RECOGNIZING AND READING LEGAL CITATIONS MARYLAND STATE LAW LIBRARY

JANUARY 1994

BY MICHAEL S. MILLER AND STAFF

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When judges, lawyers, legal assistants and others make statements about the law, or quote directly or paraphrase from a legal publication, they must support each statement with an abbreviated reference (citation) to the cited material. Ordinarily, this "cite" is to a statute, court opinion, rule of procedure, administrative regulation or some secondary source of authority, such as a legal encyclopedia or textbook. The general purpose of the legal citation, then, is the same as a footnote in other forms of literature.

The following illustrations of forms of citations for various Maryland legal publications generally reveal what publication is being cited, where the reader can go to find that information, when the information came into existence and perhaps who wrote or was responsible for the information:

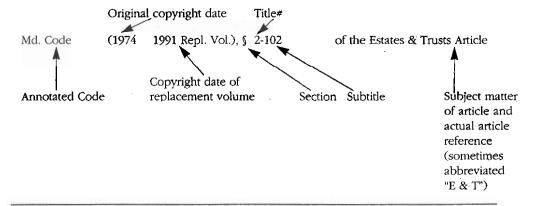
Examples of Nine Maryland Legal Citations

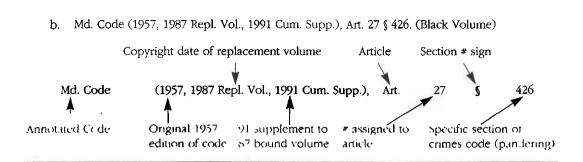
1. Reported (Published) Court Opinion:

Batson v. Shiflett, 325 Md. 684, 602 A.2d 1191 (1992). Parallel citation: Reporter abbreviation for Maryland Reports Volume Reporter abbreviation (A.2d=Atlantic Reporter®, Second Series) (decisions from the Maryland. Court of Appeals) 602 A.2d 1191 (1992)Batson v. Shiflett Md. 684 Parties to the case Page Page Date

2. Section of the Annotated Code of Maryland:

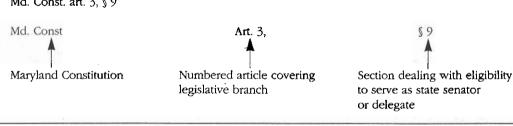
a. Md. Code (1974, 1991 Repl. Vol.), § 2-102 of the Estates & Trusts Article (Maroon Volume)





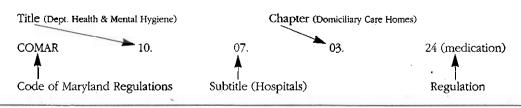
Maryland Constitution:

Md. Const. art. 3, § 9



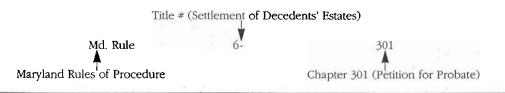
Maryland Administrative Regulations:

COMAR 10.07.03.24



5. Maryland Rules of Procedure (Court Rules):

Md. Rule 6-301

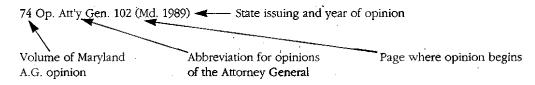


Maryland Session Laws:

1988 Md. Laws, Chap. 621

621st Act of the 1988 session 1988 Md. Laws, Chap. 621 Year law enacted Laws of Maryland

7. Maryland Attorney General Opinions:



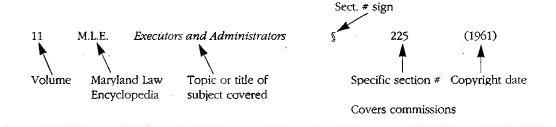
8. Maryland Legal Treatise (Textbook):

Allan J. Gibber, Gibber on Estate Administration 8 (3rd ed. 1991)



9. Legal Encyclopedia:

11 M.L.E. Executors and Administrators § 225 (1961)



10. Legal Periodical Article:

Andrew Janquitto, Insurer's Duty to Defend in Maryland, 18 U. Balt. L. Rev. 1 (1988)

