

Federal Codes

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Federal Codes

This webcast will provide a basic understanding of the official and unofficial versions of the federal code.

- The United States Code (U.S.C.) is the official version of the federal code.
- There are two unofficial versions of the federal code:
 - United States Code Annotated (U.S.C.A.)
 - United States Code Service (U.S.C.S.)

The United States Code

- The United States Code (U.S.C.) is the official version of federal statutory law.
- Usually cite to the United States Code *not* the unofficial codes, unless your professor instructs you otherwise. See your ALWD manual for more information on citing federal codes.
- The United States Code is divided into 50 Titles which are subdivided into chapters. Each chapter is further subdivided into sections.

The United States Code

- A new edition of the United States Code is published approximately every 6 years.
- The United States Code is updated annually with bound cumulative supplements reflecting the changes in the law.
- The government is usually behind in publishing the supplements. The commercial publications in print are supplemented much quicker.

The United States Code

- Where can you find the United States Code?
In print on 2 South of the Gulfport Law Library and the 1st floor of the library at the Tampa Law Center.
Electronically on subscription database HeinOnline.
For FREE electronically on GPO Access <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>, from the Office of Law Revision Counsel, www.uscode.house.gov, and Cornell's Legal Information Institute <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>



The United States Code Annotated

- The United States Code Annotated (U.S.C.A.) is an unofficial version of the United States Code published by West.
- The U.S.C.A. follows the same format as the United States Code. The code sections are the same as the United States Code.
- The U.S.C.A. provides research references called annotations. The official United States Code does not have annotations.
- The annotations include references to relevant case law, law review articles, legal encyclopedias, American Law Reports, etc.
- The annotations also refer to other West publications like U.S.C.A.N. and to West's key number system.

The United States Code Annotated

- The U.S.C.A. print version is supplemented by annual pocket parts, updated throughout the year by pamphlets, and a statutory supplement.
- The U.S.C.A. is located on 2 South of the Gulfport law library and the 1st floor of the Tampa Law Center Library.
- The U.S.C.A. is located electronically on Westlaw.



The United States Code Service

- The United States Code Service (U.S.C.S.) is an unofficial version of the United States Code published by LexisNexis.
- The U.S.C.S. follows the same format as the United States Code. The code sections are the same as the United States Code.
- The U.S.C.S. provides annotations to relevant case law, law review articles, American Law Reports, etc.

The United States Code Service

- The U.S.C.S. print version is supplemented by annual pocket parts, a supplement called the Cumulative Later Case and Statutory Services and monthly advance pamphlets.
- The U.S.C.S. is located in print on 2 South of the Gulfport law library.
- The U.S.C.S. is located electronically on Lexis.



Federal Codes

- Many researchers prefer to use the U.S.C.A. and U.S.C.S. over the official U.S.C. for two reasons:
 The timeliness of print publication and updates. The government is often behind in printing the supplements.
 The annotations. The annotations lead the researcher to case law and secondary sources.

U.S.C.A. vs. U.S.C.S.

- They are published by two different companies so the annotations are not the same.
- If possible, you will want to look at both annotated sources to ensure the best coverage of your code section.



Code	Official or Unofficial?	Is it Annotated?	Electronic Locations
United States Code (U.S.C.)	Official	No	Free: GPO Access and Office of Law Revision Counsel
United States Code Annotated (U.S.C.A.)	Unofficial	Yes	Westlaw
United States Code Service (U.S.C.S.)	Unofficial	Yes	Lexis

Questions ?
Please ask us – We're here to help

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Call us:
Reference: 727-562-7821
Toll Free: 1-800-391-3221
Library Web: <http://www.law.stetson.edu/library>


