



FOUNDATIONS OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND RESEARCH



Part 2: Applying the Foundations or Tackling Legal Reference Questions

- Someone has thought about this before: finding the vocabulary
- No place for popups: sifting through the noise
- Looking for a Rosetta Stone: websites that tie it all together
- Tracking down the primary authority
- Referrals: getting your researcher to the next step
- This is not legal advice





MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

Michigan Compiled Laws Complete Through PA 48 of 2019
House: Adjourned until Tuesday, October 15, 2019 1:30:00 PM
Senate: Adjourned until Tuesday, October 15, 2019 10:00:00 AM

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Laws

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More

[Prior Session Bill Searches](#)

Michigan Bill Search

House bills begin with 4001, Senate bills begin with 1

You can use a wild card, e.g., "limit*"

(For Example: Select 'food' to show related bills even if 'food' is not found in the text of the bill.)

Michigan Compiled Laws Search

e.g., 2.14

You can use a wild card, e.g., "limit*"

Legislative Activity

- [Today's Calendars](#)
- [House Audio/Video](#)
- [Senate Audio/Video](#)
- [Recent Bill Activity](#)
- [Daily Intro/Passed/Enrolled](#)

How do I...

- [...get notified when a bill status changes?](#)
- [...find a Public Act?](#)
- [...find a bill from a prior session?](#)
- [...Find Ballot Proposals? \(Related Links Page\)](#)
- [...get help when I can't find what I'm looking for?](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The Questions (and why keywords don't always cut it)

What does the *Paid Sick Leave Act* say about temporary employees?

Does the *lemon law* apply to *used* cars?

Can individuals? carry *tasers*?

My landlord never gave me the keys to the apartment – I want my *security deposit* back!

Can *a physician's assistant prescribe* X drug?



Section 257.1405

[🔗 friendly link](#) [🖨️ Printer Friendly](#)

[Jump to the first occurrence of "lemon"](#)

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE WARRANTIES (EXCERPT) Act 87 of 1986

257.1405 Informal dispute settlement procedure.

Sec. 5.

If a manufacturer has established or participates in an informal dispute settlement procedure, the provisions of this act shall not apply to any consumer who has not first resorted to such procedure, if such procedure does all of the following:

- (a) Complies with the Magnuson-Moss warranty—federal trade commission improvement act, Public Law 93-637, 88 Stat. 2183, and 16 C.F.R. 703 (1975). An informal dispute settlement procedure which the federal trade commission rules does not comply with 16 C.F.R. 703 (1975) shall be considered as not meeting the requirements of this subdivision.
- (b) Requires that the manufacturer is bound by any decision reached if the consumer agrees to it.
- (c) Provides that the consumer is not obligated to accept the decision and may pursue the remedies provided for under this act.
- (d) Requires the manufacturer to initiate the process necessary to implement any final settlement not more than 30 days after the settlement has been reached.

History: 1986, Act 87, Eff. June 25, 1986

Popular Name: [Lemon](#) Law

Section 750.224a

 [friendly link](#)  [Printer Friendly](#)

THE MICHIGAN PENAL CODE (EXCERPT) Act 328 of 1931

750.224a Portable device or weapon directing electrical current, impulse, wave, or beam; sale or possession prohibited; exceptions; use of electro-muscular disruption technology; violation; penalty; verification of identity and possession of license; prohibited use; definitions.

Sec. 224a.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person shall not sell, offer for sale, or possess in this state a portable device or weapon from which an electrical current, impulse, wave, or beam may be directed, which current, impulse, wave, or beam is designed to incapacitate temporarily, injure, or kill.

(2) This section does not prohibit any of the following:

(a) The possession and reasonable use of a device that uses electro-muscular disruption technology by a peace officer, or by any of the following individuals if the individual has been trained in the use, effects, and risks of the device, and is using the device while performing his or her official duties:

(i) An employee of the department of corrections who is authorized in writing by the director of the department of corrections to possess and use the device.

(ii) A local corrections officer authorized in writing by the county sheriff to possess and use the device.

(iii) An individual employed by a local unit of government that utilizes a jail or lockup facility who has custody of persons detained or incarcerated in the jail or lockup facility and who is authorized in writing by the chief of police, director of public safety, or sheriff to possess and use the device.

(iv) A probation officer.

(v) A court officer.

Someone has thought about this before

A secondary source discusses, summarizes, identifies, explains, or analyzes primary authority. Practically speaking, they

- help to find the right search words
- identify legal issues
- help to understand how the law works
- provide a roadmap of how to deal with the problem
- tie relevant primary authorities together
- are more accessible than primary authorities

Secondary sources may even answer the question!



Goal: A source to help find the language and context for more specific searches

I need to find a form for a *ladybird deed*.

Where do I get the forms for a *secure transporter license*?

I was given an estimate on the cost for my surgery, but the actual bill was much much higher. Do I have to pay the bill?

