Citing Legal Materials in APA Style

Inserting the Section Symbol

Inserting the Section Number in Microsoft Word

In Microsoft Word, when you are typing and ready to add the section symbol, choose:

- **Insert** (pull-down menu at top of screen)
- **Symbol** (menu choice in MS Word 2003, far right tab in MS Word 2007)
- **More Symbols** *(MS Word 2007 only?)*
- **Special Characters**
- **Section**
- **§**

Format of Legal Citations That Include Section Numbers

Legal citations to most law codes (statutes & regulations) use the following format:

- Title number
- Abbreviation of the source
- § Section number

For example:

- **42 USC § 5101g** - federal law defining child abuse

**California Codes**

Citations to California codes are do not include a numbered title but list the title in English (either spelled out or abbreviated).

For example:

- **CAL PENAL Code § 11164** - California law requiring child abuse be reported
- **CAL Educ Code §§ 220-221.1** - California law prohibiting discrimination in schools

Why sections instead of page numbers?

Law codes gather all laws (statutes or regulations) currently in force on a topic and arrange them by subject. Since new statutes are constantly being passed, thereby expanding (or contracting) the current law on a topic, law codes are not cited by page number (which would be constantly changing), but by title and section instead. Each title represents a major topic in the law (e.g. education, taxes, transportation), and each section represents a specific sub-topic within each title.