

Guide to Virginia Legal Information Resources*

General Legal and Self-Help Titles for the Public and Self-Represented Litigants

Introduction

Sometimes, people representing themselves in legal matters turn to public libraries to meet their legal information needs. In response, the Virginia Association of Law Libraries Access to Justice Committee has compiled a list of legal information resources covering topics as varied as incorporating a business, contesting a traffic ticket, researching health law, obtaining social security, renting a dwelling, buying a house, and writing a will. This list of resources does not constitute legal advice or answers to questions of law. However, this list contains resources for librarians seeking items for their legal collections and independent researchers seeking legal information. While resources that are national in scope are included, the Committee has focused on Virginia legal information. Materials of Virginia Legal Aid, the Virginia Bar Association, the Virginia State Courts, and the Virginia State Bar are featured throughout. Self-help materials published by Nolo Press are heavily represented due to their practical nature and target audience of laypeople. Even still, the Committee recognizes that in some cases, a list of resources, access to an Internet connection, and self-help legal books are not what some library patrons seek. Some library patrons seek legal advice and legal representation which librarians are prohibited from providing. For these patrons, three resources may be useful:

- The Virginia State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service
<https://vlrs.community.lawyer/>
- The Virginia Access to Justice Commission's Court Self-Help website
<https://selfhelp.vacourts.gov/> and
- The Virginia State Bar's Free Legal Answers
<https://virginia.freelegalanswers.org/>

While a library cannot be all things to all people, it can accomplish its mission to serve as a place where a variety of information, including legal information may be found.

*This research guide was compiled by the following members of the Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL) Access to Justice Committee: Kimball Boone (Law Librarian, Wahab Public Law Library), Sam Cabo (Digital Resources Librarian, University of Richmond School of Law), Patricia Petroccione (Librarian, Walter T. McCarthy Law Library, Arlington County Courthouse), Latia Ward (Research Librarian, University of Virginia School of Law), and Gail Warren (State Law Librarian, Virginia State Law Library). The VALL Access to Justice Committee maintains the *Guide* and the most current versions of the *Guide* are available at the Virginia Judicial System website (<https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/library/home.html>) and the Virginia Association of Law Libraries website (<https://www.valawlibraries.org/>) under the "Public Resources" tab.

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Legal Research and Citation

- How to Research a Legal Problem: A Guide for Non-Lawyers (American Association of Law Librarians, 2022)
 - https://www.aallnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/HowToResearchLegalProblemFinal_032022.pdf
- Research Guides (Law Library of Congress)
 - <https://www.loc.gov/research-centers/law-library-of-congress/researcher-resources/research-guides/>
 - These instructional guides cover multiple topics:
 - Guide to Law Online: Virginia (Last update, 2021)
 - <https://guides.loc.gov/law-us-virginia>
 - Municipal Codes: A Beginner’s Guide (Last update, 2021)
 - <https://guides.loc.gov/municipal-codes>
 - How to Find Free Case Law Online (Last update, 2021)
 - <https://guides.loc.gov/free-case-law>
 - Legal Drafting: A Beginner’s Guide (Last Updated, 2022)
 - <https://guides.loc.gov/legal-drafting/introduction>
- Introduction to Basic Legal Citation (Cornell Legal Information Institute, 2020)
 - <https://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/>
- A Layperson’s Guide to Legal Research and Self-help Law Books (New England LawPress, 2019)

- <https://www.worldcat.org/title/laypersons-guide-to-legal-research-and-self-help-law-books/oclc/1086672398>
- Rules of Supreme Court of Virginia (VA Courts, various updates)
 - <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf>
Includes general rules applicable to all proceedings, practice and procedures in civil and criminal actions, pretrial procedures, and more.
- Virginia Courts information pamphlets including high-level information on jurisdiction and procedures
 - Court of Appeals (2021)
 - https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/cav/cav_info.pdf
 - Circuit Courts (2021)
 - <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/circuit/circuitinfo.pdf>
 - General District Courts (2021)
 - <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/gd/gdinfo.pdf>
 - Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (2020)
 - <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/jdr/jdrinfo.pdf>
- Virginia Law School research guides:
 - William and Mary Wolf Law Library
 - <https://law.wm.edu/library/research/researchguides/virginia/>
 - George Mason University Law Library
 - <https://www.law.gmu.edu/library/freelegalresearch>
 - University of Richmond Law Library
 - https://law-richmond.libguides.com/Muse_Guides_Directory
 - University of Virginia School of Law Library
 - <https://libguides.law.virginia.edu/researchguide>
 - Washington and Lee University School of Law
 - <https://libguides.wlu.edu/law>
- Legal Research: How to find and understand the law (Nolo, 2021)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1266530387>
- United States Government Manual

