



Find and Search Case Law

This guide outlines how to find case law by case citation, case title, citing legislation or by judicial definition. This guide also outlines different search methods using key words and how to refine and sort search results.

Find Case Law

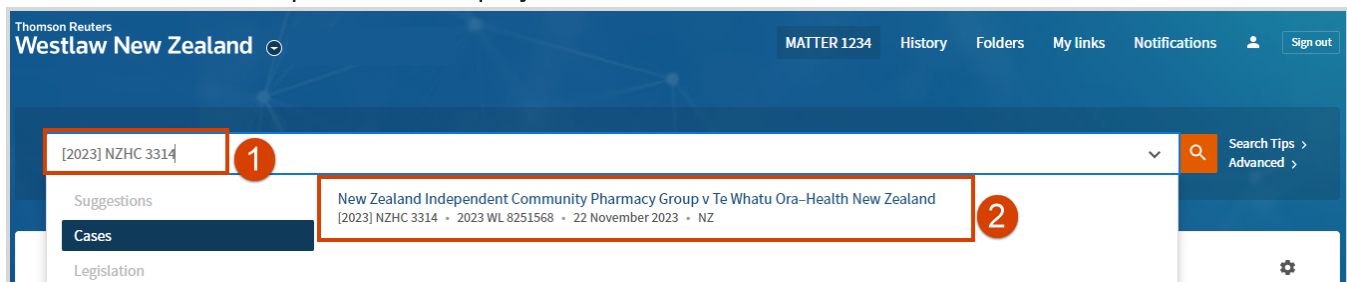
- [Find a case by citation](#)
- [Find a case by title or party name](#)
- [Find cases which cite a section of legislation](#)
- [Find cases which judicially consider a word or phrase](#)

Search Case Law

- [Search for cases using Plain Language](#)
- [Search for cases using Terms and Connectors](#)
- [Build your search using “Find documents that have” in the Cases advanced search template](#)
- [Sorting search results](#)
- [Refining search results](#)

Find a case by citation

1. Enter the case citation into the global search bar, e.g., **[2023] NZHC 3314**
2. As you begin typing, the type-ahead feature will provide the case in the drop-down. Select the case from the drop-down to display the case.



 Note: If you would like to deliver multiple cases, we recommend using the [Find and Print Tool](#).

Find a case by title or party name

1. Begin by typing in the party name or names into the global search bar, e.g., **Environmental Defence Society v King Salmon**.
2. Click the case title to open the case e.g., Environmental Defence Society Inc v The New Zealand King Salmon Company Ltd (2014) NZSC 38.

