

Getting the Most Out of Casemaker: Searching the State Code

by Jodi McKenzie

One of the most common questions we get at the Casemaker helpdesk is, “Can you access the state code through Casemaker?”

Absolutely! You can search the library using statute numbers, key words or phrases, or a combination of both statute numbers and key words or phrases. Let’s take a closer look at how to search the code in Casemaker.

In order to search the state code, you would enter the Georgia Casemaker Library. From here, you would locate the “Georgia Codes and Acts” link at the bottom of the Georgia Library Content page (see fig. 1). At this point you have the option to either search or browse the code.

The search mode allows you to search the current statute library using a statute number, a key word or phrase, or a combination of a statute number and key word or phrase. For example, if you wanted to find O.C.G.A. § 9-11-9, you would simply enter the number with the dashes (see fig. 2). Casemaker will not accept a search with “O.C.G.A. §.” For this example we will enter “9-11-9.” Once the number is entered, click on the target search button to begin.

The search will give you results of statutes included in 9-11-9. The second result in this example is the statute we are looking for (see fig. 3). To open the statute, simply click on the blue, underlined statute number.

You now have access to the content of the statute. You may move through the content of the statute by using the scroll bar located vertically on the right hand side of the statute. Or you also have the option to switch to the browse mode from the search mode. In the middle of the Casemaker tool bar you will see the option for search mode or browse mode. Since you started your search in the search mode, the search mode box will be highlighted. To switch to the browse mode, simply click on the browse box (see fig. 4).


The browse mode gives you the option of previous doc or next doc buttons. Clicking on the next doc button will move you forward through the statute. In this example, you would move forward from 9-11-9 to 9-11-9.1. If you continued to click on this button you would move to 9-11-9.2 then 9-11-9.3 and so on. Previous doc would move you back a page (see fig. 4).

If you do not know the exact statute that you are looking for, you can also search the library using a key word or phrase. In this example, we entered the term “land surveyors” (see fig. 5). Again, click on the search target button to begin.

The results will include all statutes that include the words land and surveyor in the content of the statute. You may then view the two-line summary given with the results to choose the statute most relevant to your issue. You would then open the statute by clicking on the blue, underlined statute number (see fig. 6).

You may also do a search using a combination of both key words and a statute number. In this example, you may add the statute number 9-11-9 to your key words. It is important to note that it is not necessary for the statute to appear in front of or behind your key words. You could have entered “9-11-9 land surveyors” to receive the same results (see fig. 7). Again, click the search target button to view your results.

In this instance, you retrieve two results that are within statute 9-11-9 that contain both the land and surveyor (see fig. 8).

Casemaker is one of the most widely used member benefits the State Bar of Georgia offers. The Georgia Codes and Acts library is just one of the many features Casemaker makes available for free. To learn more about this valuable member benefit, please look for upcoming training sessions on the Bar’s homepage under the News and Events section at www.gabar.org, or call the Casemaker helpdesk at 877-227-3509. 



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