I was told I fell into the *donut hole* and my insurance won't pay for my prescriptions anymore, what do I do?

Locate terminology or words most likely used in primary legal authorities by finding a site that uses everyday language and associates it to those more formal terms or begins to establish context for the question.

Books for laypeople on a legal topic.

Topical treatises or practice guides for attorneys

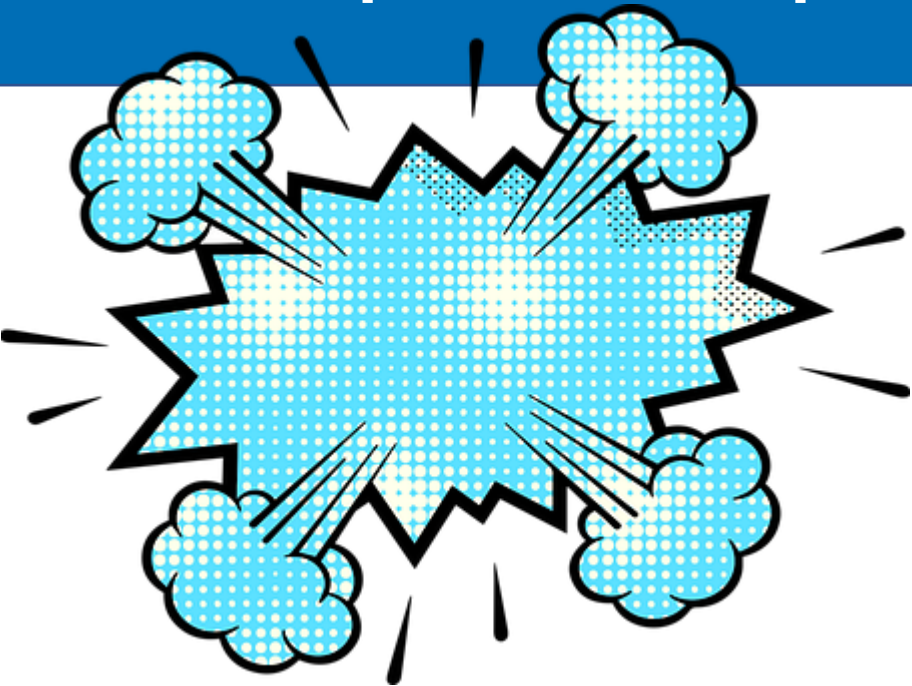
News sources like MLive, public radio, local news

Meeting minutes and local government websites

Social media: what's in your feed?



No place for popups: Sifting through the noise



Find current, coherent websites by using .org, .edu, .net, and (maybe even) .com.

- [Advocacy groups](#)
- University-sponsored [websites](#) or [clinics](#)
- [Publications produced by non-profits](#)
- [Professional organizations](#)
- The Good Dot Coms - [law firm blogs and presentations](#) and trade groups

Can the place I work take vacation time for sick time?

I heard the Good Time laws passed – where can I find them?

How will the no-fault changes affect my insurance costs?



Goal: A current, coherent, and authoritative website

The CRAAP Test: Developed by the Meriam Library, California State University, Chico

Currency: *The timeliness of the information.*

Relevance: *The importance of the information for your needs.*

Authority: *The source of the information.*

Accuracy: *The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content.*

Purpose: *The reason the information exists.*

Primary Authority: *A statute, rule, case, ordinance, code ***

(**added by Kim Koscielniak, State Law Library, Library of Michigan)



Looking for the Rosetta Stone

Websites that tie it all together

My landlord never gave me the keys to the apartment – I want my security deposit back!

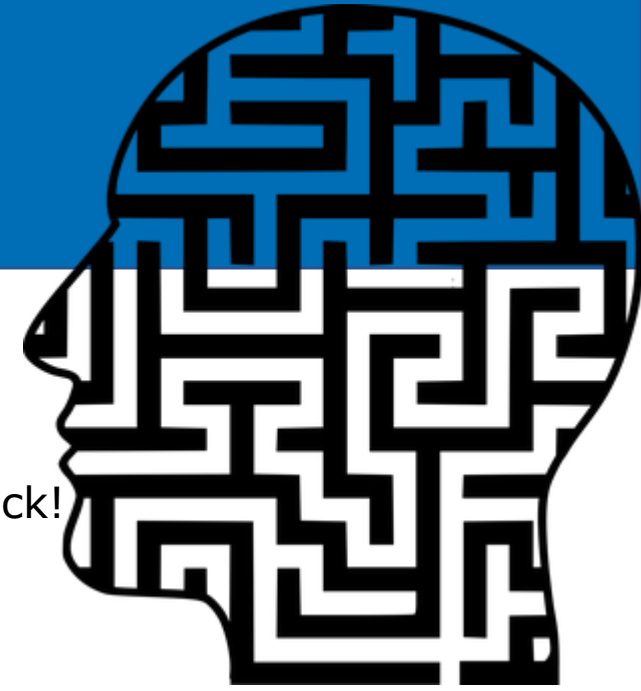
Can I run a home-based restaurant in Michigan?

