

# Vermont

*2007 Report* by Paul J. Donovan, Vermont Department of Libraries; 2009-10 Update by Timothy L. Coggins, University of Richmond School of Law Library

<p>OFFICIAL STATUS</p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p>No change since the 2007 report</p>	<p>AUTHENTICATION</p> <p>✓</p> <p>No change since the 2007 report</p>
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**A state statute requires that Vermont maintain a publicly accessible database of statutes, with a seal of authenticity. Despite this strong basis for *official* status, no website appears to comply.**

*No online legal resource investigated here can be said to be official. The online version of the Vermont statutes maintained on the legislature's website gives the following notice: "The Vermont Statutes Online is an unofficial copy . . . provided as a convenience. It has NOT been edited for publication. The 'official' version . . . is online at LexisNexis Publishing." The LexisNexis version does not claim to be official.*

**The Vermont statute requiring a seal of authenticity for online statutes and the state's growing awareness of authentication issues represent important progress.**

*The Vermont General Assembly, Legislative Council is required to "maintain official computerized databases of the Vermont Statutes Annotated" and post them on the Web "with a seal of authenticity." VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 2, § 425.*

**Has the state eliminated the print publication of any of these titles in favor of online only since the 2007 report?** Vermont has not eliminated any print publications in favor of online only since the 2007 report.

**Has the state enacted legislation guaranteeing the public's permanent access to state online government information since the 2007 report?** Vermont 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?** Vermont adopted Rule 28.2. Citations of the Vermont Rules of Appellate Procedure on November 27, 2001, effective January 1, 2003. Rule 28.2 states that “The citation of any opinion of the Vermont Supreme Court issued on or after January 1, 2003, must, immediately after the title of the case, indicate the year of issuance in four digits followed by the abbreviation “VT” and must include the sequential opinion number, followed by citations to the official and unofficial print reporters.” *See* Vt. R. App. P. 28.2(b).

Vermont amended this rule on February 5, 2008, effective April 7, 2008. The amendment deals with an issue unrelated to citation; it requires “... that the party citing an unpublished judicial decision file and serve a copy of any such material cited with the paper in which it is cited.”

Rule 28.2 of the Vermont Rules of Appellate Procedure indicate that citations to Vermont Supreme Court cases must be made in the following style: *Smith v. Jones*, 2001 VT 1, ¶ 12, 169 Vt. 203, 850 A.2d 421. Notes after this section include the following comment: “Rule 28.2 incorporates for citation of cases in the Vermont Supreme Court principles of citation form proposed in the *Universal Citation Guide* published by the Committee on Citation Formats of the American Association of Law Libraries. The purpose of the *Guide* is to develop a uniform approach to citation that will be appropriate for electronic media that do not incorporate the volume and page references customary for print media.” *See* Reporter’s Notes, Vt. R. App. P. 28.2.

**Have there been any other significant changes to the 2007 state summary?** No.