

## INTRODUCTION

Family law refers to the statutes, court decisions, and provisions of the federal and state constitutions that relate to family relationships, rights, duties, and finances. Family law in the United States consists of fifty individual state law systems and federal laws. (*West's Encyclopedia of American Law*). The legal issues involve in marriage, divorce, child custody, paternity and child support, domestic violence, and other family law matters. Most print sources (such as books, periodicals) related to Constitutional Law are located on 4<sup>th</sup> floor & 10<sup>th</sup> floor in Houston Cole Library. Electronic sources (such as databases) can be accessed via computer stations on each floor.

## PRINT SOURCES

Books are important sources of basic information on a topic, providing necessary definitions, background information, and historical information. Books provide a foundation for research which can be supplemented by more current information from periodical articles. Books may also contain useful bibliographies which may lead to additional sources of research. When looking for books, consult the Library of Congress Subject Headings to select the proper term(s) to use as subjects under "Find Books (Library Catalog)". The following table shows family law in the Library of Congress System:

|       |                                 |           |          |
|-------|---------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| KF394 | Common law in the United States | KF485-538 | Marriage |
| KF560 | Ownership                       | KF759     | Wills    |
| KFA   | Alabama Law                     |           |          |

Other subject headings can be: Domestic relations, Family violence Law and legislation, Abortion, Child abuse, Custody of Children, Aging and etc.

JSU students can also use ALLIES (Alabama Libraries Exchange Services, <http://library.jsu.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?PAGE=dbPage>) to borrow circulating books from UAB Sterne Library, University of Alabama, Auburn University, Auburn University at Montgomery, either on-site with the student ID or by requesting the items through the library catalog.

## ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Current print issues of periodicals to which the Library subscribes can be found at the Current Periodical Section on 4<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> floors. Older print issues of magazines and journals, usually bound into complete years or volume numbers, are located in the 4<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> floor Bound Periodical Sections. You can also use Library subscribed electronic databases (<http://www.jsu.edu/library/resources/>) to identify articles on particular topics in magazines, journals, and newspapers. The following are commonly used databases for family law:

| Database Title        | Description  | Full Text? |
|-----------------------|--|------------|
| Academic Search Elite | Journal articles in all subject areas.             | Yes        |
| CQ Researcher         | Social sciences, economics, and political science. | Yes        |

|                           |   |     |
|---------------------------|---|-----|
| Expanded Academic ASAP    | Scholarly journals, news magazines, and newspapers  | Yes |
| GPO Access                | U.S. Congressional and government publications.   | Yes |
| LegalTrac                 | Articles in all major law reviews, law journals, specialty law and bar association journals and legal newspapers. | Yes |
| Omini File                | Full text articles, page images, article abstracts, and citations from over 4,000 journals.                       | Yes |
| ProQuest Databases        | U.S. and international news sources.  | Yes |
| Campus Research (Westlaw) | Federal and state statutes, administrative codes, cases, encyclopedias, law reviews                               | Yes |

## OTHER SOURCES

Uniform Adoption Act

National Council for Adoption (<http://www.adoptioncouncil.org/>)

*The Adoption and Safe Families Act* (P.L. 105-89)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

(<http://www.hhs.gov/>)

*The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act* (P.L. 93-247, P.L.)

Prevent Child Abuse America (<http://www.preventchildabuse.org>)

Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction (and Enforcement) Act

*Uniform Interstate Family Support Act*

*Uniform Marriage and Divorce Act*

Uniform Premarital Agreement Act

Uniform Marriage Evasion Act

Uniform Divorce Recognition Act

*The Defense of Marriage Act* (P.L. 104-199)

*The 1994 Violence Against Women Act* (P. L. 103-322)

The Gun Control Act of 1994(P. L. 103-322)

The Federal Domestic Violence Laws and the Enforcement of These Laws

(<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/ffc/chapter5/chapter5.html>)

*Age Discrimination in Employment Act* (P.L. 90-202)

*The Americans with Disabilities Act* (P. L. 101-336)

*The Social Security Act* (42 U.S.C. Section 1396 et seq.)

National Senior Citizen Law Center (<http://www.nslc.org/>)

*The Code of Alabama 1975* Title 30, Title 13, and Title 22