

The Central Library Bulletin

18 Bancroft Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

(845) 485-3445 / (800) 804-0092

On the Move: Fall 2007

On September 30, Adriance Memorial Library as we've known it closed its doors for the last time. On October 1, Library staff began the process of relocating to our temporary home in the former YWCA on Bancroft Road in Poughkeepsie. On October 29, Adriance Library at Bancroft Road opened its doors, and staff resumed providing library services. Reach us at 845.485.3445, or 1.800.804.0092 (toll free.) You may also contact me at shermans@poklib.org anytime with patron or staff questions or subject requests.

This issue of the Central Library Bulletin includes tips for helping patrons with their legal questions. Useful resources include law websites and contact information for your county law libraries.



Question of the Month

I was ticketed for using my cell phone while driving, but I wasn't talking, I was just holding the phone. Did I break the law?

While we can assist in the search for information, we can neither advise nor interpret the law for a patron.

Useful Tools: Help your patron access the text of New York State's laws by going to <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menugetf.cgi?COMMONQUERY=LAWS>. The consolidated laws, or laws in force, are grouped by type.

Your patron can scroll down to Vehicle & Traffic (VAT) for information about this question. He will find the information he is seeking under Title 7 Rules of the Road, Article 33-Miscellaneous Rules, Section 1225-C-Use of mobile telephones.

(b) An operator of a motor vehicle who holds a mobile telephone to, or in the immediate proximity of his or her ear while such vehicle is

in motion is presumed to be engaging in a call within the meaning of this section. The presumption established by this subdivision is rebuttable by evidence tending to show that the operator was not engaged in a call.

FAQs at the Reference Desk

Q: *Where can I find free legal help?*

A: Visit <http://www.lawhelp.org/ny/> to find free or low-cost legal help in your community. Areas of law include housing, immigration, special education, public benefits and more. The site also includes information about legal rights and the court system

Martindale-Hubbell (www.martindale.com) and Lawyers.com (www.lawyers.com) will help patrons wishing to hire a lawyer find one according to location and area of practice.

LegalConnection at FindLaw for the Public (<http://public.findlaw.com/get-help-now/>) allows users to complete a brief questionnaire about their case, and then matches them to local lawyers practicing in the appropriate area of the law.

Training Tips: Send patrons to their local law library for more in-depth legal research.

Columbia County

Supreme Court Law Library
Courthouse
Hudson, NY 12534
(518) 828-3206

Dutchess County

Supreme Court Law Library
50 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 486-2215

Greene County

Emory A. Chase Memorial Library
320 Main Street
Greene County Courthouse
Catskill, NY 12414
(518) 943-3130

Putnam County

Supreme Court Law Library
Putnam County Office Building
Carmel, NY 10512
(845) 225-3641 ext 297

Ulster County

New York State Supreme Court Library
285 Wall Street
Kingston, NY 12501
(845) 340-3053

Websites: *The US Supreme Court Database of US Supreme Court Opinions* contains over 27,000 opinions, dating back to 1793.
(<http://www.uscplus.com/>)

Find printable legal forms for estate planning, real estate, legal separation, business and more at <http://www.allaboutlaw.com/#legalforms> and <http://www.nycourthelp.gov/forms.html#c>.

The American Bar Association (<http://www.abalawinfo.org/>) offers information on legal topics including consumer law, estate planning, criminal law, juvenile justice and victims' rights.

Links: For more useful law links, see Adriance Memorial Library's Useful Sites under Reference and Research: Law, at www.poklib.org.

Training Spotlight: Is your staff showing your patrons how to use the new Reading Record function in the OPAC? Can your staff explain to patrons how Serials Solutions can aid them in their search for periodical articles? If the answer to one (or both) of these questions is No, please contact me to schedule OPAC training in your library. Learn how the enhanced functions of the online catalog can thrill your patrons and make your job easier. Time: 2 hours. Contact: Sue Hermans, Central Reference Library Services Coordinator at shermans@poklib.org or 845.485.3445 x 3321.

Please send your questions, comments, and ideas for future issues to Sue Hermans, Central Library Services Coordinator and Head of Reference for the Poughkeepsie Public Library District (shermans@poklib.org)