



# Legal Information About Public Health and Health Systems

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## If you needed to know about laws and regulations on public health, health care or health systems ...

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- Where would you look? the WHO?, on the web?, MOH web sites?, ask your colleagues?, or hire a lawyer?
- What would you find?
  - Not on the web – not digital.
  - Hard to impossible to find even on paper.
  - Not comprehensive nor organized by relevant knowledge divisions.
  - No commercial publishers.
  - No central repository. Incomplete.
- Critical need for comprehensive open access public health legal information on-line data base.



# A practitioner's dilemma

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- ❑ Existing search terms differ in each country.
- ❑ No comprehensive framework.
- ❑ Medical/health terms not the same as legal.
- ❑ Search within documents not possible.
- ❑ Physical libraries unknown and inaccessible.
- ❑ What is public?
- ❑ Data bases are not user friendly and not organized by how practitioners think.



# Points of discussion

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- How health and legal practitioners think
- Current situation
  - WHO system
  - PHLIP Initiative
  - GLIN
- A proposed solution



# How health and legal practitioners think

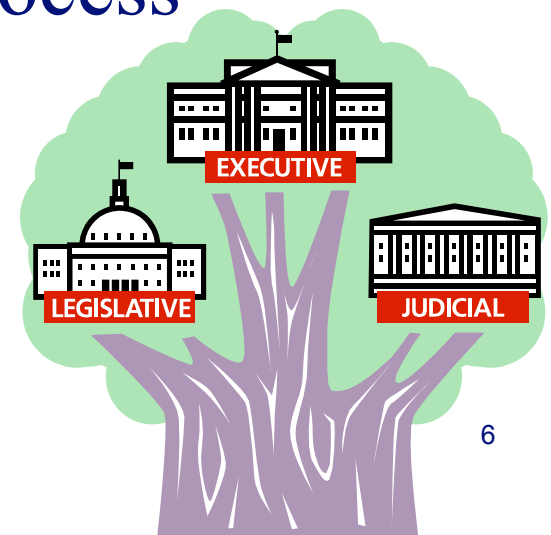
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- Approach research by considering components and framework of a functioning health system.
- 1. Ministry of Health Functions
  - Policy development, funding, program and/or service delivery, regulation, and coordination of its own functions and with other ministries.
  - Law vests the agency with legal mandates and creates the infrastructure to perform its functions.
- 2. Proximal or direct influence on determinants of health. Communicable and chronic disease and injury.
- 3. Indirect or distal affect the social determinants. Environment, labor, education, transportation, power, other.

# Legal Hierarchy

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- ❑ International laws – treaties, customary law
- ❑ Constitutional provisions
- ❑ Executive powers – decrees, orders
- ❑ Statutes – legislative process
- ❑ Regulations – administrative process
- ❑ Court rulings
- ❑ Sub-national ordinances





# WHO data base of health legislation

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- Service began 1909 - publication 1<sup>st</sup> issue of *Bulletin mensuel de l'Office international d'Hygiène publique*.
- 1948 WHO Constitution Article 63:
  - Each Member shall communicate promptly to the [WHO] important laws, regulations, .... pertaining to health...
  - <http://apps.who.int/idhl-rils/index.cfm>
  - Search by country, subject, keyword, volume and issue. *Also notes*.
- Gaps: reactive, incomplete, results insufficient, no quality control, search within documents not possible.



# WHO “Topic List”

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- IA. Constitutional provisions relating to health, general health codes or public health laws, human rights, and other fundamental provisions
- IB. Organization and administration of health care
- IC. Health financing
- ID. Health research
- IE. Health education
- IF. International treaties and other legal instruments
- II. Health personnel
- III. Health care facilities and services
- IIIA. Hospitals and related institutions
- IIIB. Services
- IV. Disease control and medical care
- IVA1. Communicable diseases
- IVA.2. Communicable diseases: HIV/AIDS
- IVB. Non-communicable diseases
- IVC. Procedures
- V. Oral health
- VI. Family health
- VIA. Family health. General
- VIB. Family health. Child health
- VII. Human reproduction and population policies
- VIII. Care of the elderly and rehabilitation
- VIIIA. Care of the elderly and geriatrics
- VIIIB. Care of disabled
- IX. Mental health
- X. Control of smoking, alcoholism, and drug abuse





