

Citing Legal Materials in APA Style

The 6th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (2009) outlines the citation style for legal materials in the Appendix to Chapter 7 (pp. 216 – 224). Below are suggested formats for common types of legal publications (California and federal sources).

In Text Citations

- Court cases: (Griswold v. Connecticut, 1965)
- Statutes (named): (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974)
- Statutes (no name): (18 U.S.C. § 2258)

If the name of law is not available, some publications only include the legal citation in the text – e.g. (18 U.S.C. § 2258) – but exclude the source from the References list.

References List

California Court Decisions (Cal, Cal App., Cal App. 3d, etc.):

Format: Name v. Name, volume number Reporter Abbreviation page number (Court abbreviation year).

Example Entries:

People v. Stockton Pregnancy Control Medical Clinic, 203 Cal. App. 3d 225 (Cal. App. 3d 1988).

Tarasoff v. Regents of the University of California, 131 Cal. Rptr. 14 (Cal. 1976).

California Statutes:

Format 1 - Code: *(usually preferred format, using citation to California Codes):*
Name of law (if available), State Abbreviation Code Abbreviation § section number(s) (Year if available).

Example Entry:

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, Cal. Penal Code § 11164 et seq.

Format 2 – Bill/Chapter *(use if new law updates many code sections instead of one):*

Name of law, State Abbreviation Branch (Assemb. or S.) Bill number, Chapter number (Cal. Stat. Year).

Example Entry:

California Fostering Connections to Success Act, Cal. Assemb. B. 12 (2010-2011), Chapter 559 (Cal. Stat. 2010).

Federal Court Decisions (US, Fed 2d, Fed. Supp., etc.):

Format: Name v. Name, volume number Reporter Abbreviation page number (Court Abbreviation., year).

Example entries:

Christopher S. v. Stanislaus County Office of Education, 384 F.3d 1205 (9th Cir., 2004).

Opinion issued in 2004 by 9th Federal Circuit, published in volume 384 of the 3rd *Federal Reporter* series, and starting on page 1205.

Griswold v. Connecticut, 381 U.S. 479 (1965).

U.S. Supreme Court opinion issued in 1965, published in volume 381 of *United States Reports*, and starting on page 479.

Federal Statutes (USC, Pub L., Stat):

Format: *If a formal name of the law is not available (there is only a U.S. Code citation), cite in the text only, e.g.: 18 U.S.C. § 2258*

In-Text: Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974

Reference List Format (Name of law with US Code citation only):

Name of law, title # U.S.C. § section #.

Reference List Format (with Public Law and/or Statutes at Large information):

Name of law, Pub. L. ##-##, volume Stat. page, codified as amended at title U.S.C. § section #.

Example Entries:

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974, 42 USC §§5101–5106.

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-247, 88 Stat. 4, codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. §§5101–5106.

Guide available online at: <http://library.csustan.edu/apalegal>

