

Legal Reference Sources and Strategies

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Handouts at:
wilawlibrary.gov/learn/legalresearch.html





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All three library locations are open for walk-in use from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. To ask a question, call us at 608-267-9696 or [Ask a Librarian](#) online. Find contact information and learn more about services and hours from our three libraries on our [library locations](#) page.

Wisconsin Jury Instructions

The [Wisconsin Jury Instructions](#) are available for free download on this website. Jury instructions are created as models, checklists, or minimum standards in the following areas:

- [Children's Jury Instructions](#)
- [Civil Jury Instructions](#)
- [Criminal Jury Instructions](#)

State & Local Information

[Wisconsin law & cases](#)

[Ordinances & codes](#)

[County legal resources](#)

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Wisconsin State Law Library
Serving the Wisconsin Supreme Court and State of Wisconsin

Are you trying to learn more about a legal issue?
Talk to a law librarian at one of our three locations
in Madison and Milwaukee. We will listen to your
questions and help you identify research resources.

Librarians are not attorneys and cannot give legal
advice. If you need legal advice you should speak
with an attorney.

Reference: 608-267-9696
800-322-9755

Email: wilawlibrary.gov/ask

Start your research here.

Our libraries have legal self help books, a selection
of forms for sale, legal materials like statutes and
case law, and specialized databases like Westlaw.

Start your research on our website with 400+ legal
research guides and tutorials.

wilawlibrary.gov

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the Wisconsin State Law Library. The seal contains the text "Wisconsin State Law Library" around the top and "Est. 1836" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a decorative, stylized floral or sunburst emblem.

General Reference

AALL Public Library Toolkit

- <https://www.aallnet.org/lispsis/resources-publications/public-library-toolkit/>
- Collection building tips, resource links, and legal research and reference tips
- Wisconsin Toolkit for Legal Research
<https://www.aallnet.org/lispsis/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2021/12/LISPSIS-PLToolkit-Wisconsin.pdf>
- <https://taxonomy.legal> for a subject overview



Wisconsin Legal Research



Patricia Cervenka
Leslie Behroozi

- Research process
- Secondary and practice resources
- Wisconsin Constitution
- Statutes and court rules
- Wisconsin administrative code
- Judicial opinions and case law
- Legislative history
- Legal citation



You Are Here: [Home](#) > [Site Index](#) > [Legal Topics](#) > [Index](#) > [Wisconsin Law](#)



Ask a Question

Get There Fast!

- **Court Records**
 - Circuit Courts
 - Supreme Court / Court of Appeals
- **Opinions**
 - Court of Appeals
 - Supreme Court
- **Briefs**
 - Wisconsin Briefs Database
- Statutes
- Administrative Code & Register
- Attorney General Opinions
- Local Codes & Ordinances
- Legislative History Research in 
- Wisconsin

Related Topics

- County Resources
- Etiquette and Protocol
- Legal Assistance
- Ordinances & Codes

Wisconsin Law

Contents

- Court System
- Municipal Courts
- Circuit Courts
- Court of Appeals
- Supreme Court
- Federal Courts in WI
- Legislative Branch
- Executive Branch
- State Government
- Local Government
- State Bar

Wisconsin Court System

- WI Court System
- WI Supreme Court
- WI Court of Appeals
- WI Circuit Courts
- WI Municipal Courts
- Judicial Conduct Advisory Committee Opinions
- WI Court Structure Chart (*National Center for State Courts*)

Wisconsin Municipal Courts

- [Wisconsin Municipal Courts](#)

This directory lists websites and other resources for municipal courts throughout Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Circuit Courts

- [Circuit Court Records](#) (*Wisconsin Circuit Court Access*)
- [Case Classification Codes](#)
- [Circuit Court Forms](#)
- [Circuit Court Rules](#)

You Are Here: [Home](#) > [Site Index](#) > [Search](#) > Articles & Journals

Articles & Journals

We provide free access to several research websites.

- [Legal databases](#)
- [Law reviews](#)
- [Journals](#)
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[Catalog](#)[Ask a Question](#)

Legal Databases

Bloomberg Law

Access to BNA / Bloomberg Law books. Available in the David T. Prosser Jr. Library

Books Unbound

Wisconsin State Bar books. Available in the library.

CCH AnswerConnect

[Log In](#)

Tax articles by topic, with information for Wisconsin and Federal laws. Popular CCH tax research sources in this database include *Wisconsin Tax Reporter* and *Inheritance, Estate and Gift Tax Reporter*. Also available in the library.

Fastcase

Wisconsin Jury Instructions and Wisconsin case law. Available in the library.

HeinOnline

[Log In](#)

Law reviews, US primary law, opinions, agency documents, and more. Only cardholders in firms with fewer than 25 attorneys may log in to HeinOnline.

