Alaska State Court Law Library
Reference desk (Anchorage) ▪ 907-264-0585
Toll-free within Alaska ▪ 888-282-2082
Reference desk e-mail ▪ library@akcourts.gov
Library website ▪ courts.alaska.gov/library/index.htm

BASIC ALASKA LEGAL RESOURCES

Alaska Statutes
http://www.akleg.gov/basis/statutes.asp

The Alaska Statutes (AS) are the laws of the state as passed by the legislature. The statutes (1993 - current) are available on the Alaska Legislature's website, and the current print version, which is the official version, is available at all Alaska Court System law libraries and many public libraries.

The Anchorage Law Library has a complete historical collection of Alaska Statutes. The 12-volume set is completely republished every even-numbered year in October, with a biannual supplement volume.

Alaska Statutes are cited by title, chapter, and section:

AS 08.66.015 (title 8, chapter 66, section 15)

History: Alaska legislative history is relatively easy to do in our young state. Materials are available in print, microform, or online, depending on the date of the legislation. To research legislative history, you'll use session laws, House and Senate journals, committee minutes, and committee files. Contact the Reference Desk at 907-264-0585 or library@akcourts.gov when you have a project involving superseded statutes or legislative history.

Alaska Administrative Code
www.akleg.gov/basis/aac.asp
The Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) contains the regulations of all Alaska agencies. The current regulations are available on the Alaska Legislature's website, and the print version is available at all Alaska Court System law libraries and many public libraries. The AAC is updated quarterly. The Anchorage Law Library has a complete historical collection of AAC registers.

Alaska Administrative Code citations are cited by title, chapter, and section:

6 AAC 65.990 (title 6, chapter 65, section 990)

History: AAC registers contain the text of the newly enacted or amended regulation only. For the history of a regulatory change, you need to look at the agency file, which might contain minutes, notes, comments, and other indicia of intent. The library does not collect any agency files on regulatory changes. To access these files, contact the Reference Desk at 907-264-

0585 or library@akcourts.gov, and library staff will try to obtain them from the agency. The availability and completeness of files varies by agency.

Alaska Court Decisions
http://courts.alaska.gov/appellate/index.htm#slips

Published Decisions
Only the decisions of the Alaska appellate courts – the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals – are published and may be cited as precedent. Trial court decisions are not published and have no precedential authority.

Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions are issued on Fridays. They are posted as *slip opinions* on the court's website. A decision is removed from the website once it is published in the Pacific Reporter (P.2d and P.3d). Alaska appellate opinions are also published in the Alaska Reporter, which is a collection of the Alaska cases from P.2d and P.3d. The Pacific Reporter and the Alaska Reporter are available at most Alaska Court System libraries and some public libraries.

Slip opinions are cited by case name, opinion number, court, and date:

V.S.B. v. State, Op. No. 5537 (Alaska February 15, 2001)

Published opinions are cited by case name, volume and page of the reporter, court, and date:

V.S.B. v. State, 45 P.3d 1198 (Alaska 2002)
Volume 45 of the Pacific Reporter, third series, on page 1198

Unpublished Opinions
The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals also issue unpublished memorandum decisions (MOJs). These are issued on Wednesdays, and posted on the court system website. MOJs are retained on the website for three months; older MOJs may be obtained from the Appellate Clerk's Office at 907-264-0612. MOJs may not be cited as precedent. (Appellate Rule 214)

Memorandum opinions are cited by case name, opinion number, court, and date:

Brown v. State, Memorandum Opinion No. 3815, (Alaska App. May 6, 1998)

Alaska Rules of Court
http://courts.alaska.gov/rules/index.htm#rules

The Alaska Rules of Court are the rules for the administration of all courts in the state and for practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases established by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has also adopted rules for the practice of law in Alaska and procedural rules for children's matters, probate, and appeals.

The current rules are available online on the court system website, and the print version is available at all Alaska Court System law libraries and some public libraries. The rules are published annually in October. The Anchorage Law Library has a historical collection of the Alaska Rules of Court.

Rules of Court are cited by type of rule and rule number:

Appellate Rule 206 Civil Rule 37(a) Evidence Rule 702

Most Alaska rules are enacted and amended by Supreme Court Order (SCO), which the court issues on a periodic basis. The SCOs are available on the court system website. Print versions of all SCOs are available at the Anchorage Law Library.

History: The SCOs contain the text of the newly enacted or amended court rule only. For the history of a rule change, you need to look at the SCO file, which might contain minutes, notes, comments, and other indicia of intent. Files on SCOs are maintained by the Court Rules Attorney in Anchorage. First look at each SCO in the rule's history to figure out which SCO(s) changed something relevant to your issue. Once you've determined which SCO or SCOs are of interest, contact Stacy Steinberg at 264-8239 or ssteinberg@akcourts.gov.