

Are Wisconsin Administrative Decisions Online ??

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How many times have you been asked "Are Wisconsin agency decisions online?" "Are they free?" "Is there a website for ____" "Are LIRC decisions online?" The answer to these questions is a resounding YES.

Administrative decisions cover a wide variety of subjects and are issued by several agencies throughout the state. Knowing what agency is responsible for what and where can be a confusing task. The intent of this article is to provide brief overviews of several Wisconsin agency decisions websites (arranged in topical manner), provide links to the agency website/decisions and, provide a few search tips.

LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND RELATED DECISIONS:

There are several agencies that issue decisions related to labor, employment, collective bargaining and related issues.

A very good starting point is the Wisconsin **Labor Industry Relations Commission (LIRC)**, LIRC rules on appeals in three areas: **Unemployment Insurance (UI)**, **Workers Compensation (WC)** and **Equal Rights (ER)** makes these decisions available on their website at www.dwd.state.wi.us/lirc/

With respect to each of the three areas, the LIRC databases provide:

- access to 15,000 full-text LIRC UW decisions
- Approximately 219 UI court decisions summaries
- Contains approximately 700 plus full text WC decisions

- Over 500 full text ER decisions on line
- Additionally, the LIRC website provides links to decisions of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Court of Appeals decisions related to UI, WC and ER.

The database allows for keyword searching, uses standard * (asterisk) wildcard command and uses standard Boolean connectors AND, OR, AND NOT and NEAR. Additionally the database can be searched by UI decision digest number or date of decision. NOTE: Unless specified the database will search all decisions. To choose your database, from the main page choose either UI decisions, WC decisions or ER decisions

One unique feature is the ability to limit your search to the *contents of the title*. This feature allows you to use the term "@DocTitle" followed by the word/words you want to find within the document title.

For decisions or grievance awards related to labor relations, collective bargaining, there are two websites that you can search, the **Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) Decisions** badger.state.wi.us/agencies/werc/index.htm#cases_Databases_and_Digests or the State Bar of Wisconsin webpage www.wisbar.org/werc

DECISIONS:

- For WERC decisions **prior to July 1989 search** badger.state.wi.us/agencies/werc/search_pre-July_1989_decisions.html.
- For decisions from July 1988 to present search www.wisbar.org/werc/cd/index.html

The WERC databases allow for multi-file searching using the State of Wisconsin Ultra Seek search engine which provides an advanced search screen which allows you to impose

limits (i.e. "should contain", "words in title", etc.) For more search tips and information you can see badger.state.wi.us/agencies/werc/searching_werc_website.html.

GRIEVANCE/ INTEREST AWARDS:

- For interest awards **from 1972 to present search** badger.state.wi.us/agencies/werc/search_in_Interest_awards.htm and
- For grievance/interest awards from July 1988 to present search www.wisbar.org/werc/index.html

The WERC database contains files of all non-consent interest awards and is updated monthly.

If you are looking for decisions from the Wisconsin Personnel Commission (WPC) they can be still be found at pcm.state.wi.us/home/digestentry.htm.

There is a **Digest of Decisions**, which provides summaries of decisions from February 16, 1978 thru March 1, 1999 and the commission website is beginning to create direct links from cases to decisions. Decisions can be searched by Case name or subject matter. The **Subject Matter Index by levels** listing provides the subject area, the corresponding classification number and highlighted links to an expanded level of the subject index. From this expanded level, you can link out to summaries of cases on the topic of interest.

ETHICS DECISIONS

The **Wisconsin Ethics Board**, publishes annual summaries of their **Advisory Opinions**. These summaries are also available at <http://ethics.state.wi.us>. From this link click on "Forms & Publications", choose "Advisory Opinions, Digest"... (you may need to scroll down to the Advisory Opinions). The digests are arranged chronologically by year.

If your attorney or staff member is looking for formal opinion issued by the current AG Peggy Lautenschlager, please go to the Department of Justice's website at

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<http://www.doj.state.wi.us>. Individuals may also register to receive notification of AG opinions by sending their email address to Kathy Howard at howardkl@doj.state.wi.us, calling (608)226-7876 or by faxing a request to (608)267-2779.

LICENSING DECISIONS:

You can find decisions regarding professional licenses or disciplinary actions which are available at the **State of Wisconsin's Department of Regulation and Licensing** web page at <http://www.drl.state.wi.us>

The **Regulatory Digests**, under LICENSEE SERVICES, contain time sensitive information like phone numbers or contact people. There are also summaries taken from orders (see Reports of Decisions). The list of digests is broken down by Licensing board (e.g., Chiropractic examining Board) and then a listing arranged by month and date).

The *Reports of Decisions* found under LICENSEE SERVICES, are published monthly and contain disciplinary orders issued by the professional regulatory boards and the Department. The decisions are indexed by year and month and within

each decisions are indexed by respondent and by profession.

TAX DECISIONS:

The State Bar of Wisconsin provides cases, decisions and select rules of the Wisconsin Tax Appeals Commission from 1999 - available at <http://www.wisbar.org/witaxop/>.

Searchers can choose within year by case number, petitioner name, date, category. The documents can simply be opened by clicking on the docket number. If you wish to download a copy of the opinion, click on the "WP" link. (This is a compressed WP5, WP 5.1 or Microsoft Word format.)

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

The Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin posts orders and notices issued on or after Jan. 1, 1998, on its website at http://psc.wi.gov/a_erf_search/default.aspx.

Searchers are able to locate orders or notices in three (3) ways: 1) *Docket Number link*. The first part of a docket ID is the utility number; second part is the case type code; and the third part is the sequence number; 2) *Utility Name* and 3)


Specific document type.

There is also has a "Quick search for recent Orders and Notices" and Advanced search.

DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS:

Finally for agency decisions of Department of Employee Trust Funds, Department of Public Instruction, Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources, Medicaid Divestment Cases, Resource Allocation Cases, and Crime Victim Compensation Cases try the **State of Wisconsin Division of Administration, Division of Hearings and Appeals** website <http://dha.state.wi.us/home>. Here you choose the agency and the year you are interested in.

The website allows for full text searching through the use of the "Search DHA" query box at the bottom of the page. Your search results will be listed in docket number order.

So the next time you are asked "Are Wisconsin agency decisions online?" "Are they free?" "Is there a website for ____" "Are LIRC decisions online?" You can confidently say "Why, YES... yes they are." 



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WEB SITE

www.gflesch.com