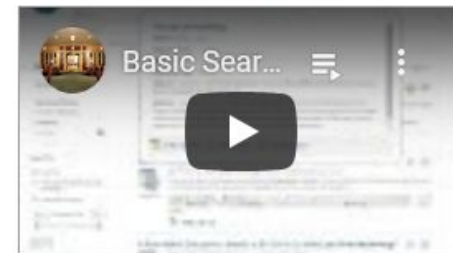
Index to Legal Periodicals

[Log In](#)

Law reviews and newspapers, US publications. [Available titles](#).
Coverage: 1979-

League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Includes almost three decades of legal analysis as well as league manuals on assessments, annexation, meeting conduct, and more. Available in the David T. Prosser Jr. Library



[Tutorials on YouTube](#)

HeinOnline Articles

Vol. Abbreviation Page [Get Citation](#)

How to Log In

- [Sign up for a library card to log in](#)
- [How to log in tutorial](#)

Other Article Sources

- [JSTOR Early Journal Content](#)
Free journals prior to 1923 in the



Ask a Question

Related Topics

- [Child Custody & Visitation](#)
- [Child Support](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resources](#)
- [Guardian ad Litem](#)
- [Legal Assistance](#)
- [Marital Property](#)
- [Marriage](#)
- [Qualified Domestic Relations Orders](#)



Databases

Divorce

Divorce ends a marriage. The court rules on issues like the division of property, maintenance (spousal support), and child support, legal custody, and physical placement. There is a 120-day waiting period to get divorced. Once the divorce is granted, the parties cannot remarry anywhere in the world for at least six months.

Wisconsin is a "no fault" divorce state, which means neither spouse must prove that the other has done anything wrong, and only one spouse must testify under oath that they believe that the marriage is irretrievably broken. [Wisconsin Statute 767.315](#) lists the grounds for divorce and legal separation in Wisconsin. See the Wisconsin Court System's [Basic Guide to Divorce and Legal Separation](#) to learn more about divorce or legal separation.

Ask a Question

Popular questions

Laws

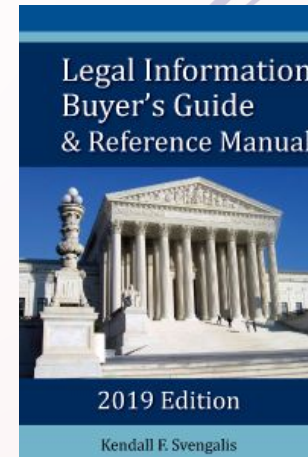
Forms

Research links

Library books & articles

Legal Information Buyer's Guide

- A broad survey of legal publications, divided by legal topic and annotated. A helpful tool for making purchase decisions. Contact the State Law Library to ask us about a specific topic!
- Publisher: WS Hein
- Price: \$215



Wisconsin Guide to Citation

- Compact guide with plenty of Wisconsin examples for citing to laws, articles, court cases, and more – when preparing documents for Wisconsin courts or agencies.
- Publisher: State Bar of Wisconsin
<https://marketplace.wisbar.org>
- Price: \$89



Legal Encyclopedias

- Wisconsin Pleading and Practice
- Wisconsin Practice Series

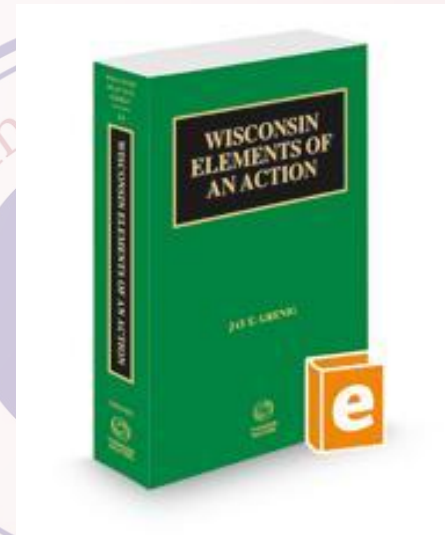
- American Jurisprudence 2d
- Corpus Juris Secundum

- Cornell Law Institute
- Nolo and other law-related sites



Wisconsin Elements of an Action

- Provides elements, statutes of limitations, and some sample forms or model cases for a few specific issues including defamation, legal malpractice, local government tort liability, medical malpractice, emotional distress
- Publisher: Thomson Reuters
<https://store.legal.thomsonreuters.com>
- Price: \$890 (one time purchase)



Dictionaries

- Black's Law Dictionary
- Wisconsin Court System interpreter glossaries
<https://www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/res/glossaries.htm>
- Nolo's dictionary
<https://www.nolo.com/dictionary>
- More online – search for dictionaries, glossaries on court websites





Updated 2017-18 Wisconsin Statutes & Annotations

Published March 11, 2019. Certified under s. 35.18.

Updated by 2017 Wisconsin Acts 368 to 370 and through all Orders of the Controlled Substances Board affecting Chapter 961 and Supreme Court Orders filed before and in effect on March 11, 2019.

Statutory changes effective after March 11, 2019, are designated by NOTES.

The electronic updated Wisconsin Statutes are published under s. 35.18 (1) (b), stats., are certified under s. 35.18 (2) (b), stats., and are prima facie evidence that they are the Wisconsin Statutes “as they purport to be” under s. 889.01, stats.

The table of contents shows all the statute chapter titles listed numerically, grouped under subject-matter headings.

Clicking on a chapter title takes the user to the beginning of the selected statute chapter in an HTML view. Clicking on the icon next to the title presents the chapter as a PDF file. If you perform a search using the search boxes above, the results will be presented in the HTML view. To view search results in a PDF file click on the preferences link above and check “View documents as PDF when available.” See also [Differences Between HTML and PDF Viewing](#).

