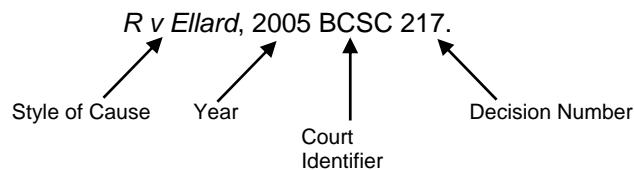


LEGAL CITATION

This Guide shows examples for the most common legal citations. It is based on the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 7th ed. (Toronto: Carswell, 2010), also known as the "*McGill Guide*", which can be found in the Reference section under call number **REF KE 259 C35 2010**.

NEUTRAL CASE CITATION

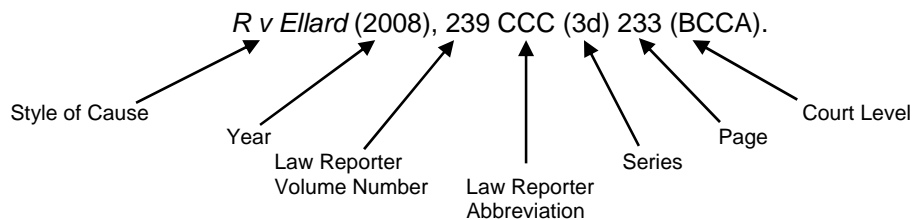
When a decision is rendered for a case, the court assigns a neutral citation. Many cases are never published in printed law reporters and will only have this neutral citation. The following is the standard formula for a neutral citation in Canada:



A neutral citation should only be used alone if no printed citation is available. If both a neutral and a printed citation are available, the neutral citation should always be followed by a citation to a print reporter.

CITING CASES FROM PRINT SOURCES

Case citations indicate where judges' written decisions have been published. The following is the standard formula for citing a case in Canada:



Style of Cause

- the names of those who were parties to the litigation; **v** is an abbreviation for **versus**; the names of the parties and the **v** are *italicized*
- Canadian executive government authority is formally vested in the Queen, hence the use of **R** for the Latin word for queen, **regina**, in legal citations

Year

- a **comma** follows parentheses, but comes before square brackets
- **(Parentheses)** indicate that the reporter volume numbering continues from year to year
- **[Square brackets]** indicate that the law reporter starts with volume 1 each year, as in:

Hopp v Lepp, [1980] 2 SCR 192.

Law Reporter Volume Number

- the majority of law reporters **use consecutive volume numbers**
- some law reporters (such as the Supreme Court Reports) use **a new sequence of volume numbers each year**; the date is critical to locating the case and is put in square brackets

Law Reporter Abbreviation, Series and Page Number

- use a standard abbreviation of the reporter's title, e.g. CCC for Canadian Criminal Cases. Some common law reporters are:
 - BCLR = British Columbia Law Reports
 - CCC = Canadian Criminal Cases
 - CR = Criminal Reports
 - CRR = Canadian Rights Reporter
 - DLR = Dominion Law Reports
 - SCR = Canada Supreme Court Reports
 - WWR = Western Weekly Reports
- The reporter series number is also abbreviated and placed in parentheses directly following the report title. The abbreviations used are (2d), (3d), (4th), (5th) etc.

Court

- One must always be able to discern **both** the jurisdiction (e.g. British Columbia) and court level (e.g. Court of Appeal) from the citation. This information is indicated at the end of the citation unless it is implicit in the title of the law reporter:

Rodriguez v British Columbia (Attorney General), [1993] 3 WWR 553 (BCCA).

Explanation: the above is a case from the Western Weekly Reports (WWR). It is **not** obvious from the title of the law reporter that the decision was handed down by the British Columbia Court of Appeal. Hence, it must be indicated as (BCCA)

Hopp v Lepp, [1980] 2 SCR 192.

Explanation: the above is a case from the Supreme Court Reports (SCR). It is clear from the law reporter title that this case was heard by the Supreme Court of Canada. It is not necessary to list the court in parentheses at the end of the citation.

CITING CASES FROM ELECTRONIC SERVICES

Published Judgments and Judgments with a Neutral Citation only

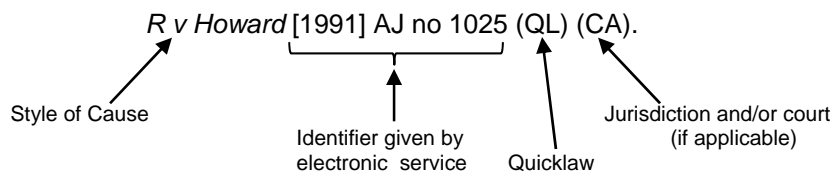
Published Judgment only: *R v Sharpe* (1997), 35 WCB (2nd) 178 (BCSC) (available on QL)

Neutral Citation only: *R v Pickton*, 2005 BCSC 836 (available on QL)

Neutral Citation and Published Judgment:: *R v Latimer*, 2001 SCC 1, [2001] 1 SCR 3 (available on QL)

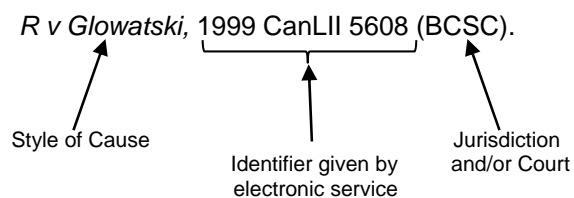
Unpublished Judgments with No Neutral Citation

Quicklaw:



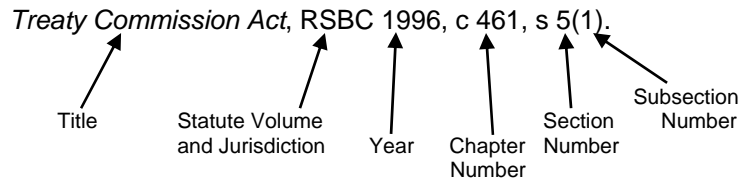
- **Jurisdiction and/or Court:** As in the case of printed reporters, one must always be able to discern both the jurisdiction and the court level from the citation. In the above example, it is clear from the Identifier that the jurisdiction is Alberta (AJ stands for Alberta Judgments), but the court level is not clear. Hence, it must be included in parentheses (CA stands for Court of Appeal)

CanLII:



CITING STATUTES FROM PRINT RESOURCES

The standard form for citing statutes in Canada is as follows:



Title

- Italicize the title and follow it with a non-italicized comma

Statute Volume and Jurisdiction

- **Revised Statutes or Regulations:** Statutes are published at the end of each parliamentary session. Periodically, all existing statutes are put into one complete set, the *Revised Statutes*. The Statutes of British Columbia were last revised in 1996, the Statutes of Canada in 1985. Cite as:

RSB 1996 *Revised Statutes of British Columbia 1996*

RSC 1985 *Revised Statutes of Canada 1985*

- **Annual statutes:** Between the publications of Revised Statutes, annual statute volumes are published. These contain both new and amending statutes which have received Royal Assent during the past year. Cite as:

SBC 2001 *Statutes of British Columbia 2001*

SC 1991 *Statutes of Canada 1991*

Chapter, Section and Subsection Numbers

- Include the specific chapter number which the statute has been assigned in the volume
- If necessary, include a reference to the section(s) and subsection(s) you are discussing; abbreviate section or subsection to “s” and sections or subsections to “ss”

CITING OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC VERSIONS OF STATUTES

Refer to an official electronic version of a statute like you would to a print version, e.g.:

Parental Responsibility Act, SBC 2001, c 45.