Legal Encyclopedias

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What are legal encyclopedias?

- Legal encyclopedias offer basic information on a wide range of legal topics.
- An encyclopedia article explains the topic, then offers primary and other secondary sources for that topic.
- A Florida specific legal encyclopedia is Florida Jurisprudence (FlJur).
- Two major national legal encyclopedias are:
  - American Jurisprudence (AmJur)
  - Corpus Juris Secundum (CJS)

Why would you use legal encyclopedias?

- Legal encyclopedias, like all secondary sources, are a good place to start when researching an area of law that is new to you.
- The encyclopedias will give you a good basic overview of the topic and then provide you with the primary law in that area, as well as research references to other pertinent secondary sources.
- Don't reinvent the wheel. If someone has collected the information that you need all in one place, take advantage of that resource!
Where would you find legal encyclopedias?
And how do you use them?

- Legal encyclopedias are available to you through the law library, both in print and online.
  - Am Jur 2d and Fla Jur can be found in both the Tampa campus library (first floor) and the Gulfport campus library (first floor Ives Room).

- Each encyclopedia has a general index at the end of the set that you can use to look up your topic. There is also an index at the back of each individual volume (book).

- Some other indexes that you will find at the end of each volume include: Table of Cases, Words and Phrases.
Contact Us!
Please remember to ask for help whenever you need it.

Gulfport Reference desk (727) 562-7821
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Toll free (866) 391-3221
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Individual librarian contact information is available on the library webpage.