See [Advanced Search](#) to search within single statute sections or chapters.

The updated Wisconsin Statutes and Annotations are presented on a secure connection. To verify that the statutes are being accessed from the Wisconsin Legislature's secure document server, <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov>, click on

How do I find an attorney?

- Martindale Hubbell
Print directory no longer published; searchable site at martindale.com
- Other legal directory sites like Lawyers.com give mixed results as well
- State Bar of Wisconsin Lawyer Referral Service / local bar associations
- Wisconsin State Bar Lawyer Lookup
- Wisconsin Court System Lawyer Status
<https://lawyerhistory.wicourts.gov/>
- County legal assistance organizations and local clinics
<https://wilawlibrary.gov/topics/county.php>
- Wisconsin Law Help <https://wislawhelp.org/>

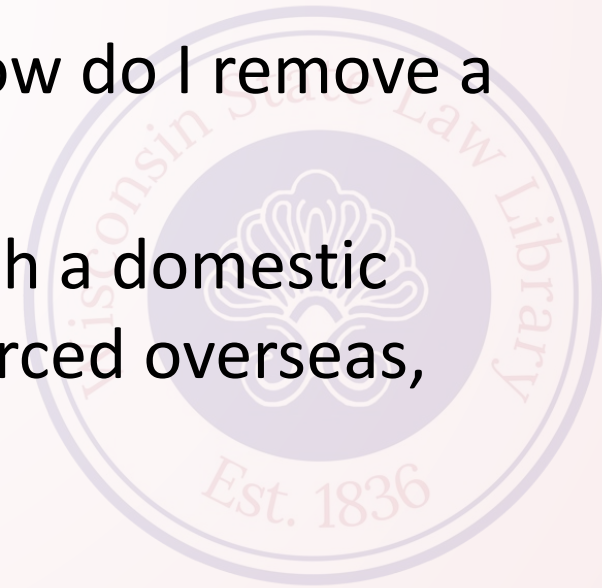


The image features a large, faint, circular seal of the Wisconsin State Law Library in the background. The seal contains the text "Wisconsin State Law Library" around the top and "Est. 1836" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a decorative floral emblem. Overlaid on this seal is the text "Family Law" in a white, serif font.

Family Law

Family Law

- How do I get divorced? Where do I get the forms?
- How can I get child support / paternity established?
- I want to see my kid. I don't want the other person to see our kid.
- How do I file a restraining order? How do I remove a restraining order?
- How do I get married? Can I establish a domestic partnership? If I get married or divorced overseas, where do I file the paperwork?



Sample Question / Answer

How do I file a restraining order? (Or cancel it?)

There are four types of restraining orders in Wisconsin: domestic abuse, harassment, child abuse, and individual at risk. Use the Wisconsin Court System's self help forms assistant to fill out paperwork, or download the forms.

End Abuse Wisconsin has a [detailed FAQ on restraining orders](#), including how long they may be in effect and how they may be removed.

Check for legal assistance clinics or domestic violence resources in your area for more help.

Sample Question / Answer

Can I get married in another country? Where do I file my marriage certificate?

Wisconsin Register of Deeds offices only maintain Wisconsin marriage certificates. Couples should keep the license from the other country as proof that they are legally married.

Look for FAQs on marrying outside of this state, or the United States. They provide tips for safeguarding your marriage certificate, and obtaining translations. Find these from [WI Dept. of Health Services](#), [vital records guides](#), [US Dept. of State](#), and local resources.

Sample Question / Answer

The Wisconsin Court System has developed information and forms to assist you with asking the court for the modification or enforcement of court orders or judgments related to custody, placement and support issues in family law.

Each guide listed below provides a procedural information sheet and identifies the appropriate form names and numbers. Wisconsin circuit court forms, in both PDF and Word-fillable formats, are located on the [Wisconsin Court System's website](#).

To request the court to change a current order or make a new order concerning Legal Custody, Physical Placement, Child Support or Spousal Maintenance

If the parties are in agreement about the change(s): [Stipulation guide](#)

If the parties are not in agreement about the change(s): [Modification guide](#)

To seek assistance from the court if the other party has violated or not followed a court order or judgment: [Contempt guide](#)

To enforce a physical placement order only (no other issues related to support, etc.): FA-609 and FA-611 and the [Service Guide FA-5000](#)

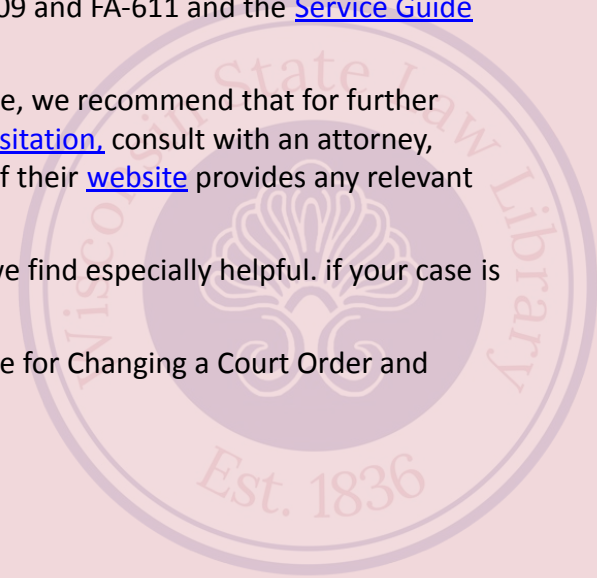
Because State Law Library staff cannot comment on or assist with the specifics of your case, we recommend that for further information you also look at our [Legal Topics](#) pages [Child Support](#) and/or [Child Custody/Visitation](#), consult with an attorney, contact the [Clerk of Court](#) for the county where you will be filing your motion and/or see if their [website](#) provides any relevant information.

