

Comparing State Statutes

Using 50 State Surveys on Westlaw

You will find it easy to compare the statutory law of one state with that of another by using the surveys in the 50 State Surveys database (SURVEYS) on Westlaw. Each survey, created by West attorney-editors, includes a summary of a selected legal topic and applicable state statutes, including links to the statutes' full text. In addition, many surveys include an easy-to-read table in PDF that provides state-by-state comparisons of the key legal issues in the survey.

Retrieving a Survey

Surveys can be retrieved in several ways.

- Access the SURVEYS database. At the Search page, do one of the following:
 - Click **Table of Contents** at the top of page. The Table of Contents page for the database is displayed (Figure 1). Browse the available topics by clicking the plus (+) and minus (-) symbols. To display a survey, click its name.
 - Type a Terms and Connectors query or Natural Language description for your issue in the *Search* text box and click **Search Westlaw**. For example, type a Natural Language description such as **medical malpractice statute of limitations**.
- While viewing a state statute, click **50 State Surveys** on the Links tab, if available, to display surveys citing the statute. To display a survey, click its number.
- While viewing a survey, click **Table of Contents** in the left frame.
- While viewing the tabbed 50 State Surveys page, click a topic in the right frame. For example, click **Whistleblower Statutes** under *Statutes: Employment*.

For assistance using Westlaw, call **1-800-WESTLAW** (1-800-937-8529).

For free reference materials, visit west.thomson.com/westlaw/guides.

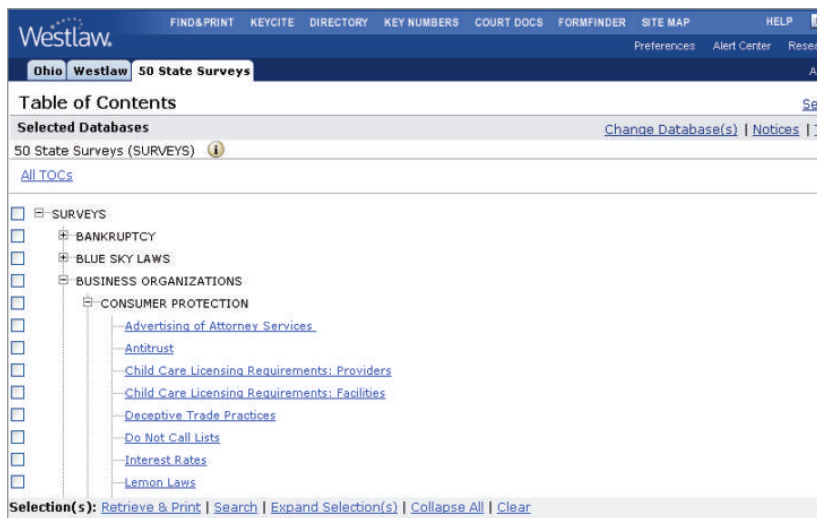


Figure 1. SURVEYS table of contents

Comparing State Statutes

Each survey contains a summary of the legal topic (Figure 2), followed by a list of each state's relevant statutes. Click the PDF icon, if available, to view a table listing key statutory provisions for each state with citations to the appropriate statutes (Figure 3).

Figure 2. Do Not Call Lists survey

BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS
CONSUMER PROTECTION
DO NOT CALL LISTS (STATUTES)
Thomson Reuters/West April 2009

In 1991, Congress passed the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, which empowered the Federal Trade Commission and Federal Communication Commission to take action to regulate the volume of unwanted telemarketing calls going into the homes of residential telephone subscribers. Both the Federal Trade Commission (see 16 CFR 310.1 et seq.) and the Federal Communication Commission (see 47 CFR 64.1200) have promulgated rules to implement the federal legislation. Under these regulations, which establish a national Do Not Call Registry, individual telephone subscribers can opt out of being contacted by telemarketers. Following the federal legislation, many states have also enacted statutes addressing acceptable practices for telemarketing and commercial telephone solicitations. This table identifies each state's relevant telephone solicitations act. These acts typically include telemarketer registration requirements, restrictions on the manner in which telemarketing is conducted, and penalties for violations. State "Do Not Call" statutes are noted where available, as are sections dealing with the use of automatic dialing devices for commercial purposes. This table does not address commercial solicitations by way of facsimile machine or electronic mail messages.

Table 1: Business Organizations – Consumer Protection – Do Not Call Lists

State	Do Not Call List Requirements	Fees Associated with Do Not Call Lists	Penalties Associated with Violation of Do Not Call Requirements	Exceptions to Do Not Call Restrictions
Alabama	No person or entity may make or cause to be made any telephone solicitation to the telephone line of any	The commission shall have the authority to charge a residential subscriber a fee every two years payable to the	The commission may commence proceedings in the circuit court may include, issuance of a cease and desist order	None

Figure 3. PDF table

KEYCITE INFORMATION

To access KeyCite® information for the statutes listed in the survey, click the KeyCite status flag next to a statute's citation, if available. For an explanation of the KeyCite status flags, click **KeyCite** at the top of any page. To retrieve the full text of a statute, click its citation.

Adding the Tabbed 50 State Surveys Page

To view or add the 50 State Surveys page, click **Add a Tab** at the top of any page. At the next page, click **Add Westlaw Tabs** to display a list of available tabbed pages. Click **50 State Surveys** under *General* to display the page for your current Westlaw session, or select the check box next to **50 State Surveys** and click **Add to My Tab Set** to add the page to your tabbed pages. To display the page, click its tab.