

North Carolina

[2007 Report](#) by Marcia Baker; 2009-10 Update by Kate Irwin-Smiler, Wake Forest University School of Law

<p>OFFICIAL STATUS</p> <p>X</p> <p>No change since the 2007 report</p>	<p>AUTHENTICATION</p> <p>X</p> <p>No change since the 2007 report</p>
---	--

North Carolina online legal resources are not official.
The state's statutes, session laws, administrative code, administrative register, and court opinions are published in official print versions. All of their online counterparts have explicit disclaimers as to official status, given on their website or on the documents themselves. The disclaimers for the court opinions, as well as the North Carolina Register and the North Carolina Administrative Code, reference the print official publications, but the disclaimer for the statutes does not.

Authentication of North Carolina's government information is not a priority at this time.
One reason the state has not yet addressed these issues is that authentication is perceived as an additional step. Collecting the documents that require authentication is primary.

Has the state eliminated the print publication of any of these titles in favor of online only since the 2007 report? None of the print publications have been eliminated in favor of online version.

Has the state enacted legislation guaranteeing the public's permanent access to state online government information since the 2007 report? No legislation has guaranteed permanent public access to state online government information.

Have courts in your state adopted a medium neutral citation system since the 2007 report? The state courts have not adopted a medium neutral citation system. As of July 2009, court rules still require use of the *Uniform System of Citation*.

Have there been any other significant changes to the 2007 state summary? North Carolina Supreme Court opinions (1997–current) and Court of Appeals opinions (1996–current) are freely available on the Web. The PDF files of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals cases are labeled as “Slip Opinions” in a watermark, bear no disclaimer

identifying them as not being official. WordPerfect version of Court of Appeals cases bear no watermark or disclaimer. HTML versions of the Court of Appeal cases, on the other hand each display a header stating that in case of discrepancies between the printed and the online version, the hard copy version will be “considered authoritative.” This disclaimer refers the reader to the print *official* publication, the *North Carolina Court of Appeals Reports*. Any alterations or corrections introduced in the editorial phase of production result in the corrected version being displayed online, and previous versions are not retained on the Web. A more general disclaimer on the North Carolina Court System website refers to possible “technical inaccuracies or typographical errors,” and out-of-date information. It does not refer to the print official publications, such as the *North Carolina Court of Appeals Reports* or the *North Carolina Reports*.