The links provided below lead to family law information on several county websites that we find especially helpful. If your case is not in one of these counties, their overview of general procedures might prove useful:

[Waukesha County Family Court Self Help Center](#) - note the links on the left side of the page for Changing a Court Order and Enforcing a Court Order

Fond du Lac County [Family Court Handbook](#)

Dane County Clerk of Courts [Family Court Forms](#) page (useful checklists and instructions)



Online Sources

- State Law Library legal topics
<https://wilawlibrary.gov/topics/witopicindex.html>
- Wisconsin Court System self help law center and online forms
<https://www.wicourts.gov/services/public/selfhelp/index.htm>
- Local county information
<https://wilawlibrary.gov/topics/county.php>



Family Law in Wisconsin

- A guide geared towards attorneys that walks through the basic steps of a divorce – from client interview to basic post-judgment actions. Provides some sample forms.
- Publisher: State Bar of Wisconsin
<https://marketplace.wisbar.org>
- \$419



Advising Older Clients and Their Families

- A 2 volume set of elder law practice, including housing, grandparents rights, retirement, medicare, and more.
- Publisher: State Bar of Wisconsin
<https://marketplace.wisbar.org>
- \$539



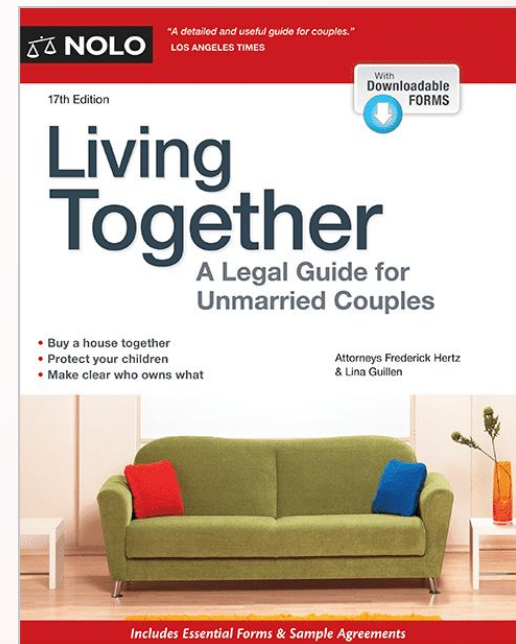
Wisconsin Juvenile Law Handbook

- Children in need of protection, juvenile justice code, termination of parental rights, and more
- Publisher: State Bar of Wisconsin
<https://marketplace.wisbar.org>
- Price: \$349



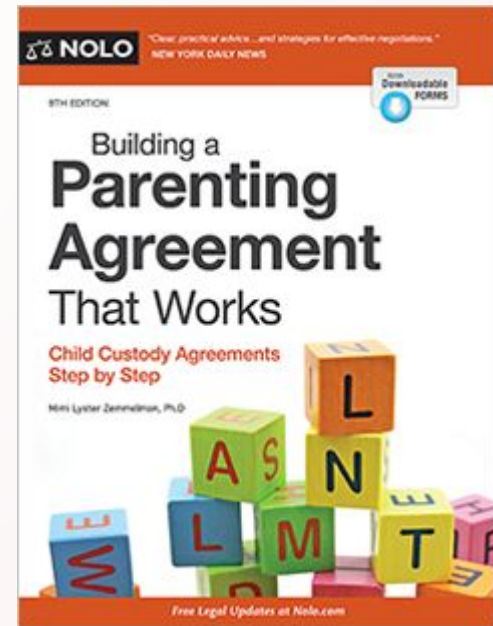
Living Together

- A general guide for unmarried couples, ranging from property ownership to children.
- Publisher: Nolo
<https://store.nolo.com>
- Price: Varies for available titles
Between \$25-40



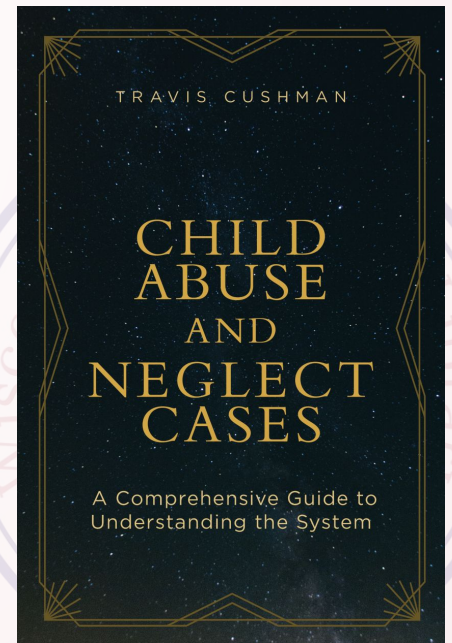
Building a Parenting Agreement that Works

