

§ 1.7 How to Read a Statute

Structure

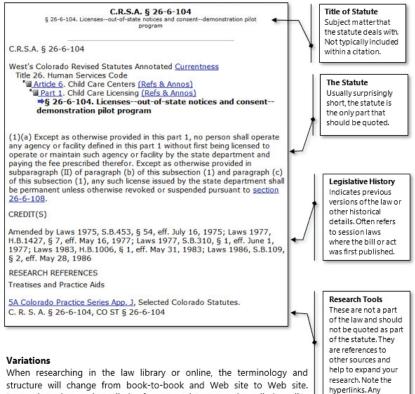
Official statutes are published by the government (state or federal) and generally include only the statutes. Unofficial statutes are published by private publishers, such as *West Publishing*, and contain the statutes, with additional research tools and resources. For example, the notes and decisions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

hyperlinks on the

source.

page may be used to go straight to that

STATUTE FROM AN ONLINE RESEARCH SITE



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.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF AUTHORITY

CHAPTER 1

STATUTE FROM A VOLUME IN A LAW LIBRARY

