SCOPE

The Maryland Digest 2D (Second) is a subject index that includes summaries (or “digests”) of higher court cases decided by Maryland and the District of Columbia courts, dating from the seventeenth century to the present.

The set brings together cases on a similar point of law, cases that were originally published independently.

It includes court opinions from Maryland appellate courts, not those from lower or trial courts, and it includes appellate court cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court and other Federal courts if the cases arose in, or were appealed from, Maryland.

ARRANGEMENT

Volumes 1-39 are arranged in one alphabetical sequence according to broad topics or subjects, (e.g., Telecommunications, Negligence, Animals, etc.). A complete list of these subjects exists at the beginning of each volume.

Each subject is introduced by a “scope note” that specifies what is included in, or excluded from, that subject.

Each subject is further divided into as many sub-topics as are necessary to cover the points of law for that subject. Each sub-topic is assigned a “key” number, and a complete list (or “analysis”) of the key numbers used for a particular subject can be found after the subject’s scope note.

SEARCHING FOR CASES BY SUBJECT

The fastest and most accurate way to find cases in volumes 1-39 is to use the alphabetical Descriptive Word Index in volumes 40-43C.

Once you have located appropriate terms in the Descriptive Word Index, use the corresponding reference(s) to Digest Topic(s) and Key Number(s) to find cases in volumes 1-39.

To use the Descriptive Word Index most effectively, choose search words based on terms that relate to the five elements common to most legal problems:

- **Parties** involved (e.g., tenant, minor, witness)
- **Places and things** involved (e.g., motor vehicle, swimming pool, airport)
- **Causes of action** (e.g., negligence, trespass, slander)
- **Defenses** (e.g., assumption of risk, contributory negligence)
- **Types of relief sought** (e.g., compensation, custody, injunction)

OTHER INFORMATION

If you know either the plaintiff’s or defendant’s name in a specific case, use the alphabetical Table of Cases in volumes 44-46 to find:

- The Maryland Digest Topic(s) and Key Number(s) for that case
- The citation(s) for the case
- Any subsequent, related court cases

Use the Words and Phrases Index in volume 47 to find:

- Definitions of terms or phrases as they have been defined in Maryland court decisions
- Specific decisions in which the terms have been defined
- The court(s) which have defined the terms
- The date(s) when the terms were defined

Also remember: To make sure that you are getting the most up-to-date information, check the pocket part in the back cover of the volume, as well as any paperback supplements.