Research in Three Steps

Help ensure your research is thorough and results are relevant by following these three steps.

The Lexis Advance® search box points you to the most relevant supporting authority for your research using facts and legal terms as easy as 1—2—3 or Search—Category—Filter. It’s no harder than shopping online.

SEARCH—CATEGORY—FILTER

If you’ve searched online for merchandise, you already know how to conduct legal research with Lexis Advance. You use the same process in legal research: search, category, filter. This easy, three-step process will help you quickly find the most relevant supporting authority.

1. Search Broadly

Start with a broad search of all Lexis Advance content so you will have a complete set of results including cases, statutes, secondary materials and other important sources for your research assignment. Create your initial search using these three major components: party, cause of action and situation.

Take your research to the next level. Below the Red Search Box select Advanced Search or Tips to find terms and connectors for better and faster results. Lexis Advance detects whether you are using a natural language search or a Boolean (terms & connectors) search to make research even easier.

- **SEARCH**: parent negligent entrustment car accident
- **CATEGORY**: Results for: parent negligent entrustment car accident
- **FILTER**: Search Term Maps show which documents are most relevant and where your search terms are clustered using color-coded data visualization.
- **Ravel™ View**: shows a visual of how case results are related in four ways—relevance, jurisdiction, chronology and number of times cited.

PARTY (FACT)  CAUSE OF ACTION (TERM OF ART)  SITUATION (FACT)

parent negligent entrustment car accident
2. Select a Category

Select a source category by clicking the pull-down menu on the left of your results page. Start your research with Secondary Materials to gain a broad understanding of the cause of action and its requirements, which will help you focus on what you’re looking for when you switch to the case-law category.

A. Case-law coverage dates back to the 1700s.

B. Fully annotated statutes show the law, plus important decisions interpreting it. Full-text bill tracking reports and the Congressional Record make it easy to research complex legislative histories.

C. Secondary Materials are different types of persuasive authority used by the legal community to gain a broad understanding of an issue:

- **Treatises** are practitioners’ handbooks. Get up-to-date analysis and practical advice from reliable authorities that courts and practitioners rely on. Treatises contain many citations to relevant primary and secondary authority—a great place to begin your research.

- **Law Reviews & Journals** contain peer-reviewed articles with extensive research and analysis on the legal issues they cover. Find them in more than 928 law reviews and journals on Lexis Advance.

- **Restatements** are concise statements of the law that help you better understand the legal concepts.

D. Briefs, Pleadings and Motions are searchable on Lexis Advance to provide you with sample documents to support your drafting. See what other attorneys drafted on a similar issue.

E. Dockets: Quickly search the industry’s largest collection of court dockets and documents—more than 218 million.

3. Filter to Refine Results

Narrow down your results using Lexis Advance filters to meet your criteria. Filters vary by source and appear on the left side of your search screen below content categories. (Case filters are shown.)

Combine a few filters to quickly find the best, relevant authority for your research.

To pre-filter results, by jurisdiction or topic, for instance, click **Search: Everything** in the Red Search Box and select your options before you run your search.

Always Shepardize®

Use the same three steps to help ensure you aren’t missing any relevant authority. Remember:

*Shepardize—Category—Filter.*

**Shepardize:** Click the **Shepard’s Signal™** indicator at the top of every case to find more authority.

**Category:** Click Citing Decisions to the left of the screen for a list of citing cases, or **Other Citing Sources** to find citing statutes or secondary sources.

**Filter:** Use the **Analysis** filters to find more supporting or distinguishing cases and the **Headnotes** filter to find more cases with similar law.

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Get help with legal research:

CLICK ON RESOURCES AT LEXISNEXIS.COM/LAWSCHOOL
GET 24/7 RESEARCH SUPPORT AT 800.45.LEXIS (800.455.3947)
USE LIVE CHAT SUPPORT FROM 8 A.M. – 1 A.M.