- Discusses in general terms how to agree on money, custody, living arrangements, and more.
- Publisher: Nolo
<https://store.nolo.com>
- Price: \$30



Child Abuse and Neglect Cases

- A general guide to the child protection system, with suggested practice standards and checklists.
- Publisher: ABA Publishing
<https://www.americanbar.org>
- Price: \$50

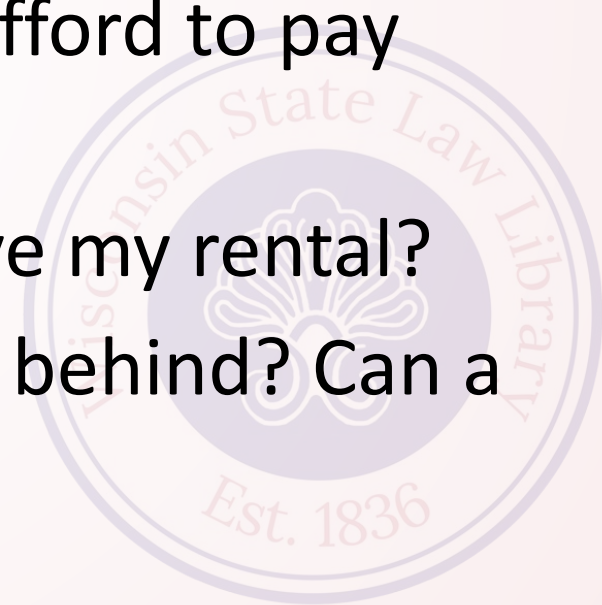


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Housing & Landlord/Tenant

Housing and Landlord/Tenant

- Can I get evicted? How do I evict someone?
- What can I do about bed bugs? Can I get my landlord to repair the property?
- Can my rent be raised? I can't afford to pay rent – where do I get help?
- How do I end my tenancy / leave my rental?
- What do I do with property left behind? Can a landlord change the locks?



Sample Question/Answer

Can my landlord increase my rent?

A rent increase may depend on your lease. The Tenant Resource Center has a blog post about when [ownership changes on the rental property](#). It could depend on the type of lease (e.g. month to month, year-long, etc.) and whether it has a provision in it about rent increases.

You may also be interested in this chart from the Tenant Resource Center: ["What kind of lease do I have?"](#) This chart explains the notice needed to raise the rent, depending on the type of lease

Online Sources

- State Law Library's landlord/tenant page
<https://wilawlibrary.gov/topics/landlord.php>
- WI Dept. of Agriculture, Trade, & Consumer Protection
https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ConsumerProtection.aspx
- Tenant Resource Center
<https://www.tenantresourcecenter.org/>



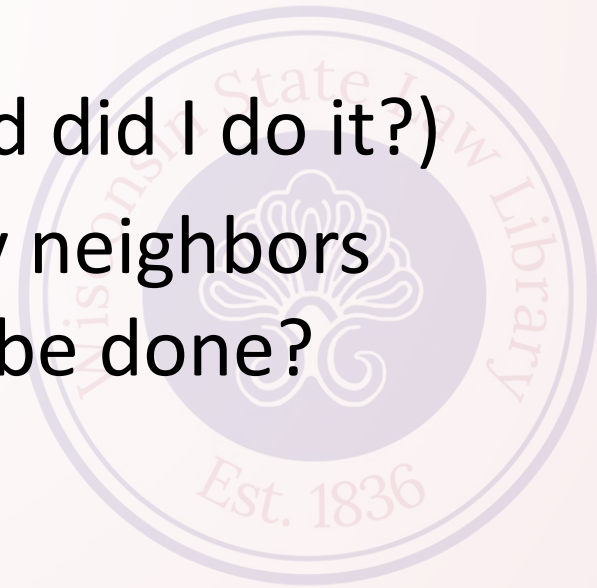
Wisconsin Landlord & Tenant Manual

- Geared towards landlords and their attorneys, this manual includes information about evictions with sample notice forms, pests, discrimination, and more.
- Publisher: State Bar of Wisconsin
<https://marketplace.wisbar.org>
- Price: \$257



Neighbor Law

- Can my neighbor cut my tree?
- Where do I find laws or rules about fences?
- How can I get an easement / enforce an easement?
- What is adverse possession (and did I do it?)
- My neighbors are too noisy! My neighbors don't cut their grass. What can be done?



Sample Question/Answer

My neighbor's tree fell into my yard and damaged my property. What can I do about it?

A book in our collection, Neighbor Law (by Nolo), says the following regarding damage from an unsound tree:

"There is a strong trend across the country toward making tree owners legally responsible for damage caused by unsound trees, if the owner knew or should have known that the damage was likely.

The legal theory is that the owner, by not acting to prevent the harm, was 'negligent.' Negligence is conduct that is unreasonably careless under the circumstances. A failure to act can be negligent if a reasonable person would act under the circumstances. For example, if a reasonable person would remove a dead tree limb after learning it threatened a neighbor's home, then a neighbor who does nothing in the same circumstances may be negligent."

