

Maine

2007 Report by Lynn Randall; 2009-10 Update by John R. Barden, Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

OFFICIAL STATUS X No change since the 2007 report	AUTHENTICATION X No change since the 2007 report
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Maine online legal resources are not official.
The disclaimer on the Maine Revised Statutes website indicates that all online legislative publications are made available “as a public service” and “reliance on any such information is at the user’s own risk.” Other online legal resources have disclaimers indicating the sources are unofficial.

Maine is not addressing the authentication of online legal resources.
The State Archivist points to the GeoArchives project, which includes documenting the authenticity of town boundary records on the Web. It appears the only discussion of authentication directed to legal publications involved court opinions, where concern was expressed with regard to the authenticity of revisions to decisions.

Has the state eliminated the print publication of any of these titles in favor of online only since the 2007 report? Maine has not made any changes in availability of print publication of statutes, rules or judicial opinions since the 2007 report.

Has the state enacted legislation guaranteeing the public’s permanent access to state online government information since the 2007 report? Maine has not enacted legislation guaranteeing the public’s permanent access to state online government information since the 2007 report.

Have courts in your state adopted a medium neutral citation system since the 2007 report? A neutral citation system was adopted by order of the Supreme Judicial Court, effective January 1, 1997 and is described in the text below.

Have there been any other significant changes to the 2007 state summary? Decisions of the Maine Supreme Court are posted to the judicial branch website on Tuesdays and

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Decisions are posted in PDF format. The information on the decisions page indicates that the decisions are subject to revision. Decisions as issued are numbered according to the neutral citation system adopted by order of the Supreme Judicial Court, effective January 1, 1997. The order requires parallel citation to both the citation-neutral version and the *official* version in the *Atlantic Reporter*. The Supreme Court website disclaimer directs users to the permanent *official* version of the decisions published in the *Atlantic Reporter*. The publisher of the *Atlantic Reporter* periodically excerpts the Maine decisions and republishes them in a more compact *Maine Reporter*, retaining the original *Atlantic Reporter* format and pagination. Each volume of the *Maine Reporter* includes a copy of the court order prescribing the citation format and providing examples.