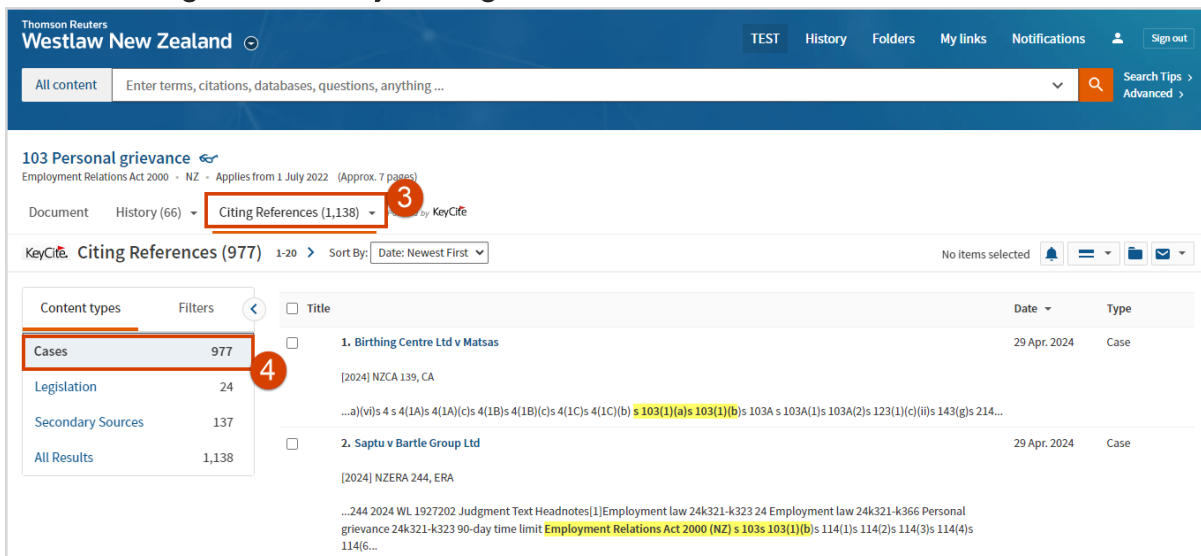


Find cases that cite a section of legislation

1. Enter the section of legislation into the global search bar on the homepage. e.g., **s 103 Employment Relations Act**.
2. Select the section from the drop-down menu to open the document.

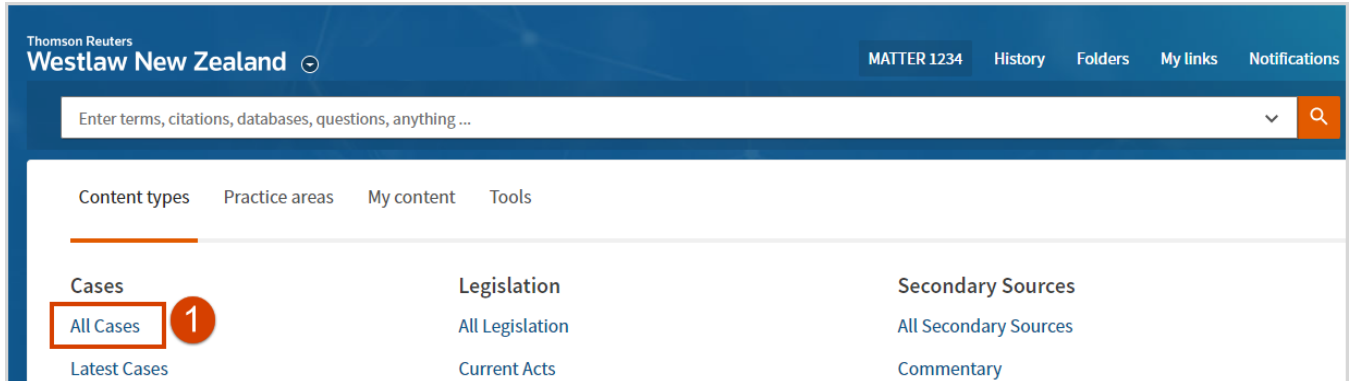


3. Click the **Citing References** tab to display documents that cite the section.
4. Filter citing references by clicking **Cases**.



Alternatively, you can use the Cases Advanced Search template to search for legislation cited in cases

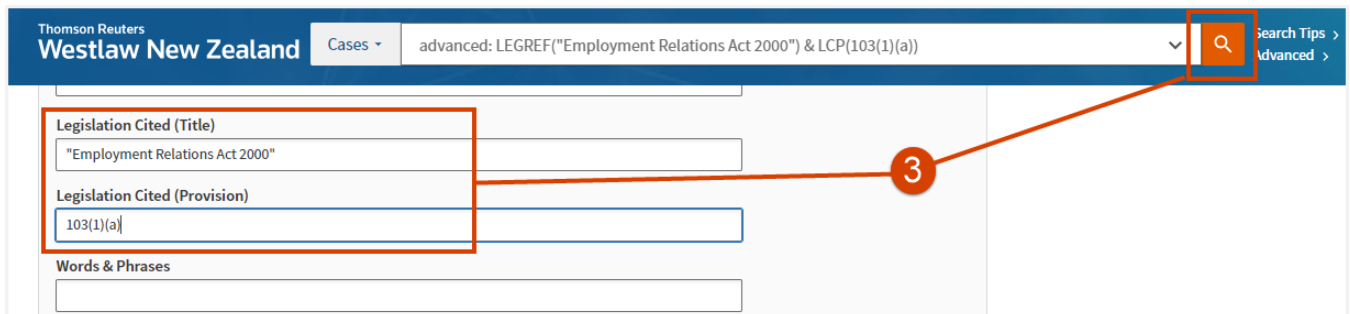
1. Click **All Cases** located under the **Content types** tab on the homepage.