Later, it says:

"Because each situation is loaded with variable facts that could present problems in court, if you have questions about liability when an owner 'should have known' a tree posed a danger, consult a local lawyer."

Online Sources

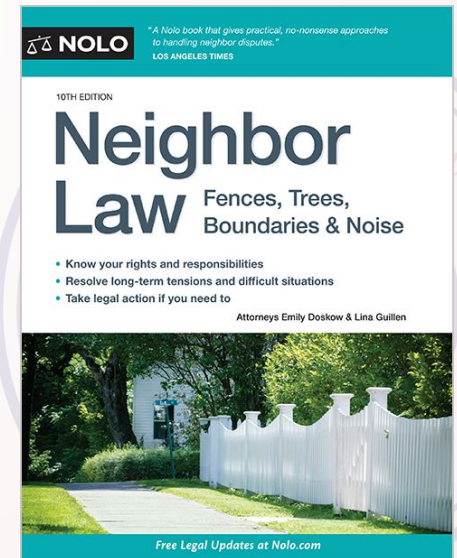
- State Law Library real estate and property pages includes links to neighbors and home ownership, statutes on property and condos. <https://wilawlibrary.gov/topics/realprop.php>
- State Law Library land ownership page <https://wilawlibrary.gov/topics/landown.php>
- Local ordinances <https://wilawlibrary.gov/topics/ordinances.php>
- Fence statutes: Wisconsin Statutes chapter 90
- Local ordinances and zoning codes
- Waterway laws / Shoreland laws



Neighbor Law

- General information and tips for resolving neighbor disputes with views, boundaries, smoke, trees, fences, and more.

- Publisher: Nolo
<https://store.nolo.com>
- Price: \$30



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Estate Planning & Wills

Estate Planning & Wills

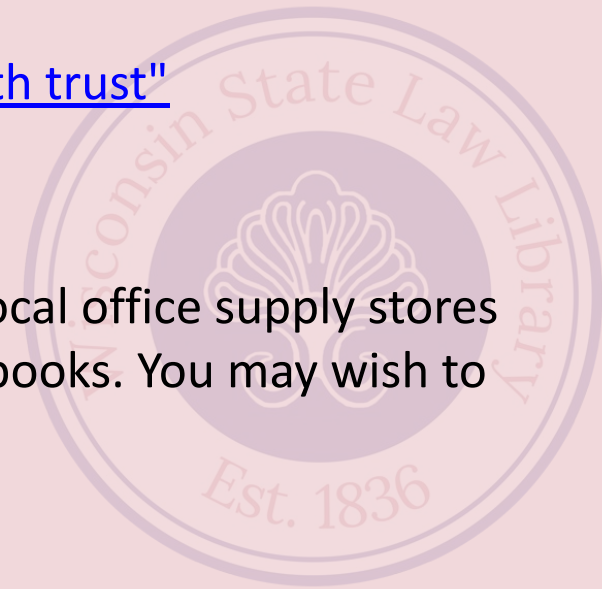
- How do I write a will? Where can I get a Wisconsin basic will? Where do I file a will?
- I'm a personal representative, or interested party in a probate case. How do I navigate probate?
- What are Wisconsin's inheritance laws?
- How do I create a power of attorney for healthcare, finances, or for the care of a child?
- Where can I learn more about transfer on death forms or small estate transfers?

Sample Question/Answer

Where do I get a basic will?

- The statutory form language used in the *Wisconsin Basic Will* and *Wisconsin Basic Will with Trust* forms can be read at the following statutes: [Wisconsin Statute 853.55 "Wisconsin basic will"](#)
See [a PDF version of the form](#)
- [Wisconsin Statute 853.56 "Wisconsin basic will with trust"](#)
See [a PDF version of the form](#)

Blank Wisconsin Basic Wills may be purchased from local office supply stores or online. We have additional samples of wills in our books. You may wish to speak with an attorney if you need legal assistance.



Online Sources

- State Law Library legal topics
<https://wilawlibrary.gov/topics/witopicindex.html>
Estate planning, Trusts & Wills, Probate Power of Attorney, Funerals
- Wisconsin Register in Probate Association
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Wisconsin Court System forms and county level checklists
- Family estate planning in Wisconsin guide (next slide)



Family Estate Planning in Wisconsin

- An overview guide to property distribution during life and after death, with attention to other end of life planning, advance directives, and more.
- FREE at <https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/products/family-estate-planning-in-wisconsin-p309>
- Publisher: UW Extension



Eckhardt's Workbook for Wisconsin Estate Planners

- Sourcebook for estate planning, with samples and information about will drafting, using revocable trusts, marital property agreements, and more.
- Publisher: State Bar of Wisconsin
<https://marketplace.wisbar.org>
- Price: \$479



Death in Wisconsin

- A “practitioner’s guide to postmortem administration” this book covers body disposition, funerals, inheritance, probate, and more.
- Publisher: Thomson Reuters
<https://store.thomsonreuters.com>
- Price: \$692 (one time purchase)



Wisconsin Probate System Forms & Procedures

- Guide to probate law, with sample forms, checklists, and other tools to manage an estate.
- Publisher: State Bar of Wisconsin
<https://marketplace.wisbar.org>
- Price: \$419



Nolo Books

- Estate planning basics, \$25
- Make your own living trust \$40
- Trustee's legal companion \$40
- Executor's guide \$40
- Quick and legal will book \$25



Where are the Wisconsin books?

