Overview

Authority Check is the name of Fastcase’s integrated citation analysis tool. You can use Authority Check in many ways, including:

- To generate a list of later citing cases to find related authority on your topic.
- To prioritize your research by identifying the most frequently cited cases on your list of results.

Generate a List of Later Citing Cases

- Start by pulling up the case you are interested in. Make sure you are on the page with the full text of the case.

- The hyperlinked number under the Authority Check heading (top left side) corresponds to the number of times the case has been cited in the Fastcase database.

- Click on the hyperlinked number to generate the Authority Check Report with a list of later citing cases. The report will load in your browser a new tab or window.

Scroll down to “Citing Cases” for a list of hyperlinked later citing cases.

Use the jurisdiction filter to focus on later citing cases from your state.
Identify Frequently Cited Cases

- On the results page, the number to the right of each case under the Authority Check heading corresponds to the number of times the case has been subsequently cited in other cases.

- Sort the most frequently cited cases to the top of the list by clicking on the heading, “Entire Database.”

- Sort the cases most frequently cited by other cases in your search results to the top of the list by clicking on the heading, “These Results.”

Remember:

Authority Check is not a citator; it does NOT include editorial information telling you whether a case is still good law and it does NOT check for subsequent cases overruling your case.

- Before filing papers with a court or in any way relying on the continuing validity of cases, we recommend that you use either Shepard’s (via Lexis-Nexis) or KeyCite (via Westlaw) as a citator.

- These resources are available transactionally—without a subscription—and we include hyperlinks to both within Authority Check.