2. Click **Advanced** to be directed to the Cases advanced template.



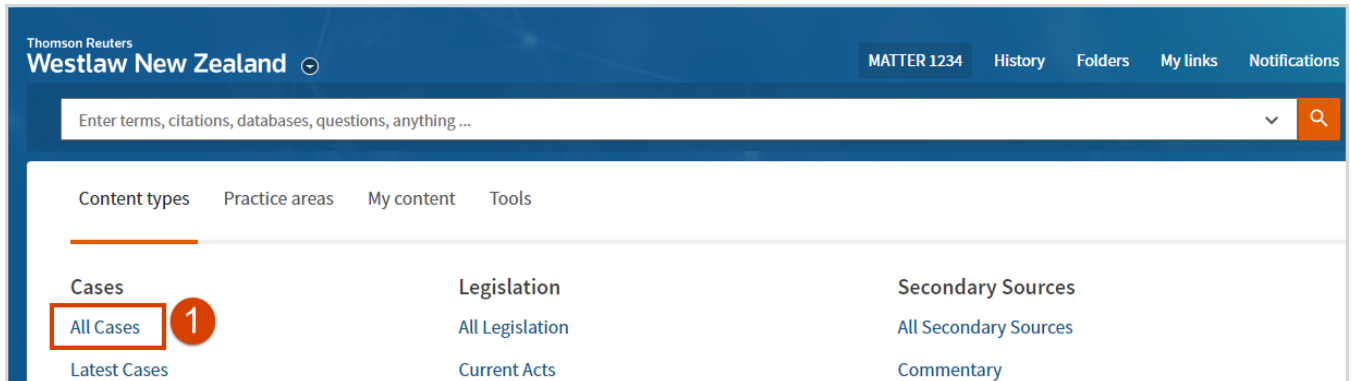
3. Enter the name of the Act into the Legislation Cited (Title) field using quotation marks, e.g., **"Employment Relations Act 2000"**. In the Legislation Cited (Provision) field, you can add the section or subsection of the Act, e.g., **103(1)(a)** and click **Search**.



Find cases that judicially consider a word or phrase

Use the Cases advanced search template to find words and phrases judicially considered.

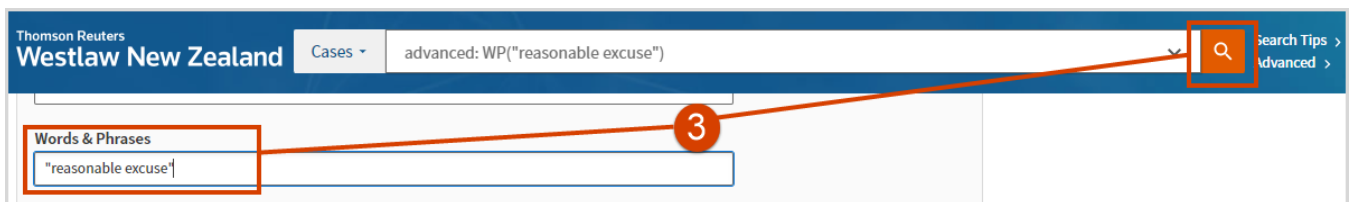
1. Select **All Cases** located under the **Content types** tab on the homepage.



