



Lane County Law Library

ACCESS - RIGHTS - EDUCATION

Tips for the Law Library

1. **Staff cannot give legal advice**, we can help you find resources and show you how to use them to answer your questions. As a general example, staff cannot answer, “What should I do?” questions.
2. Legal research takes time. **Plan at least one hour for your visit.** Parking at the Parcade (8th & Willamette) and Overpark (10th & Oak) parking garages are free for the first hour and \$1.20 per hour thereafter.
3. We have **Research Guides** provided on our website and online to help you research the law.
4. Before you start researching your topic or question, **make sure you try to understand** your topic/question. **If you have court documents, read the documents and use a dictionary.** It helps to start with a mind frame of figuring out what the law provides in certain instances rather than knowing what you want to do and figuring out how to use the law to make the outcome happen.
5. Understand that there **are many sources of law** and many of them can be state or federal. Commonly these sources are broken up as follows but some variation in naming may occur:
 - a. Constitutional
 - b. Statutory – United States Code, or Oregon Revised Statutes
 - c. Common Law – Court decisions, U.S. or Oregon.
 - d. Rules and Regulations – Created by administrative agencies like the IRS
 - e. Code – Created by cities or counties
6. **There are very few “fill in the blank” forms in the library** but lots of examples and samples. And even if you buy a form, you still need to know what you're doing in order to fill out the form. Library staff are unable to help fill out forms.
7. If we don't have a resource that you need, let us know and we will try to help.
8. Our legal databases like Westlaw and Heinonline often “search” in a way different from standard web-based search engines like Google. **We are happy to give training on any web based research system.**
9. We will strive to lead you to meaningful print and electronic **resources that may help with your legal question, and will demonstrate how to use those resources** so you can carry out your own research.
10. We encourage everyone who has a legal problem that threatens the rights, or property, of themselves or others to **seek help from an attorney.** The Oregon State Bar has a referral line. Lane County Legal Aid provides no-cost legal representation to certain people. You will never know if you can get and afford an attorney until you try.

**125 East 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401 | Phone: (541) 682-4337 | Email: lclawlib@co.lane.or.us
Open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, whether or not staffed.**

Staff generally available 8am-12pm & 1-5pm, though absences may occur. Call in advance to confirm.