Is That Legal?
Where to Turn First for Legal Reference

2016 Fall READS Conference
A Helpful Harvest: Practical Solutions for Busy Librarians
Friday, September 23
Hooksett Public Library
Is That Legal?
Proceed with Caution – but Proceed!

- **Remember!** There may not be an answer
- **Ready reference legal questions rarely exist**
- **Reframe the question** – even if it’s only to yourself
- **Revert to bibliographic instruction mode**
- **Reference is Reference is Reference**, and
- **Refer to the law library!**
Forms

Finding “a” Form is Easy
Finding “the” Form is Hard
Form Basics

- Pleadings/Litigation
  - Divorce Petition
  - Motions
  - Briefs
- Instruments/Transactional
  - Contracts
  - Leases
  - Purchase and sale agreements
- Fill-in-the blank
- Boilerplate/Sample Language
How to Search for a Form

NH court or agency form

NH-specific legal practice book

NH legal education course book (CLE)

Subject- or procedure-specific book or treatise

Legal forms compilation source (print or online)

Adapted from Oregon Legal Forms: the pyramid by Laura Orr
Disclaimers

* The form may not be correct
* The form may not cover your specific circumstances and may need to be edited
* Consult an attorney to review the form before you file/sign it

* NEVER offer advice about what to say on the form or try to explain the form
1. Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations
2. Google Scholar
3. Cornell Legal Information Institute
4. How to Research a Legal Problem
5. NH Municipal Association
6. New Hampshire Legal Aid Self-Help Guides
7. NH Bar Association: For the Public
8. NH Law About ...
10. New Hampshire Law Library