- <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/GOVMAN>
- Nutshell Series (West Academic, various publication dates)
Concise summaries and introductions to 150+ fields of law or legal topics
 - WorldCat listings
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/search?q=ti%3A%22in+a+nutshell%22+AND+pb%3A%22West+Academic%22>
 - Publisher listings
 - <https://www.westacademic.com/series/Nutshells>

Encyclopedias and Dictionaries

- Glossary (American Bar Association)
 - https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_services/flh-home/flh-glossary/
- Glossary of Legal Terms (United State Courts)
 - <https://www.uscourts.gov/glossary>
- The Law Dictionary
 - <https://thelawdictionary.org/legal-dictionary/>
- Free Law Dictionary
 - <https://www.freelawdictionary.org/>
- Law.com Legal Dictionary Legal Dictionary
 - <https://dictionary.law.com/>
- Merriam-Webster's Law Dictionary
 - <https://www.merriam-webster.com/legal>
- Nolo's Encyclopedia of Everyday Law (Nolo, 2020)
 - <https://worldcat.org/en/title/1149540135>
- Your Little Legal Companion (Nolo, 2009)
 - <https://worldcat.org/en/title/1036928710>
- Wex, Cornell Legal Information Institute's community-built, freely available legal dictionary and legal encyclopedia
 - <https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex>

- Michie's jurisprudence of Virginia and West Virginia: a complete treatise of Virginia and West Virginia law
 - <https://worldcat.org/en/title/10778549>

General Virginia Research – Case Law and Statutes

- Code of Virginia, 1950. With provisions for subsequent pocket parts. Annotated (print)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/3075315>
- Code of Virginia, Legislative Information System
 - <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/>
- Cases decided in the Supreme Court of Virginia (print)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/3473446>
- Supreme Court of Virginia and Court of Appeals of Virginia Opinions
 - <https://www.vacourts.gov/opinions/home.html>

Directories

- Virginia Public Law Libraries (Directory)
 - https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/library/virginia_public_lib.html
- Findlaw.com's Virginia Lawyers and Law Firms Near You
 - <https://lawyers.findlaw.com/lawyer/state/virginia>
- Legal Directories: The Legal Search Engine
 - <https://www.legaldirectories.com/Default.aspx>
- Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory
 - <https://www.martindale.com/>

Referrals (local legal service providers and bar associations)

- Virginia Free Legal Answers
 - <https://virginia.freelegalanswers.org/>

- LawHelp.org
 - <https://www.lawhelp.org/>
Find legal aid and pro bono organizations in your state
- Lawyer Referral Directory (American Bar Association)
 - https://www.americanbar.org/groups/lawyer_referral/resources/lawyer-referral-directory/
Find state and local bar associations
- VALegalAid.org Find Legal Help
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/find-legal-help>
- Virginia Lawyer Referral Service (Virginia Bar Association)
 - <https://vlrs.community.lawyer/>
Fee-based service
- Virginia Bar Association referrals
 - https://www.vba.org/page/referrals_complaints/
Statewide, regional, and free resources
- VA Access to Justice Commission
 - <https://selfhelp.vacourts.gov/node/5/find-lawyer/>
Includes help for finding a free lawyer
- Help for the elderly, persons with disabilities, members of the military, and veterans
 - American Bar Association
 - https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_services/flh-home/flh-particular-groups/
 - Virginia American Civil Liberties Union
 - https://acluva.org/sites/default/files/aclu_resource_one-pager_final.pdf
Resource contacts for patrons seeking assistance with housing, immigration, and employment issues, in addition to lawyer referral and legal aid information.