- Dates, publishers, and availability vary!
- Wills, trusts, and probate :an insider's guide to estate planning in Wisconsin, by John Horn
- Davenport's Wisconsin will and estate planning legal forms booklet, by Russell & Hope
- A will is not enough in Wisconsin, by Pohl and Greenhalgh



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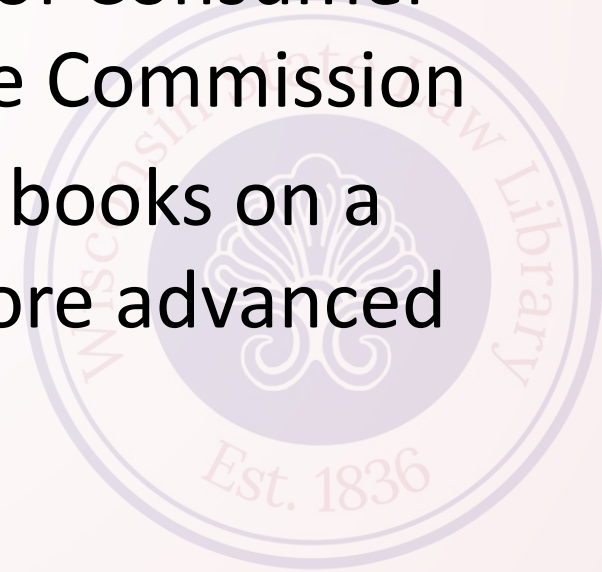
Consumer Law

Consumer & Health Law

- Can a debt collector contact me at work? How do I get out of debt?
- Is this product faulty? How do I sue?
- Can my car get repossessed?
- How do I repay or get help with my student loan?
- I have a complaint about my insurance company.
- Can my health information be shared?
- What's the law concerning vaccinations?

General Tips

- See consumer law, credit/debt, and other topics from State Law Library website
- Seek out specific guides (e.g. car repair, home repair) from Wisconsin Bureau of Consumer Protection and US Federal Trade Commission
- National Consumer Law Center books on a variety of consumer topics – more advanced topics <https://library.nclc.org>



Bankruptcy Sources

- State Law Library bankruptcy page
<https://wilawlibrary.gov/topics/bankruptcy.php>
- Wisconsin Eastern and Western District court websites – sample forms and self-represented information, help desks
- Nolo books: Chapter 7, Chapter 13



Matches

Can bartenders/bar owners have books of matches sitting on the bar?

We were able to locate WI Statute 101.123(2m)(b) which covers the responsibility of persons in charge of places where smoking is prohibited.

According to this statute "A person in charge may not provide matches, ashtrays, or other equipment for smoking at the location where smoking is prohibited."

You can read this statute at this link.

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/101/I/123/2m/b>

Here also is a link to our alcohol resource page for more information

<http://wilawlibrary.gov/topics/alcohol.php>



Fitness Centers

How can I find out the laws that govern health and fitness club refunds?

According to the Wis. Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection's (DATCP) webpage on [Fitness & Weight Loss Programs](#), "The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is responsible for enforcing of the fitness center and weight reduction center laws, Wis. Stat. [100.177-178](#). These laws include proof of financial responsibility, contract requirements and staff requirements."

Wisconsin Statutes chapter 100 relates to 'Marketing; Trade Practices'. In particular, section 100.177 relates to fitness center and weight reduction center contracts.

Here is the link for the DATCP Bureau of Consumer Protection's [Fitness Centers: Consumer Facts](#) document, which discusses refunds and cancellation. If it doesn't address your specific situation, then you may wish to call their Consumer Protection Hotline at 800-422-7128

Utility Shutoff

Can utilities shut off services during the winter?

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) has a [consumer bill of rights guide](#) which addresses winter disconnection rules, and says “If a utility service provides the primary heat source to your home (for example, water or steam radiators), a utility cannot disconnect that service from November 1st through April 15th.

You may wish to view WI Administrative Code sections PSC 113.0304 for disconnection of electrical service and PSC 134.0624 for gas service. The [Wisconsin Administrative Code](#) is available on the internet. Scroll down the page until you see the PSC section.

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Courts and Trials

Online Sources

- See State Law Library legal topic pages including small claims, civil law and procedure, garnishment, judgments, and more
- Wisconsin Jury Instructions
<https://wilawlibrary.gov/jury/>
- Wisconsin Court System self help center and small claims forms assistant
- Local county guides and forms



Sample Question/Answer

I got a court complaint served on me, and it says I have to answer it?

(The answer to this is going to vary. First, determine what kind of case this is – the case number is a great clue. “CV” = Large claim civil, “SC” = Small claims, “FA” = Family.)