# WHO “Topic List”

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- XA. Smoking
- XB. Alcoholism
- XC. Drug abuse (narcotics, psychotropic drugs, and other dependence-producing drugs)
- XI. Ethical issues and professional responsibility
- XIA. Ethics. General issues
- XIB. Ethics. Professional and personnel issues
- XII. Death and related issues
- XIIA. Death and dying
- XIIB. Post-mortem examinations
- XIIC. Disposal of the dead
- XIII. Nutrition and food safety
- XIIIA. Nutrition
- XIIIB. Food safety
- XIV. Consumer protection
- XV. Pharmaceuticals and medical devices
- XVA. Pharmaceuticals and related products
- XVB. Traditional medicines
- XVC. Medical devices
- XVI. Poisons and other hazardous substances
- XVII. Occupational health and safety
- XVIII. Environmental protection
- XIX. Radiation protection
- XX. Accident prevention
- XXI. Sports and recreation
- XXII. Health information and statistics
- AD1. Addendum 1. Official Journals and websites
- AD2. Addendum 2. Links to other WHO databases



# Public Health Legal Information Project

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- PHLIP Pilot 2004 inception to date
  - Developed and tested
    - User interface
    - Key word development – medical/legal indexing
    - Content management and documentation
- Collaboration
  - Widener School of Law, Health Law Institute
    - Legal Librarian Indexer
    - Faculty and students to code content and search terms
  - National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine
    - Division of Specialized Information Services
    - Medical Librarian Indexer



# PHLIP Goal and Methodology

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- Solve problem that medical/health database indexes do not have many if any legal terms.
- Solution: Key word development
  - MeSH and Legislative Indexing Vocabulary
    - medical and legal indexes
  - Use of legal and medical expertise to ensure same meaning
  - Content input, coding, by Widener law faculty and students – good model.



# Legislative Indexing Vocabulary, Congressional Research Service “A”

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- Accident Law
- Accident Prevention
- Accidents, Occupational
- Accreditation (Education)
- Administrative Procedure
- Advertising
- Aesthetician
- Aged
- Agricultural Law and Legislation
- Aid to Dependent Children
- Aid to the Blind
- Air pollution control
- Air Quality
- Alcohol and Women
- Alcohol and Youth
- Alcoholic Beverage Control
- Alcoholic Beverage Industry
- Alcoholism and Crime
- Alcoholism
- Alcoholism Treatment
- All Terrain Vehicles
- Appellate Procedure
- Appellate Review
- Apprenticeship
- Appropriations
- Assignment of Benefits
- Associations, Institutions,
- Assumption of Duties
- Auditing
- Automobile Industry
- Automobile Insurance
- Automobile Registration
- Automobile Repair
- Automobile Safety Standards
- Aviation Insurance
- Aviation Safety



# Medical Subject Headings (MeSH®)

## Terms “A”

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- Access to Information
- Accidents, Aviation
- Accreditation
- Adolescent
- Adoption
- Advertising
- Advisory Committees
- Aircraft
- Alcohol Abuse
- Alcohol Drinking
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Alcoholic Intoxication
- Ambulances
- Animals, Wild
- Annual Reports
- Antitrust Laws
- Arbitration
- Archaeology
- Autopsy
- Aviation



# GLIN Health and Safety Search Terms

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- Accidents
- AIDS
- Aviation security
- Biosafety
- Blood
- Border security
- Disease vectors
- Drinking water
- Fire regulations
- Food
- Food safety
- Hazardous substances
- Health care plans
- Health professionals
- Illnesses
- Maritime safety promotion
- Medical care
- Medical research
- Medical training
- Mental health
- Occupational health and safety
- Pharmaceuticals
- Physical education and training
- Port security
- Public safety promotion
- Public welfare
- Vaccines and vaccinations
- Waste disposal



# GLIN Search: public health First result

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- **Title** Code of the Roads (GLIN ID 220400)
- **Jurisdiction** Angola
- **Category** Law
- **Publication** Diario da Republica
- **Published** 29/09/2008; Portuguese
- **Instrument Class** Decree-Law
- **Subject Terms** Administrative law; Government organization; Health and safety; Motor vehicles; Roads and highways; Transportation



# Last result # 10,000 for public health

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- **Title** Decret n° 2001-264 portant creation de l'hopital Cheikh Zayed / Decree 2001-264 pertaining to the creation of the hospital Cheikh Zayed (GLIN ID 103217)
- **Jurisdiction** Mauritania
- **Category** Law
- **Publication** Journal Officiel de la Republique Islamique de Mauritanie
- **Published** 15/06/2001; French
- **Instrument Class** Decree
- **Subject Terms** Administrative law; Budget; Foreign investment; Health and safety; Hospitals; Medical research; Public services; Public welfare; Research; Research funding





# A proposed solution

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- Collaboration between Members and health stakeholders
  - GLIN, WHO, Widener, health and legal communities
- Content – quality and quantity
  - Uniform organizational structure/framework/index hierarchy
  - Uniform search terms
    - Harmonize and cross reference legal with medical
    - Master list and Notes
    - Enable searching terms within documents
- Cooperation, Encouragement and Support
  - Central repository – all contribute
  - Use of common and cross referenced search terms
  - Engage users to encourage content contribution - outreach via health – engage donors for support!



## For more information and comments

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