

Tutorial 2, Jan 12, 2026

Legal Citations

- *Neutral case citations* are citations that refer to a case, but not a specific reporter or database
 - This follows the format of <appellant> v <defendant>, <year> <court> <decision number>
 - e.g. “*R v Wood*, 2017 ONSC 3239”
 - * “R” means the Crown
 - * The first party is the appellant (the one bringing forward the case)
 - * ONSC stands for Ontario Superior Court
 - * The final number is the decision number
 - e.g. “*Advanced Process Solutions Inc v Delta-T Canada Corp*, 2011 SKCA 92”
 - * This would be civil law
 - * The first party is the applicant (bringing forward the case); the second party is the respondent/defendant
 - * SKCA stands for Saskatchewan Court of Appeals
 - Citations beginning with “R” are criminal law cases, since the Crown prosecutor is the one bringing forward the case
 - “SCR” and “SCC” refer to Supreme Court of Canada decisions
- Citations can also contain the reporter, volume, and page number, e.g. “*Edgeworth Construction Ltd v ND Lea & Associates Ltd*, [1993] 3 SCR 206”
 - 3 is the volume and 206 is the first page of the decision
 - The same case can be reported by multiple reporters, e.g. this case can also be “8 WWR 129” (where WWR is the abbreviation for Western Weekly Reports)
- Legal citations should generally be included as footnotes to show the reasoning
 - Always cite when referencing a law, quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, or when in doubt
- The McGill Guide is regarded as the authority for legal citations in Canada
- Tips for finding law:
 - Partial citations can be searched through CanLII
 - Ontario e-Laws has a summary of all the regulations under the Act
 - * CanLII also has a tab for this
 - Regulations on CanLII will link to the statute that gives it power (and a tab that shows the enabling statute)
- Citations for statutes follow the format <name>, <source> <year> <chapter/section/etc.>, e.g. “Environmental Assessment Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.18”
 - “c.” stands for chapter, “s.” stands for section
 - “RSC” stands for Revised Statute of Canada (“RSO” for revised statute of Ontario)
- For regulations use the format <name>, <province> Reg. <number>, e.g. “Engineers and Geoscientists Regulation, BC Reg 14/2021”