Standard WI Court System forms exist for small claims and family cases. We may provide from our books a sample form for large claim civil cases with our standard warning that we do not provide legal advice. See this guide for an overview of large claim lawsuit sources <https://wilawlibrary.gov/learn/large-claims-mccl.pdf>

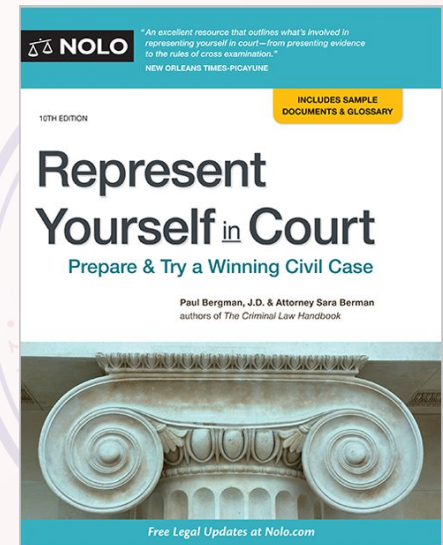
Wisconsin Civil Litigation Forms Manual

- Full of sample forms and accompanying information for several basic types of civil actions, including complaints, serving paperwork, answering a complaint, various motions, and more.
- Publisher: State Bar of Wisconsin
<https://marketplace.wisbar.org>
- Price: \$489



Represent Yourself in Court

- A general guide on filing court paperwork and what to expect during a trial. Does not include state or local specific procedural information.
- Publisher: Nolo
<https://store.nolo.com>
- Price: \$40



Statutes of Limitations

- Wis. Statutes, see esp. Ch. 893 (civil) and 939.74 (criminal). Check the subject index
- *Guide to Wisconsin Statutes of Limitation and Other Time Limits*, State Bar of Wisconsin – no longer in print (last updated 2009)
- *Wisconsin Attorney's Desk Reference*
- Other topic-specific guides or books



Sample Question/Answer

What is the statute of limitations for a small claims case in Wisconsin?

There is no one specific statute of limitations that applies to all small claims actions. Any time limitations are based on the specific cause of action (i.e. return of money or property, eviction, etc.)

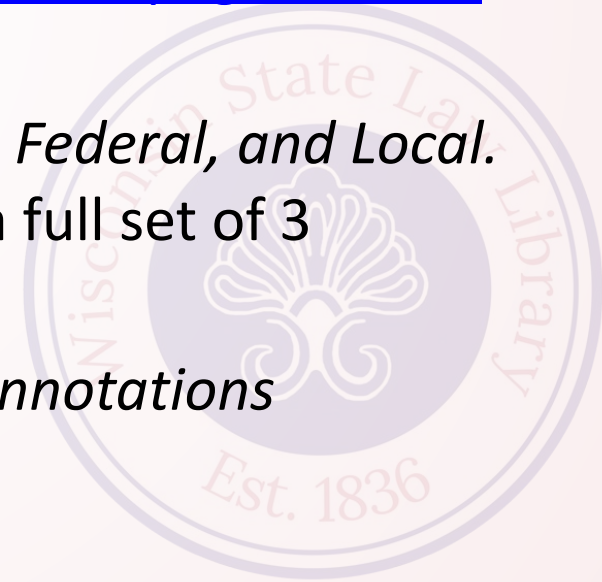
Many (but not all) statutes of limitation are found in Wisconsin Statutes chapter 893: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/893>. For example, Wisconsin Statutes 893.51 through 893.59 include injury to people and/or property.

See the State Law Library's Small Claims legal topics page for links to court procedural guides:

<http://wilawlibrary.gov/topics/justice/civil/smallclaims.php>

Wisconsin Court Rules & Procedure

- WI Supreme Court Rules online at <https://www.wicourts.gov/scrules/>
- See also: individual county courts (check State Law Library county directory or State Bar's listing <https://www.wisbar.org/directories/courtrules/pages/circuit-court-rules.aspx>)
- *Wisconsin Court Rules & Procedure, State, Federal, and Local.* Published by Thomson Reuters. \$832 for a full set of 3 volumes.
- Also in the print *Wisconsin Statutes and Annotations*



The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the Wisconsin State Law Library. The seal contains the text "Wisconsin State Law Library" around the top and "Est. 1836" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a decorative floral or heraldic emblem.

Criminal Law, Prisons, and Probation

Criminal Law, Prisons, and Probation

- Can I get my case expunged or pardoned?
- How do I defend myself or help a friend or family member?
- What rules are there for probation and supervision?
- How do I file a complaint against law enforcement?



Sample Question/Answer

Can I get my case expunged or pardoned?

The WCCA (court records database) has an FAQ on [expungement and removing criminal records](#).

You can learn more about expungement and pardons and find links to the WI pardon application on our [legal topic page](#).



Books and Sources

- State Law Library topic pages on probation / parole and pardons or expungement.
<https://wilawlibrary.gov/topics/witopicindex.html>
- WI Department of Corrections Electronic Case Reference Manual <https://doc.helpdocsonline.com/home>
- *Wisconsin Criminal Defense Manual*, State Bar of Wisconsin. \$349
- *Prisoner's Self Help Litigation Manual*, Oxford University Press. \$72
- *Section 1983 Litigation in a Nutshell*, West Academic. \$45



The logo is a circular seal for the Wisconsin State Law Library. It features a central decorative emblem with a sunburst at the top and two curved flourishes at the bottom. The text "Wisconsin State Law Library" is written in a serif font around the top inner edge of the seal, and "Est. 1836" is written at the bottom inner edge. The entire seal is rendered in a light blue color against a dark blue background.

Questions?