Forms

There is no uniform "official" set of forms for use in all of Virginia's courts. In addition, any requirements for terms that need to be included, format and appearance of a document filed at a court can vary from one local court to another, so it is very important to advise self-represented litigants to check with the clerk of court in the jurisdiction where the form will be filed to determine their local rules. Many attorneys use a generic form (from a formbook set), check with the clerk of court to determine what local/special requirements are in place for that type of form, and then tailor the generic form for use in that particular locality.

Commercially published sets of formbooks are available at libraries throughout Virginia. One might take a look at the set titled Virginia Forms, published by Lexis/Nexis (<https://worldcat.org/en/title/4307841>) as well as other Virginia-specific legal publications such as *Virginia Family Law: with Forms*, and the series of books published by the Virginia CLE. The Library of Virginia provides access to *Gale Legal Forms Online* to all public libraries in the state. Please check your local library's website for access. You can find your local public library in the Virginia Public Library Directory (<https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/libraries.asp>).

Forms are available at the following websites and researchers should select their own forms or consult with an attorney:

- Virginia Judiciary website
 - <https://www.vacourts.gov/forms/home.html>
Selected forms are available for the four levels of courts in Virginia
- Virginia Judicial System Court Self-Help website
 - <https://selfhelp.vacourts.gov/node/28/find-form>
In addition to the "Forms" tab, access to forms is available within the topics covered
- Virginialegalaid.org

- <https://www.valegalaid.org/self-help-forms>
Forms are available for specific types of actions
- 101 Forms for Personal Use (Nolo)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1119618768>
- Legal Forms for Everyone (Allworth Press, distributed by Simon & Schuster)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1089914315>

Research Material (by subject area)

Business Law

- Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC, Business Resources)
 - <https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Businesses>
 - Start a New Business
 - <https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/New-Business-Resources>
 - Manage Your Business
 - <https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Maintaining-Your-Business>
 - Forms & Fees
 - <https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Forms-and-Fees>
 - Business FAQs
 - <https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Business-FAQs>
- Virginia Business OneStop (VA Dept of Small Business & Supplier Diversity)
 - <https://bos.sbsd.virginia.gov/Home>
- Check the Local Government Tool for information on the licenses and permits required to do business in your locality (VA.gov)
 - <https://www.virginia.gov/local-government/>
- Virginia Contract Law (Virginia CLE, 2020)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1135328998>
- Corporations and Partnerships in Virginia (Virginia CLE, 2020)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1231516093>
- Virginia Business Torts (Virginia CLE, 2019)

- <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1090798560>
- Contracts: The Essential Business Desk Reference (Nolo, 2021)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/search?q=nolo+contracts+desk+reference&date+Published=2018-2022>
- Incorporate Your Business: A Step-by-Step Guide to Forming a Corporation in Any State (Nolo, 2021)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1296725427>
- Starting & Building a Nonprofit: A Practical Guide (Nolo, 2021)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1184122676>

Civil Procedure

- Virginia’s Court System (VA Courts)
 - <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/home.html>
- Diagram of Virginia’s Judicial System (VA Courts)
 - https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/orgchart_jud_system.pdf
- “Have You Been Sued in General District Court?” pamphlet (Legal Services of Northern VA)
 - https://www.lsnv.org/download/library/Pamphlet_Have_You_Been_Sued_GDC.pdf
- Local General District Court contact information (VA Courts)
 - <https://www.vacourts.gov/directories/dist.pdf>
- General District Court Civil Forms (VA Courts)
 - <https://www.vacourts.gov/forms/district/civil.html>
- Virginia Small Claims Court Procedures pamphlet (VA Courts, 2020)
 - https://www.vacourts.gov/resources/small_claims_court_procedures.pdf
- Everybody’s Guide to Small Claims Court (Nolo, 2022)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1305030682>
- Federal Courts in a Nutshell (West Academic, 2021)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1260664451>

- How to Win Your Personal Injury Claim (Nolo, 2021)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1256588067>
- Nolo's Deposition Handbook
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1313444509>
- Nolo's Represent Yourself in Court: How to Prepare & Try a Winning Case
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1299378401>
- Civil Discovery in Virginia (Virginia CLE 2021)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1258387327>
- Virginia Civil Practice Forms (Virginia CLE 2021)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1249030414>
- Virginia Practice: Civil Discovery (Thomson Reuters 2022-2023)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1053537958>

Civil Rights

- Restoration of Rights (Virginia Secretary of the Commonwealth)
 - <https://www.restore.virginia.gov/>
- Check Status of your Civil Rights
 - <https://solutions.virginia.gov/RestorationOfRights/Search>
- Request a Copy of your Grant Order
 - <https://solutions.virginia.gov/RestorationOfRights/grantrequest/grantrequest>
- Request Your Rights Be Restored
 - <https://solutions.virginia.gov/RestorationOfRights/Search>
- Printable contact form
 - <https://www.restore.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/restoration-of-rights/pdf/Restoration-of-Rights-Contact-Form-3-16-2021.pdf>
- Information about petitioning a Circuit Court for approval of the Right to Register to Vote (VA Courts, 2015)
 - <https://www.vacourts.gov/forms/circuit/cc1402.pdf>

- Petition for Approval of the Right to Be Eligible to Register to Vote (VA Courts, 2000)
 - <https://www.vacourts.gov/forms/circuit/cc1403.pdf>
- Applications for a vital record (for example, a birth certificate)
 - <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/vital-records/applications-for-a-vital-record/>
- Office of Civil Rights (Attorney General of Virginia)
 - <https://www.oag.state.va.us/citizen-resources/civil-rights>
Links to state, federal, and local agencies, contact information, complaint forms, and guides regarding discrimination
- Know Your Rights guides (Virginia American Civil Liberties Union)
 - <https://www.acluva.org/en/know-your-rights>
Topical overviews and “What to Do” guides covering police practices, harassment, discrimination, free speech, voting, and more.
- Virginia ACLU, <https://www.acluva.org/en/get-help> — The Virginia American Civil Liberties Union only accepts complaints regarding civil liberties violations that occurred in Virginia. All requests for legal assistance must be submitted in writing by mail or through an online form: <https://www.acluva.org/en/online-intake-form>
- Legal Guide for Lesbian & Gay Couples (Nolo, 2020)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1156319470>

Consumer / Bankruptcy / Foreclosure / Tax

- Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC): Consumers
 - <https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Consumers>
- Consumer Protection (Virginia Attorney General)
 - <https://www.oag.state.va.us/consumer-protection/>
- Virginia Legal Aid
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/>
- Consumer Rights, topics, and forms
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/issues/consumer>

- Debtor's Rights, topics, and forms
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/issues/debtors-rights>
- Bankruptcy resources
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/issues/debtors-rights/bankruptcy>
- Foreclosure resources
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/issues/debtors-rights/foreclosure-prevention-1>
- Virginia Consumer Protection Act (Code of Virginia)
 - <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacodepopularnames/virginia-consumer-protection-act/>
- Credit Repair: Improve and Protect Your Credit (Nolo, 2017)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1020700358>
- NCLC Digital Library (National Consumer Law Center, various publications dates)
 - <https://library.nclc.org/>

This is a fee-based resource.

The NCLC is a non-profit dedicated to helping consumers, their advocates, and public policy makers use consumer laws on behalf of low-income and vulnerable Americans seeking economic justice.
- Chapter 13 Bankruptcy: Keep Your Property and Repay Debts Over Time (Nolo, 2022)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1299274310>
- How to File for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy (Nolo, 2022)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1287254449>
- The New Bankruptcy: Will It Work for You? (Nolo, 2022)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1285486018>
- The Foreclosure Survival Guide (Nolo, 2021 8th Ed.)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1303956029>
- Every Airbnb Host's Tax Guide (Nolo, 2022)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1298597754>
- Stand Up to the IRS (Nolo, 2021)

- <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1220972933>

Construction Law

- Construction Law in a Nutshell (West Academic)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/1117339827>
- Virginia Construction Law Deskbook (Virginia CLE 2019)
<https://www.worldcat.org/title/1126569834>

Criminal Law

- Virginia DUI Law (Thomson Reuters 2022-2023)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/496817065>
- DUI Defense in Virginia (Virginia CLE 2020)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1249448298>
- Defense of Serious Traffic Cases in Virginia (Virginia CLE 2022)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1200849619>
- Virginia Criminal Practice Forms (Virginia CLE 2021)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1231986639>
- Defending Criminal Cases in Virginia (Virginia CLE 2020)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1003716372>
- Beat Your Ticket: Go to Court & Win (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/41478009>
- Criminal Law: A Desk Reference (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/773304010>
- Criminal Law: The Essentials (Oxford University Press)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/964290658>
- Criminal Law Handbook: Know Your Rights, Survive the System (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/1295095696>
- Prisoner's Self-Help Litigation Manual (Oxford University Press)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/729242946>

Elder Law

- Elder Law in Virginia, Virginia CLE Publications 2021
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1231991399>
- Elder Law by Virginia Legal Aid
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/issues/elder-law>
- Guardian and Conservator Pamphlet
 - https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/circuit/resources/guardian_conservator_pamphlet.pdf
- The Fundamentals of Guardianship: What Every Guardian Should Know (American Bar Association)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/962172127>
- IRAs, 401(k)s & Other Retirement Plans (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/43998482>
- Long-Term Care (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/870983655>

Employment Law

- Employment Law by Virginia Legal Aid
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/issues/employment>
- Employment Law in Virginia (Virginia CLE Publications 2020)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1157282799>
- Virginia Employment Practices and Forms Virginia CLE Publications 2015
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/905420892>
- Create Your Own Employee Handbook (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/812247420>
- Dealing With Problem Employees (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/1266323051>
- Employer's Legal Handbook (Nolo)

- <https://worldcat.org/title/1114509978>
- The Essential Guide to Family & Medical Leave (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/1220972728>
- Working for Yourself: Law & Taxes for Independent Contractors, Freelancers & Gig Workers of All Types (Nolo)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1321911313>
- Your Rights in the Workplace: An Employee's Guide to Fair Treatment (Nolo)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1029847914>
- The Employment Law Guide: Employee Rights and Employer Responsibilities in Virginia (Virginia CLE 2021)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1249442335>

Family Law

- Virginia Family Law: A Systematic Approach (Virginia CLE Publications 2020)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1200849403>
- Virginia Family Law Trial Handbook: Pleadings, Evidence, and Strategies (Virginia CLE Publications 2021)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1258690008>
- Virginia Practice Series: Family Law: Theory, Practice and Forms (Thomson Reuters, updated annually)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/52832765>
- Adoption Procedures and Forms: A Guide for Virginia Lawyers (Virginia CLE Publications 2019)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1117714449>
- Domestic Law by Virginia Legal Aid
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/issues/family-and-domestic-and-sexual-violence>
- Divorce After 50 (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/1262693037>

- Divorce and Money (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/24318231>
- Divorce Without Court: A Guide to Mediation & Collaborative Divorce (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/1220972707>
- A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/1298596764>
- Making It Legal: A Guide to Same-Sex Marriage, Domestic Partnerships & Civil Unions (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/1005195371>
- Nolo's Essential Guide to Child Custody & Support (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/1225070241>
- Nolo's Essential Guide to Divorce (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/1322256972>

Health Law

- Health Law Research Guide by Virginia Commonwealth University
 - <https://guides.library.vcu.edu/c.php?q=47572&p=297725>
- Virginia Laws Related to Health Care by the Virginia Bar Association
 - https://www.vba.org/page/va_health_care_laws
- Healthcare Decisions Day by the Virginia State Bar
 - https://vsb.org/Site/Site/05_News-and-resources/healthcare-decisions.aspx

Immigration Law

- Becoming a U.S. Citizen: A Guide to the Law, Exam, & Interview (Nolo)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/815978924>
- Essentials of Immigration Law by Richard A. Boswell, American Immigration Lawyers Association

- <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1193566711>
- How to Get a Green Card by Ilona M Bray; Loida Nicolas Lewis; Kristina Gasson; Ruby Lieberman (Nolo)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1242944884>
- U.S. Immigration Made Easy by Ilona M Bray; Nolo
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1260102243>
- National Immigration Legal Services Directory (Virginia) by Immigration Advocates Network
 - <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/search?state=VA>
- Virginia Organizations by ImmigrationLawHelp.org
 - <https://www.immigrationlawhelp.org/search?state=VA>
- Immigration Websites and Resources by Virginia Department of Social Services
 - https://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/ona/immigrant_services/websites_and_resources.cgi
- Immigration Fraud by Virginia State Bar
 - https://vsb.org/Site/Site/03_Legal-Help/immigration-fraud.aspx
Provides an overview of what the public can do to protect themselves from immigration consultant fraud and how to report such fraud.
- Immigration Law Essentials for Virginia Practitioners (Virginia CLE 2021)
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/1249442035>

Intellectual Property Law

- Intellectual property law in Virginia (Virginia CLE 2018)
 - <https://worldcat.org/en/title/1037150133>
- Getting Permission (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/1299377858>
- Patent, Copyright & Trademark: An Intellectual Property Desk Reference (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/1119619530>

- Patent It Yourself: Your Step-by-Step Guide to Filing at the U.S. Patent Office (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/1347243483>
- The Public Domain (Nolo)
 - <https://worldcat.org/title/45795674>

Landlord / Tenant

- Virginia Landlord/Tenant Handbook by Office of Housing Services; Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/14340305>
 - <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/Docx/landlord-tenant/2021%20landlord-tenanthandbook.pdf>
- Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act and Handbook
 - <https://www.ezlandlordforms.com/documents/virginia-landlord-tenant-act--handbook-9986/>
- Every Landlord's Legal Guide by Janet Portman; Marcia Stewart; Ann O'Connell (Nolo)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1322235221>
- Every Landlord's Tax Deduction Guide by Stephen Fishman (Nolo)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1311524392>
- Every Tenant's Legal Guide by Janet Portman; Marcia Stewart; Ann O'Connell; Nolo
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1305517631>
- Leases and Rental Agreements: Essential Rental Forms Every Landlord Needs by Janet Portman; Ann O'Connell (Nolo)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1267597097>
- Renter's Rights by Janet Portman
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1303929026>
- Legal Topics: Landlords & Tenants (Nolo)

- <https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/landlords>
- Housing by Virginia Legal Aid
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/issues/housing>
Covers topics such as evictions, landlord and tenant issues, housing, and landlord tenant rights amid COVID-19, etc.
- Landlord-Tenant Handbook (Thomson Reuters (2022-2023))
 - <https://www.worldcat.org/title/54806863>

Property Law

- Home Buying Basics in Virginia by Ilona Bray
 - <https://www.lawyers.com/legal-info/research/virginia/buying-a-house-in-virginia.html>
- Buying a Home in Virginia by Joint Base Langley-Eustis Law Center
 - <https://www.jble.af.mil/Portals/46/Documents/Units/Air-Force-Units/Legal/Buying%20a%20Home%20in%20Virginia.pdf?ver=2017-04-25-154913-393>
- Housing by Virginia Legal Aid
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/issues/housing>
Covers topics such as homeownership, national mortgage settlement, foreclosure prevention, etc.
- How to Buy a Home in Virginia 2022 Homebuyers' GUIDE by Where To Live in Northern Virginia (Abraham Walker)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwoLC28daW8>
- A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
 - https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/media/vdotviriniagov/doing-business/technical-guidance-and-support/right-of-way-and-utilities/A_Guide_for_Property_Owners_and_Tenants.pdf

Provides an overview of when the VDOT acquires land from private property owners.

- Before You Buy: HOA Legal Issues by the Virginia State Bar
 - https://vsb.org/Site/Site/05_News-and-resources/pubs/before-you-buy.aspx
- Neighbor Law: Fences, Trees, Boundaries & Noise by Emily Doskow and Lina Guillen
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1162542496>
- The Foreclosure Survival Guide: Keep Your House or Walk Away With Money in Your Pocket by Amy Loftsgordon
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1311543877>

Social Security

- Senior Virginians Handbook by the Virginia State Bar
 - <https://www.vsb.org/Site/news/pubs/svh.aspx>
Covers topics including Social Security, Pensions, Medicare and Medicaid, Housing Issues, and more.
- Social Security Disability by Virginia Legal Aid
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/resource/social-security-disability>
- Social Security Disability/Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Working While Disabled by Virginia Legal Aid
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/resource/social-security-disability-supplemental-secur>
- Applications for a Vital Record (for example, a birth certificate)
 - <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/vital-records/applications-for-a-vital-record/>
- Nolo's Guide to Social Security Disability: Getting & Keeping Your Benefits by David A. Morton (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1336072438>