Where can I find information about property tax exemptions for veterans?

Where can I find out about becoming a guardian for someone who's in a coma?

I bought a used car – does the lemon law apply?

Does the school have to provide bus transportation for my child?



Goal: A neutral, authoritative website that combines secondary information and links to primary resources and forms

Legal assistance or “self-help” or “public resources”

- [Michigan Legal Help](#) (civil)
- [State Appellate Defender Office](#) (criminal)
- Bar websites ([State](#), [local](#), [American Bar Association](#))
- [Judicial](#) and professional organizations for information on [disciplinary matters](#)

Information for the Bench and Bar

- Bar websites ([State](#), [local](#), [American Bar Association](#))
- [Judicial](#) and professional organizations for information on [disciplinary matters](#)
- [Michigan Judicial Institute](#)

Government Mini-Libraries

- State and Federal Government (.gov, .org)
 - Government [mini-libraries](#) for links to [codes](#), [regs](#), [summaries](#), [forms](#), [FAQs](#)
 - Use Michigan.gov, USA.gov searches across websites
- Local
 - [County offices](#)
 - [Municipal ordinances](#)
 - [Court websites](#) with links to procedures and forms



PROPERTY TAX

- Homestead Property Tax Credit
- Principal Residence Exemption
- Property Tax Estimator
- State Education Tax
- Property Tax Deferment
- Property Tax Exemptions
- Property Tax Forfeiture and Foreclosure

TAXES / PROPERTY TAX

 **Property Taxes**

- Property Tax Reports
- Forms and Instructions
- State Tax Commission

NEW! [Personal Property Tax Information](#)

Information regarding personal property tax including: forms, exemptions and information for taxpayers and assessors regarding the [Essential Services Assessment](#).

NEW! [Essential Services Assessment](#)

ATTENTION!
Are you a homeowner filing your Individual Income Taxes? You may be looking for information on the [Homestead Property Tax Credit](#) and the [Principal Residence Exemption](#).

Property Tax Related Links

- [Disabled Veterans Exemption Information](#)
- [Information on Property Tax Inflation Rates](#) 
- [Estimate Your Property Taxes / Millage Rate Information](#)
- [2019 Property Tax Calendar](#) 

- [Michigan General Property Tax Act](#)
- [2018-2019 Statutory Tax Collection Distribution Calendar](#) 
- [2019-2020 Statutory Tax Collection Distribution Calendar](#) 

Property Tax Categories

- Personal Property Tax
- Property Tax Deferment
- Forfeiture and Foreclosure

Terms:

- “property taxes”
- veterans
- exemption
- Michigan
- .gov

Goal: Tracking down the primary authority

Many websites link to statutes, codes, cases, regs, and forms – go to the source for the official text. Portals can help you to get there.

Law Libraries

State Law Library, [“Statutes, Regulations, and Decisions”](#)

State Law Library, [“Common Legal Citations and Where to Find Them”](#)

Law Library of Congress, [“Guide to Law Online”](#)

[Cornell University Legal Information Institute](#)

Government Portals

[GovInfo.gov](#)

[Michigan Courts: One Court of Justice](#)

[State Court Administrative Office \(forms\)](#)



Goal: Getting your researcher to the next step

More informational resources

State Law Library (10-5 M-F): 517-335-1480

State Law Library reference email: lmllib@michigan.gov

The Library of Michigan is also open on Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm. Law Librarians may be working on the Main Reference Desk on any given Saturday.

Michigan eLibrary for Nolo books, legal forms and articles, and MeLCat for borrowing materials from libraries with legal collections.

Legal aid and free clinics

[Law School Clinics](#)

Legal aid and Bar Association websites

Michigan Legal Help: [Guide to Legal Help](#)

Lawyer referral

[State Bar of Michigan Legal Resource and Referral Center](#)

[Local and special purpose bar associations](#)

[Lawyer directories](#)

[Michigan Limited Scope Representation](#)

[Additional directories](#)



This is not legal advice (really)



- “I can look for information on this for you!”
- If it’s the same answer for everyone, it’s information, not advice.
- Don’t be afraid to say, “I don’t know.”
- “It depends ...” is not a lawyer dodge – the need for analysis and research is real.
- Looks like, sounds like, smells like – there could be a million facts why this ISN’T like what happened to you.
- “They sent you for what?” Reach out to your community partners.



Goal: Becoming a part of a network of open doors in finding legal information and help



Thank you for attending and for the work you do.

Julie Clement, Michigan Supreme Court

Kimberly Koscielniak, State Law Library, Library of Michigan

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LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN