

IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF YUKON

PRACTICE DIRECTION #5

Neutral Citation of Judgments

In 1996, a committee of the Canadian Judicial Council (the Judges' Computer Advisory Committee) produced a standard for the preparation, distribution and citation of Canadian judgments in electronic form. Many elements of that standard have been adopted in this and other Canadian courts, most notably, the numbering of paragraphs in judgments. The adoption of this standard has led to the establishment of a second standard for neutral, uniform case law citation.

Neutral citations are being promoted around the world, notably in the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

The main elements of a neutral citation are:

- A style of cause (e.g. **Smith v. Smith**);
- A year (e.g. 2000);
- The name of the Court in a condensed format that refers to that Court uniquely (e.g. YKTC); and
- A number (which will be assigned sequentially as judgments are released).

A neutral citation for **Smith v. Jones** would look as follows:

“Smith v. Jones, 2000 YKTC 3” but reference simply to “2000 YKTC 3” would allow anyone to access the judgment, even without knowledge of the style of cause.

The Territorial Court of Yukon and Supreme Court of the Yukon have implemented the neutral citation protocol. For those cases that have been assigned a neutral citation, that neutral citation should be provided to the Court, in addition to any other citation.

Chief Judge Faulkner
March 21, 2006