- Social Security, Medicare & Government Pensions: Get the Most Out of Your Retirement & Medical Benefits by J. L. Matthews (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1313806870>

People with Disabilities and Special Needs

- Special Education Rights by Virginia Legal Aid Society
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/files/E095B726-FCD8-81C1-17DC-A16C7ED73FFF/attachments/2944A135-2BF6-4DCD-82FE-AE4D6F9CE570/special-education-rights.pdf>
- Your Family's Special Education Rights (Revised 2013), Virginia Department of Education, Division of Special Education and Student Services
 - <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/922/638102617269200000>
- The Complete IEP Guide: How to Advocate for Your Special Ed Child by Lawrence M. Siegel (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1137735679>
- Nolo's IEP Guide: Learning Disabilities by Lawrence M. Siegel (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1285416895>
- Special Needs Trusts: Protect Your Child's Financial Future by Kevin Urbatsch (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1291390876>

Wills and Estates

- Wills in Virginia, prepared by the Trusts and Estates Section of the Virginia State Bar
 - <https://www.vsb.org/Site/news/pubs/wills-va.aspx>
- Virginia Advance Directives, prepared by the Health Law Section of the Virginia State Bar

- https://vsb.org/Site/Site/05_News-and-resources/healthcare-decisions.aspx
- Wills, prepared by the Virginia Poverty Law Center
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/resource/wills>
- Handling Decedents' Estates, by the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/files/E095B726-FCD8-81C1-17DC-A16C7ED73FFF/attachments/4912AA38-6146-4498-B0CA-A513D03C7185/decendent-estates.pdf>
- When Does Medicaid Pay For Long-Term Care? Virginia Poverty Law Center
 - <https://www.valegalaid.org/resource/when-does-medicaid-pay-for-long-term-care>
- Estate Planning Basics: What You Need to Know About Wills, Trusts & Avoiding Probate by Denis Clifford (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1322490838>
- Estate Planning in Virginia by Marie McKenney Tavernini (Virginia CLE Publications)
 - <https://worldcat.org/en/title/1083205889>
- The Executor's Guide: Settling a Loved One's Estate or Trust by Mary Randolph (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1249558874>
- Get It Together: Organize Your Records So Your Family Won't Have To by Melanie Cullen (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1299377797>
- Harrison on Wills and Administration for Virginia and West Virginia by Thomas W. Harrison and James P. Cox (Lexis Publishing)
 - <https://worldcat.org/en/title/181732093>
- Long-Term Care: How to Plan and Pay for It (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1299378207>
- Make Your Own Living Trust by Denis Clifford (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1259445492>

- Plan Your Estate by Denis Clifford (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1299378820>
- Probate Handbook by Frank O. Brown (Thomson Reuters/West)
 - <https://worldcat.org/en/title/53982946>
- The Quick & Legal Will Book by Denis Clifford (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1119619894>
 - <https://worldcat.org/en/title/1119619894>
- Special Needs Trusts: Protect Your Child’s Financial Future by Kevin Urbatsch (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1291390876>
- The Trustee’s Legal Companion by Liza Weiman Hanks and Carol Elias Zolla (Nolo Press)
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1204267936>

Publications in Other Languages

- The ABA Spanish Legal Phrasebook (American Bar Association ebook)
 - <https://worldcat.org/en/title/881887693>
- Senior Virginians handbook: legal information and resources
 - <https://www.vsb.org/Site/news/pubs/svh.aspx>
- Manual para adultos mayores de Virginia: información y recursos legales
 - <https://www.vsb.org/Site/news/pubs/svh.aspx>

Conclusion

The above list includes both print and online legal information resources pertaining to information resources on a variety of legal topics. However, this list does not constitute legal advice. Researchers should be sure to research sources that apply to their jurisdictions and those seeking legal advice should consult a qualified attorney.

To find a library nearby, visit the website Library Finder (<https://libraryfinder.org/>) or the Virginia Public Library Directory (<https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/libraries.asp>).

The most current versions of the *Guide* are available at the Virginia Judicial System website (<https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/library/home.html>) and the Virginia Association of Law Libraries website (<https://www.valawlibraries.org/>) under the “Public Resources” tab.