

# THE NEVADA REVISED STATUTES (NRS)

## The Library's NRS Collection:

The Clark County Law Library currently has sets of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) by two differing publishers. While the laws remain the same, differences in notations and indexing do exist. The preface in the first volume of each set outlines details such as abbreviations, organization, and other issues that may differ between publications.

## About the NRS:

The Nevada legislature meets every two years to enact new laws, modify old laws, and repeal outdated laws. Proposals for new laws are termed "Bills" and are available to the public on the legislature's web site at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/> prior to a session. If a bill is passed by the legislature it becomes state law, and will then be published in the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS).

The Nevada Revised Statutes now in use were created by the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the Nevada Legislature when they enacted a provision that created the Statute Revision Commission. This commission performed a comprehensive revision of the state laws beginning in 1951. The process took seven years to complete. For more information see NRS Chapter 220 "Revision of Statutes".

## Keeping Current:

Updates to the NRS are determined by the binding. If the set is in a binder, the old pages are simply removed and the new pages inserted. If the set is in a hardcover format, pamphlets and pocket parts are used to update the material.

Pamphlets are separate, smaller books that supplement a particular volume. The pamphlet will tell you on the front cover what volume it updates or supplements. Pocket parts are smaller than pamphlets and are placed at the back of the book. Always remember to check for pamphlets and pocket parts to make sure your information is current.

## Organization of the NRS

The Nevada Revised Statutes can be divided into three parts:

- Title – currently 1 through 59, these classifications are general, such as Civil Practice, Education Crimes and *Punishments*. A title is made up of several chapters.
- Chapter – the first part of a statute number, appearing before the decimal point. Chapters deal with more specific topics, such as Juries, or Holding Companies.
- Section – the second part of a statutes number, appearing after the decimal point. The section is specific to the actual law passed.

## Finding a Statute in the NRS

NRS 11.190  
|      /  
Chapter Section

To locate a specific Nevada Revised Statute number in print, look at the spines for the volume containing the needed chapter number of the statute. Once the correct volume is located, use the numbering in the upper corners of the page to locate the correct chapter and section.

For example, to locate NRS 11.190, look at the spines of the Nevada Revised Statutes to determine which volume contains chapter 11. This will be volume 1, containing Title 2 concerning Civil Practice, the broader topic. Use the page numbering on the upper corners to locate the law, making

certain to begin with the NRS number and title as some laws may cover more than one page.

Statutes are also available online through the Nevada Legislature Law Library at [www.leg.state.nv.us/law1.cfm](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/law1.cfm). To locate a specific NRS number online, select the *Table of Contents* and scroll down to the needed chapter. Selecting the chapter will open a list of the statutes within, which can be opened by selecting the NRS number.

## Searching for the Laws You Need:

If the NRS number is unavailable, the index is very useful in locating laws. Look up the topic and scan the list of statutes for the NRS number needed to look up the law. If the topic is difficult to find, it may be helpful to look at a legal dictionary or thesaurus for additional search terms. Looking at the research question from a different angle or broader point of view may also yield valuable search results.

## Annotations:

Annotations appear at the end of a statute and refer to information related to the law. These notes may refer to a variety of information including cases, other laws, or historical information. The Nevada Revised Statutes currently available online at [www.leg.state.nv.us/law1.cfm](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/law1.cfm) are not annotated.

## List of abbreviations:

Volume one of the Nevada Revised Statutes contains a list of abbreviations that are peculiar to the NRS.

## Assistance:

The Reference Desk staff is available to assist you in using the index and locating statutes, but cannot comment on laws or direct your legal research.