

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH

Health law is the body of law governing the delivery of health care services and the regulation of health care institutions. It affects patients and health care providers, health insurers and health maintenance organizations, pharmaceutical companies, and manufacturers of medical devices.

Health Law

Health law practice may involve such diverse issues as access to health care, bioethics, medical technology, patient consent, insurance reimbursement, licensing, compliance, and health care administration.

Health Law Resources on Westlaw

Westlaw includes an extensive collection of health law materials, including federal and state primary law, secondary sources, and current developments. In each category listed below, a few key databases are highlighted. These databases and other health law–related resources can be accessed at the tabbed Health Law page (Figure 1), or you can type a database identifier, e.g., **amjur** for the American Jurisprudence 2d database, in the *Search for a database* text box in the left frame. You can also click **View Health Directory** in the left frame to display the *Health and Medicine* section of the Westlaw Directory.

Remember that the easiest way to retrieve a specific document when you know the citation is to use the Find service. Type your citation in the *Find by citation* text box in the left frame of the Health Law page and click **Go**. If you are unsure of the correct citation format, click **Find using a template** in the left frame to display fill-in-the-blank Find templates.

STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

The Federal Health Law–U.S. Code Annotated database (FHTH-USCA) contains documents from the *United States Code Annotated*® that relate to the provision of wellness services and regulation of health care institutions. The Federal Health Law–Code of Federal Regulations database (FHTH-CFR) contains federal health regulations promulgated under statutory authority. The ENFLEX® Environmental, Health and Safety U.S. Code Annotated database (ENFLEX-USCA) contains federal statutes pertaining to environmental and health and safety compliance issues. The Annotated Multistate Environmental, Health, and Safety Statutes database (MENV-ST) contains statutes covering environmental and health and safety matters from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Category:

Practice Area Fundamentals

For research assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, call the West Reference Attorneys at 1-800-850-WEST (1-800-850-9378) or click **Help** on Westlaw® for a live help session.

CASE LAW

Court decisions that construe and review health-related laws and regulations are another important source of information when you research health law. The Federal Health Law–Cases database (FHTH-CS) includes cases from the federal courts that relate to the provision of wellness services and regulation of health care institutions. State health-related cases are found in the Individual State Health Law Cases databases (XXHHTH-CS), where XX is a state’s two-letter postal abbreviation, e.g., CAHTH-CS.

SECONDARY SOURCES

The Health Law–Law Reviews, Texts, and Bar Journals database (HTH-TP) includes analytical texts, law reviews, and legal periodicals that discuss health law. If you are unfamiliar with health law, you may find the AMJUR database a helpful starting point. The Health Law Practice Guide database (HTHLPG) contains the full text of the treatise *Health Law Practice Guide*, which is a comprehensive guide covering important legal issues in health care.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Health Policy Tracking Service Issue Briefs and Snapshots Combined database (HPTS) and other subject-matter HPTS databases provide concise analysis and timely updates on health-related issues. To access this combined database or a subject-matter database, click a link in the appropriate *HPTS* section of the Health Law page.

Figure 1. Health Law page

For assistance using Westlaw, call 1-800-850-WEST (1-800-850-9378).
For free reference materials, visit west.thomson.com/westlaw/guides.