

Publication of Federal Statutory Law

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Publication of Federal Statutory Law

- This presentation will explain the publication process of federal statutory law.
- Understanding how federal statutory law is published is key to understanding how to research federal law.
- After the President signs a bill into the law, the law is published in three steps:
  - First as a single public law called a slip law.
  - Next, chronologically as session laws.
  - Finally, topically through codification.



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Slip Laws

- After the President signs a bill into law, it is first published as single public law in a pamphlet called a slip law.
- A slip law is published using the public law number.
- The public law number is the session of Congress that passed the law and the order in which Congress passed the law.
- The law may also be known by a popular name.
- EXAMPLE: The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 is also known as PL 109-248 because it was the 248<sup>th</sup> law passed by the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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### Publication of Federal Statutory Law

Newly passed public laws are located electronically on Lexis, Westlaw, and for FREE on GPO Access [www.gpoaccess.gov](http://www.gpoaccess.gov) or Thomas <http://thomas.loc.gov>

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### Session Laws

- At the end of each session of Congress, all the slip laws Congress passed during that session are compiled and published in **chronological** order as session laws.
- There are official and unofficial versions of federal session laws.
- The official government publication of federal session laws is the **United States Statutes at Large**.

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### Session Laws- The United States Statutes at Large

- Session laws are also given a citation within the Statutes at Large. For example, the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, passed as public law 109-248 has a Statutes at Large citation of 120 Stat. 587 (2006).
- The United States Statute at Large also provides references and citations to legislative history materials.
- The United States Statutes at Large are located in print on 2 South of the Oquirrh law library.
- The United States Statutes at Large are located electronically on HeinOnline, for free on GPO Access [www.gpoaccess.gov](http://www.gpoaccess.gov), and on Westlaw (limited coverage).



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### Session Laws- U.S.C.C.A.N.

- West publishes an unofficial federal session law set called the United States Code Congressional and Administrative News (U.S.C.C.A.N.).
- U.S.C.C.A.N. also includes legislative history information for public laws as well as full legislative history documents for select laws.
- In print, U.S.C.C.A.N. is updated faster than the official United States Statutes at Large.
- The print version is located on 2 South of the Gulfport law library and the first floor of the Tampa Law Center Library.
- Located electronically on Westlaw.



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### Codification

- When a public law is enacted it may contain legislation that covers more than one topic of law or more than one area of government.
- When a public law is codified it is reorganized according to subject in the United States Code.
- The United States Code is divided into 50 Titles and each Title addresses a different subject area.

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### Codification

- EXAMPLE: the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, passed as public law 109-248, contains provisions relating to punishing sexual offenders AND provisions relating to child protection and safety.
- The provisions relating to punishing sexual offenders are codified in the United States Code under Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure while the provisions relating to child protection and safety are codified under Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

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### Codification

- The United States Code (U.S.C.) is the official government publication of federal law.
- Annotated codes for federal law are unofficial and provide the full text of the law and research references. The research references are called annotations.
- The Federal Codes presentation provides descriptions and locations for the official and unofficial versions of the federal code.
- When researching federal statutory law, most of your research will be done using a code rather than a session law.
- Understanding the various citations and publications that are related to federal statutory law can assist you in locating the code provision you need.



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### Questions ?

Please ask us – We're here to help

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