiry System, available at: <http://www.gaappeals.us/docket/>.

Rules for each court are available on the Supreme Court of Georgia's website, available at: <http://www.gasupreme.us/rules/>.

7. Georgia Federal Cases & Court Rules

There are seven federal courts located in Georgia, listed in the table below:

Court	Website Opinions Online
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit	http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/ http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions
U.S. District Court, Middle District	http://www.gamd.uscourts.gov/ https://ecf.gamd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/Opinions.pl
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Middle District	http://www.gamb.uscourts.gov/USCourts/ http://www.gamb.uscourts.gov/USCourts/judges-info/opinions/
U.S. District Court, Northern District	http://www.gand.uscourts.gov/ N/A
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District	http://www.ganb.uscourts.gov/ http://www.ganb.uscourts.gov/judges-info/opinions/
U.S. District Court, Southern District	http://www.gasd.uscourts.gov/ N/A
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District	http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/ http://www.gas.uscourts.gov/search_vb/

Georgia federal court decisions are also available, and freely searchable, via Google Scholar, available at <http://scholar.google.com/>.

Rules for the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit are available at the court's website: <http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/rules-procedures/>. The court also links to the rules for the federal district courts in Georgia: <http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/rules/district-rules>.

Local rules for the federal bankruptcy courts in Georgia may be found on the individual courts' websites:

- Middle District (<http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/rules/district-rules>),
- Northern District (<http://www.ganb.uscourts.gov/local-rules-and-orders>), and
- Southern District (<http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/usbcLBR.htm>).

8. Georgia Digest

Thomson West publishes the Georgia State Digest, which is a tool used by attorneys and others to locate cases searching by legal issue. The digest system may be available for use at a law library that provides public access to Westlaw. LexisNexis provides a competing product of headnotes that may be available for use at a law library that provides public access to Lexis Advance.

9. Municipal Ordinances

Many municipal city and county ordinances of Georgia are available at <https://www.municode.com/library/ga>. Otherwise they could be located on city and county websites or in print.

10. State Jury Instructions

The Council of Superior Court Judges authors and publishes *Suggested Pattern Jury Instructions*. Volume One contains civil instructions, while Volume Two contains criminal instructions. An online subscription can be purchased at <https://georgiasuperiorcourts.org/pattern-jury-instructions/> or can be accessed on Westlaw and Lexis databases.

11. State Forms

Georgia forms are available from a variety of sources. Some Georgia forms are provided free in state statutes, such as Georgia's Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, O.C.G.A. § 31-323. In order to find these forms, search the O.C.G.A. general index under the term "forms," as well as the legal concept that you are researching. Other Georgia forms are contained in court rules. For example, the Domestic Relations Financial Affidavit is contained within the Uniform Rules of Superior Court, Rule 24.2. The Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts provides free forms on its website at <http://www.georgiacourts.org/georgia-courts/court-forms?menu=main>. Many Georgia courts and county law libraries provide forms free on their websites as well. Legal publishers such as Lexis and Westlaw make forms available in print and online for a fee.

12. Georgia Law Libraries

The Georgia Legislature established the Georgia State Law Library in 1831. In 2005, the Legislature abolished the State Law Library, giving the physical space, collection, and budget to the State Attorney General's Office. Historical versions of the Georgia Code may be found at the Georgia Archives:

Georgia Archives
University System of Georgia
5800 Jonesboro Road
Morrow, GA 30260
678-364-3710
www.georgiaarchives.org

Georgia Federal Courts usually have law libraries. However, many of these Court libraries are not open to the public and only allow people who have active cases before that Court to use the library. Call each Court to inquire.

Although, the Georgia Legislature created county law libraries in 1971, not all counties have established law libraries and some of them exist within the public library system. Most of these are listed on the respective county's website. There are established law libraries in the major Atlanta metropolitan counties (see listings in appendix).

13. Georgia Bar Association

Atlanta Office

(Two blocks from CNN,
Philips Arena, Centennial
Park)
104 Marietta St. NW,
Suite 100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-527-8700
800-334-6865
Fax: 404-527-8717

Tifton Office

(Across from Courthouse)
244 E. Second St. (31794)
P.O. Box 1390
Tifton, Georgia 31793-1390
(229) 387-0446/0445
800 330-0446
Fax: 229-382-7435

Coastal Georgia Office

18 E. Bay St.
Savannah, Georgia 31401-1225
(912) 239-9910

14. Georgia Research Resources

Web-based resources:

- **Resources for the Practicing Attorney**, Emory Law School, available at <http://guide.library.law.emory.edu/content.php?pid=613017>
 - Emory Law School's legal research guides are available at <http://guide.library.law.emory.edu/cat.php?cid=75684>
- **Georgia Legal Research**, Georgia State University College of Law Library, available at <http://libguides.law.gsu.edu/georgialegalresearch>
 - Georgia State University's legal research guides are available at <http://libguides.law.gsu.edu/>
- **Georgia Research**, Mercer Law School Library, available at <http://www.law.mercer.edu/library/research/georgia>
- **Guides @ Georgia Law**, University of Georgia Law School of Law, available at: <http://libguides.law.uga.edu/c.php?g=177153&p=1164400>
 - University of Georgia's legal research guides are available at <http://libguides.law.uga.edu/resources>

Books in print:

- Nancy P. Johnson, Elizabeth G. Adelman & Nancy J. Adams. *Georgia Legal Research* (Carolina Academic Press, 2007).
- Leah F. Chanin and Suzanne L. Cassidy. *Guide to Georgia legal research and legal history* (Harrison Press, 1990).

