

Criminal judgments database

The Legal Aid Queensland criminal judgments database contains an archive of criminal judgments from Queensland courts.

Database contents

Decisions

- ▶ The database contains criminal and related civil decisions from Queensland courts and the High Court, including traffic law decisions regarding TORUM Act and offences. It has unreported decisions and older decisions not available in other databases.

Key benefits

- ▶ Users can access an archive of Queensland court decisions from multiple courts collected in one central location and use unique search functions to explore the database.

What to use the database for

Procedural or evidence issues

- ▶ Search for topics like procedural fairness or admissibility of evidence.

Legal concepts

- ▶ Search for legal concepts like habeas corpus and statutory interpretation.

Recent additions to the criminal code

- ▶ Search for newly added charges to the Criminal Code Act, which may not have enough representation in the comparable sentencing decisions database.

How to use the database

Search fields

- ▶ Use the fields to search by court, judge, date, party names, and keywords.

Operators

- ▶ Employ the database's search operators to create a targeted search string.

Scope of searching

- ▶ This is not a full-text database, meaning the PDF attached to the record is not searched. In addition, the more fields used, the narrower the search becomes, as the fields are joined by an AND operator when the search is executed.



Search basics

Start broad and refine as required

- ▶ Begin with a few basic criteria such as catchwords and jurisdiction. If you get too many results, add one or more additional search criteria. If you get too few results, take out one or more search criteria.

Useful functionalities

- ▶ View the full PDFs of decisions for a more in-depth understanding of the case or view the decision in AustLII's LawCite for more information such as related cases.

Helpful tips

- ▶ Case is ignored in the database, so you can use either upper or lowercase. Punctuation is ignored as well, except for the search operators: (&, !, /, =, :). Be mindful of all the search fields, as sometimes a dropdown can be active without you realising, which will result in an error, or no results returned.

A video tutorial with tips for searching this database is available on Grants Online. The video can be found under the information resources tab, or on the database search page. Contact the library at library@legalaid.qld.gov.au for more information.