

**Page Number:** *Hopp v. Lepp*, [1980] 2 S.C.R. 192.

**Court:** helps to discern both the jurisdiction and court level from the citation. This information will be implicit in a neutral citation, the title of the law report or indicated in round brackets at the end of the citation.

For example:

*R. v. Carosella* (1995), 26 **O.R.** (3d) 209 (**C.A.**).

It is obvious from the court reporter that the decision was handed down in the *Ontario Court of Appeal*.

*Hopp v. Lepp*, [1980] 2 S.C.R. 192.

It is implicit in the reporter title that this case was heard by the Supreme Court of Canada, so the court in brackets at the end of the citation is not needed.



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#### Some Common Law Reporter Abbreviations

Alta.L.R.	Alberta Law Reports
A.P.R.	Atlantic Provinces Reports
A.R.	Alberta Reports
B.C.L.R.	British Columbia Law Reports
B.R.	Business Law Reports
C.C.C.	Canadian Criminal Cases
C.P.C.	Carswell's Practice Cases
D.L.R.	Dominion Law Reports
F.T.R.	Federal Trial Reports
N.R.	National Reporter
O.L.R.	Ontario Law Reports
O.R.	Ontario Reports
R.F.L.	Reports of Family Law
S.C.R.	Supreme Court Reports
W.W.R.	Western Weekly Reports

# Student Academic Learning Services

Legal Citation: Citing Cases

## McGill Guide

### Standard formula:

Style of cause, neutral citation (if available), date (if not indicated by a neutral citation), law reporter volume number, law reporter series, page number, court (if applicable)

Typical examples:

*Hopp v. Lepp*, [1980] 2 S.C.R. 192.

*Clearbrook Iron Works Ltd. v. Letourneau*, 2006 FCA 42, 46 C.P.R. (4<sup>th</sup>) 241.

**Style of Cause:** a case is identified by the names of those who were parties to the litigation.

For example: *Hopp v. Lepp*

Reference to the Crown: the use of R. in “*R. v. Smith*” refers to the Latin word for queen, Regina. It is used primarily for criminal cases prosecuted by the state.

**Neutral Citation:** these have only existed since 1999 and must be cited first before a printed reporter. It represents the year of the decision, the court and the ordinal number.

For example:

The neutral citation is in bold:

*Clearbrook Iron Works Ltd. v. Letourneau*, **2006 FCA 42**, 46 C.P.R. (4<sup>th</sup>) 241.

**Date:** the year in which the case is decided

**Round brackets (...)** are used for the year of the decision when the reporter volume numbering is continuous from year to year.

For example:

*R. v. Carosella* (1995), 26 O.R. (3d) 209 (C.A.).

\*note: the comma follows the brackets

**Square brackets [...]** are used to indicate that the law reporter numbers its volumes within the calendar year. It refers to the date on the spine of the reporter.

For example:

*Hopp v. Lepp*, [1980] 2 S.C.R. 192.

\*note: the comma comes before the brackets

Where there is a **Neutral Citation**, no date is needed after the style of cause because the neutral citation includes the date.

For example:

*Clearbrook Iron Works Ltd. v. Letourneau*, **2006 FCA 42**, 46 C.P.R. (4<sup>th</sup>) 241.



For more information about using **McGill Legal Citation** consult [Your Guide to Citing Legal Sources](#) based on the [Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation](#) Available on the DC-UOIT Library website

**Law Reporter Volume Number:** There are two ways a reporter series may be numbered.

**Consecutive Volume Numbers** are used by the majority of series and simply begin at volume one and continue on.

For example:

*R. v. Carosella* (1995), **26** O.R. (3d) 209 (C.A.).

This case will be found in volume 26 of the third series of the *Ontario Reports* at page 209. The date is not integral to locating the case.

**Volume designated first by year, then by volume within that year** requires the use of square brackets as indicated above.

For example:

*Hopp v. Lepp*, **[1980] 2** S.C.R. 192.

This case can be found in volume 2 of the 1980 volumes of the *Supreme Court Reports* at page 192.

**Law Reporter Abbreviation:** a law reporter is always referred to in the citation by a standard abbreviation of its title (see over). The reporter series number is also abbreviated in brackets directly following the report title, such as (2d), (3d), (4d) in lieu of (2<sup>nd</sup>), (3<sup>rd</sup>), (4<sup>th</sup>).

For example:

*R. v. Carosella* (1995), 26 **O.R. (3d)** 209 (C.A.).

This case can be found in volume 26 of the third series of the *Ontario Reports*.