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APPENDIX: GEORGIA COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

Barrow County Law Library

Barrow County Historic Courthouse
652 Barrow Park Drive, Suite H
Winder, GA 3680

Bartow County Law Library

135 W Cherokee Ave
Cartersville, GA 30120

Bibb County Law Library

601 Mulberry Street, Suite 601
Macon, GA 31201

Camden County Law Library

200 4th Street
Woodbine, GA 31569
912-567-5099

Candler County Law Library

*(Law Library available to members of the
local bar association)*

35 SW Broad Street
Metter, GA 30439
912-685-2357

Catoosa County Law Library

7694 Nashville Street
Ringold, GA 30736
706-965-8320

Chatham County Law Library

Chatham County Courthouse Annex
133 Montgomery St
Savannah, GA 31401
912-652-7336

Cherokee County Law Library

Sequoyah Regional Library System
Frank C. Mills III Justice Center, Suite 250
90 North Street
Canton, GA 30114
678-493-6175

Clarke County Law Library

325 East Washington Street, Suite 330
Athens, GA 30601
706-613-3177

Clayton County Law Library

Harold R. Banke Justice Center
9151 Tara Boulevard, Suite 3CA01
Jonesboro, GA 30236
770-477-3415

Clinch County Law Library

22 Court Square
Homerville, GA 31634
912-487-3395

Cobb County Law Library

12 East Park Square
Marietta, GA 30090
770-528-1884

Crisp County Law Library

11 East 11th Ave
Cordele, GA 31015
229-276-1300

Dawson County Law Library

PO Box 1435
Gainesville, GA 30503
770-532-1895

Decatur County Law Library

112 W Water St
Bainbridge, GA 39817
229-248-3006

DeKalb County Law Library

DeKalb County Courthouse, Administrative
Tower, 4th Floor
556 N McDonough St, Room 400
Decatur, GA 30030
404-371-2441

Dougherty County Law Library

225 Pine Avenue, Room 212
Albany, GA 31701
229-421-2133

Early County Law Library

Blakely, GA 39823
229-723-4732

Effingham County Law Library

700 North Pine St
Springfield, GA 31329
912-754-2124

Fayette County Law Library

1 Center Drive
Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-716-4270

Floyd County Law Library

3 Government Plaza, Suite 326 (3rd Floor)
Rome, GA 30161
706-291-5162

Forsyth County Law Library

101 East Courthouse Square
Cumming, GA 30040
770-205-4610

Fulton County Law Library

Justice Center Tower
185 Central Ave SW, Suite T-7000
(7th Floor)
404-612-4544

Gilmer County Law Library

1 W Side Square
Ellijay, GA 30540
706-635-4302

Glynn County Law Library

Brunswick-Glynn County Library
208 Gloucester St
Brunswick, GA 31520
912-279-3740

Gwinnett County Law Library

Homer M. Stark Law Library
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center,
Lower Level
75 Langley Dr
Lawrenceville, GA 30046
770-822-8575

Hall County Law Library

Hall County Courthouse
2nd Floor
225 Green St. SE
Gainesville, GA 30501

Jefferson County Law Library

200 E Broad St
Louisville, GA 30434
478-625-9443

Laurens County Law Library

101 N Jefferson Street,
Dublin, GA 31021
478-274-0730

Liberty County Law Library

100 Main Street
Hinesville, GA 31313
912-368-5111

Mitchell County Law Library

Robert C. Richardson, Jr., Probate Judge
11 West Broad Street, Room 102
P.O. Box 229
Camilla, GA 31730
229-336-2015

Muscogee County Law Library

8th Floor CCG Tower
100 10th St
Columbus, GA 31901
706-653-4010

Newton County Law Library

Newton County Judicial Center (2nd Floor)
1132 Usher Street
Covington, GA 30014
770-784-2035

Paulding County Law Library

280 Constitution Blvd, 3rd Floor
Dallas, GA 30132
770-443-7505

Pickens County Law Library

Pickens County Government Center
1266 E. Church Street
Jasper, Georgia 30143
706-253-8809

Augusta-Richmond County Law Library

735 James Brown Blvd, Suite 2101
Augusta, GA 30901
706-821-2339

Conyers-Rockdale County Law Library

864 Green Street
Conyers, GA 30012
770-388-5040

Thomas County Law Library

325 N Madison Street
Thomasville, GA 31799
229-225-4108

Tift County Law Library

237 2nd St E
Tifton, GA 31794
229-382-8601

Troup County Law Library

Troup County Government Center
100 Ridley Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 3400
LaGrange, GA 30241
706-883-2170

Twiggs County Law Library

425 Railroad St
Jeffersonville, GA 31044

Walker County Law Library

108 E. Villanow Street, Suite C
LaFayette, GA 30728

Walton County Law Library

Walton County Government Building
(second floor)
303 South Hammond Drive, Suite 330
Monroe, GA 30655
770-267-1301

Wayne County Law Library

174 N Brunswick St
Jesup, GA 31546
912-530-8129

Wilkes County Law Library

23 E Court St, #328
Washington, GA 30673
706-678-5290