

PA Legal Reference Web Sites

City of Harrisburg Ordinances: <https://ecode360.com/HA1391>

**Note there is often a delay in getting changes posted to this web site. If you have any reason to think the ordinance has recently changed, double check with City Legal.*

Dauphin County Court Rules:

https://www.dauphincounty.org/government/courts/local_rules_of_court.php#revize_document_center_rz1154

**Note this site includes Dauphin County civil, criminal and MDJ rules.*

PA Statutes: https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/Public/cons_index.cfm

**Note this listing is for statutes that have been fully incorporated into the record. If you are looking for a reference for a statute that was recently approved, double check the Unconsolidated Statutes below.*

PA Unconsolidated Statutes (newly approved but not yet incorporated into the primary statutes):

https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/Public/ucons_index.cfm

**Note if a statute is recently approved it will start here before being incorporated into the primary listings. Search by year at the bottom of the page and look in each folder as they often contain multiple new statutes under one listing.*

PA Code and Bulletin: <http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/>

**Note citations for PA Codes are often mistaken for the citations referring to Statutes. If you can't find a law based on the citation check here to see if it is actually a PA Code. PA Bulletins provide clarification on how processes that support laws that have been passed will be performed. For Police matters, PSP often creates the rules that support a new law for things like training, evidence, MPOETC certification, etc.*

Thomas Reuters PA Legal Reference Site:

<https://govt.westlaw.com/pac/Index?contextData=%28sc.Default%29&transitionType=Default>

**Note this site includes all of the same legal references that are published in the PA Law Books that we receive annually. One of the few places where PS references can be accessed digitally. While not an official reference, the site operates under agreement with the PA Legislative Reference Bureau.*

US Code: <https://uscode.house.gov/browse.xhtml>

**Note this listing is for Federal codes which are usually abbreviated as "USC" in their citation. The codes were reorganized fairly recently so if you can't find the one you are looking for where you expect to find it, look for a note that indicates where the code was renumbered and moved.*

How to Read PA Legislative Bills

[Light face brackets] are used only in bills amending an existing law. They indicate that anything enclosed thereby appears in the existing law, but that it is proposed to omit it from the law as amended. The brackets and anything enclosed by them are carried along into the pamphlet law version of the bill, if the bill is finally enacted; thus, the reader of the pamphlet law can tell the exact date that the bracketed material was removed from Pennsylvania law. All bracketed language is shaded so the reader knows that the language has been marked to be removed from law.

Underscoring is used only in bills amending an existing law. It indicates that the underscored matter does not appear in the existing law, but that it is proposed to insert it in the law as amended. The underscored matter will be carried into the law if the bill is finally enacted.

Ellipses (* * *) are used only in bills amending an existing law. They indicate omitted law which is not proposed to be changed in the bill.

[Dark] face brackets are used only in bills that have been amended, either in committee or on the floor of either House. They indicate brackets inserted by such amendment and have the same effect as light face brackets.

~~Strike-out type~~ is used only in bills that have been amended either in committee or on the floor of either House. They indicate that anything so printed appeared in a previous print of the bill but is to be deleted, and will not appear in the text of the law if the bill is finally enacted.

~~Strike-out type~~ is also used to remove language in an original enactment that is not yet law.

CAPITAL LETTERS are used only in bills that have been amended, either in committee or on the floor of either House. They indicate that the matter in capital letters did not appear in the original print of the bill, but was inserted into the bill by amendment in either House. The matter in capital letters will be carried into the law, if the bill is finally enacted in ordinary print, unless it is also underscored, in which case it will be printed in italics.

~~Strike-out type~~ and CAPITAL LETTERS indicate only the amendments made to the bill at the last previous state of passage. All prior ~~strike-out amendments~~ are dropped entirely from the new print and all insert amendments previously shown in CAPITAL LETTERS are reset in lower case type. The one exception to this rule is a House bill amended more than once in the Senate or a Senate bill amended more than once in the House will, on the second and subsequent printings cumulate all amendments made in the latter House, so that all amendments in which concurrence by the House of origin is required will stand out.

The line immediately preceding the title of the bill shows the stage of passage at which the amendments appearing on that print were made. All preceding printer's numbers of each bill are shown in consecutive order in a line at the top of the first page of each bill.

PA Citation Abbreviations

P.S. is the citation abbreviation for Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes, the unofficial codification of the Pennsylvania laws published by Thomson Reuters (formerly West). John Purdon, Jr. was one of the original publishers of a subject version of the Laws of Pennsylvania, and the Purdon's name was continued in subsequent editions.

Pa.C.S. is the citation abbreviation for Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, the official codification of the Pennsylvania laws.

Pa.C.S.A. is the citation abbreviation for Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes Annotated, an annotated edition of the official codification, Pa.C.S., published by Thomson Reuters.