

§ 1.7

How to Read a Statute

Structure

Official statutes are published by the government (state or federal) and generally include only the statutes. Unofficial statutes are published by private publishers, such as *West Publishing*, and contain the statutes, with additional research tools and resources. For example, the notes and decisions below provide references to cases that have actually interpreted and applied the statute in question.

STATUTE FROM AN ONLINE RESEARCH SITE

C.R.S.A. § 26-6-104
 § 26-6-104. Licenses--out-of-state notices and consent--demonstration pilot program

C.R.S.A. § 26-6-104

West's Colorado Revised Statutes Annotated [Currentness](#)
 Title 26. Human Services Code
 ▣ [Article 6. Child Care Centers \(Refs & Annos\)](#)
 ▣ [Part 1. Child Care Licensing \(Refs & Annos\)](#)
 ▣ **§ 26-6-104. Licenses--out-of-state notices and consent--demonstration pilot program**

(1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this part 1, no person shall operate any agency or facility defined in this part 1 without first being licensed to operate or maintain such agency or facility by the state department and paying the fee prescribed therefor. Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (II) of paragraph (b) of this subsection (1) and paragraph (c) of this subsection (1), any such license issued by the state department shall be permanent unless otherwise revoked or suspended pursuant to [section 26-6-108](#).

CREDIT(S)

Amended by Laws 1975, S.B.453, § 54, eff. July 16, 1975; Laws 1977, H.B.1427, § 7, eff. May 16, 1977; Laws 1977, S.B.310, § 1, eff. June 1, 1977; Laws 1983, H.B.1006, § 1, eff. May 31, 1983; Laws 1986, S.B.109, § 2, eff. May 28, 1986

RESEARCH REFERENCES

Treatises and Practice Aids

[5A Colorado Practice Series App. J](#), Selected Colorado Statutes.
 C. R. S. A. § 26-6-104, CO ST § 26-6-104

Title of Statute
 Subject matter that the statute deals with. Not typically included within a citation.

The Statute
 Usually surprisingly short, the statute is the only part that should be quoted.

Legislative History
 Indicates previous versions of the law or other historical details. Often refers to session laws where the bill or act was first published.

Research Tools
 These are not a part of the law and should not be quoted as part of the statute. They are references to other sources and help to expand your research. Note the hyperlinks. Any hyperlinks on the page may be used to go straight to that source.

Variations
 When researching in the law library or online, the terminology and structure will change from book-to-book and Web site to Web site. Research tools may be called references. History may be called credits. Whatever the various sections are titled, there will be research tools provided, and they are a great help to the researcher, so be flexible.

Also, *Westlaw* and *Lexis* are constantly adding or removing features, and they both tweak the structural arrangement and appearance of their Web sites. If the Web site looks a bit different from the pictures on the pages in these manuals, do not worry. The basic function will remain the same.

STATUTE FROM A VOLUME IN A LAW LIBRARY

The diagram illustrates the components of a statute page from a law library volume. On the left, three callout boxes are connected to the main text by arrows:

- The Statute:** Usually surprisingly short, the statute is the only part that should be quoted.
- Legislative History:** Indicates previous versions of the law or other historical details. Often refers to session laws where the bill or act was first published.
- Research Tools:** These are not a part of the law and should not be quoted as part of the statute. They are references to other sources and help to expand your research.

The main text on the right is a page from a law library volume, titled **§ 305. Driver**. It contains the following sections:

- Statute Text:** A "driver" is a person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle. The term "driver" does not include the tillerman or other person who, in an auxiliary capacity, assists the driver in the steering or operation of any articulated firefighting apparatus. (Stats.1959, c. 3, p. 1531, § 305. Amended by Stats.1971, c. 213, p. 279, § 1, operative May 3, 1972.)
- Historical and Statutory Notes:** Operative date of 1971 legislation, see § 1.5 [Repealed]. Derivation: Veh.C.1935, § 69 (Stats.1935, c. 27, p.98.)
- Cross References:** Drivers' licenses, see Vehicle Code § 12500 et seq. Identification cards, see Vehicle Code § 13000 et seq. Limitation on driving hours, see Vehicle Code § 21702. Vehicle defined, see Vehicle Code § 670.
- Library References:** Automobiles ⇨ 129. WESTLAW Topic No. 48A. C.J.S. Motor Vehicles § 151.
- Legal Jurisprudences:** Cal Jur 3d Crim L § 1657.
- Treatises and Practice Aids:** Willkin & Epstein, Criminal Law (2d ed) § 918.
- WESTLAW Electronic Research:** See WESTLAW guide following the Foreword of this volume.
- Notes of Decisions:**
 - Parked vehicles 3**
 - Pushed vehicles 1**
 - Towed vehicles 2**

1. Pushed vehicles
Plaintiff who was standing at right rear of temporarily inoperable car, prepared to try to push car into position where he could start it by pushing it with his truck, was at such time driver of the car.

3. Parked vehicles
driver of the sedan and not entitled to recover for injuries sustained in the absence of proof of sedan driver's intoxication or willful misconduct, since the towed automobile was not being "driven" by the occupant thereof but was being impelled forward by the sedan automobile. Fairman v. Mors (App. 2 Dist. 1942) 55 Cal. App.2d 216, 130 P.2d 448.