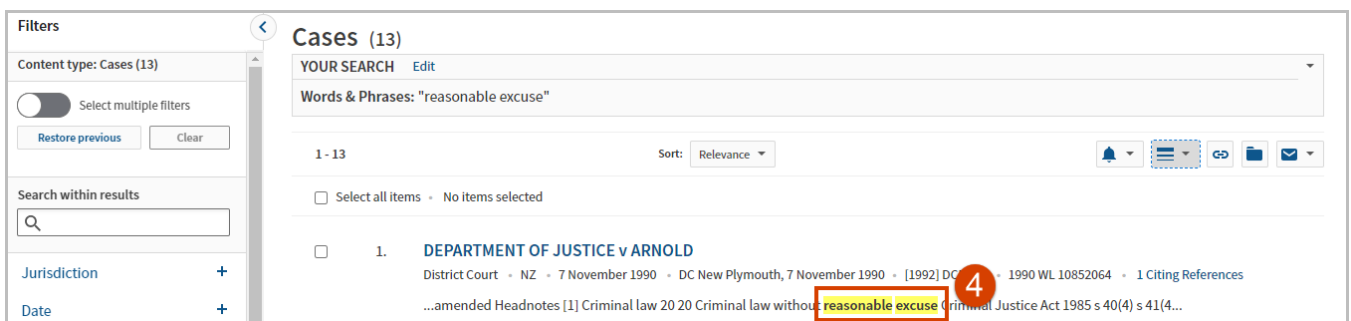
2. Click **Advanced** to be directed to the Cases advanced template.



3. Enter the term(s) into the **Words & Phrases** search field e.g., "reasonable excuse" and click search.



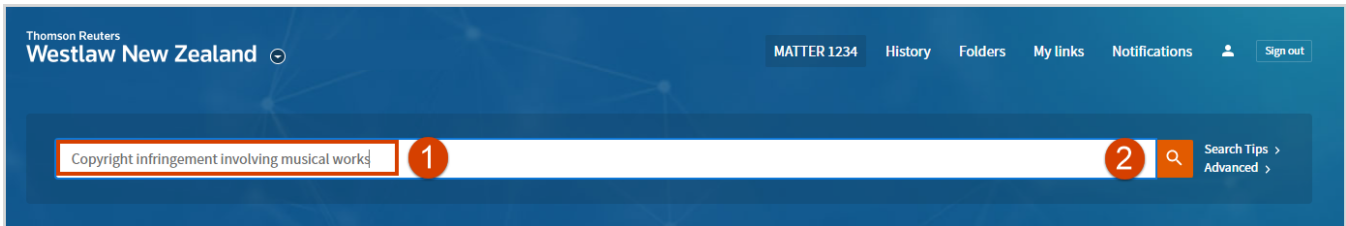
4. Selecting a highlighted hyperlink in a case result will take you to the Words and Phrases Judicially Considered field in the case document.



Search for cases using plain language

Plain language searching allows you to search by asking a question or typing in a sentence that describes the information you are looking for.

1. Type the legal issue you are researching into the global search bar, e.g., **Copyright infringement involving musical works**.
2. Click **search**.



3. **Overview** is the default display of your search results on Westlaw New Zealand. The overview provides a summary of the highest-ranking results from each content type in a single page, determined by relevance, date and authority.
4. Case results that have been indexed by a legal concept in the Key Number System are also included in the search results. For further information on Key Number classifications, see this [guide](#).
5. Click on **Cases** to refine the search to case law.

6. Click on the case title to open a document.
7. After opening a case, click the drop-down arrow next to **Original Terms** and select **Best Portion**.

The screenshot shows the document page for **Eight Mile Style, LLC v New Zealand National Party**. The search navigation menu is open, showing options: **Original terms**, **Copyright infringement involving musical works**, **Best portion** (indicated by a green arrow and square brackets), and **Hide all highlights and notes**. A red circle with the number 7 points to the 'Best portion' option.

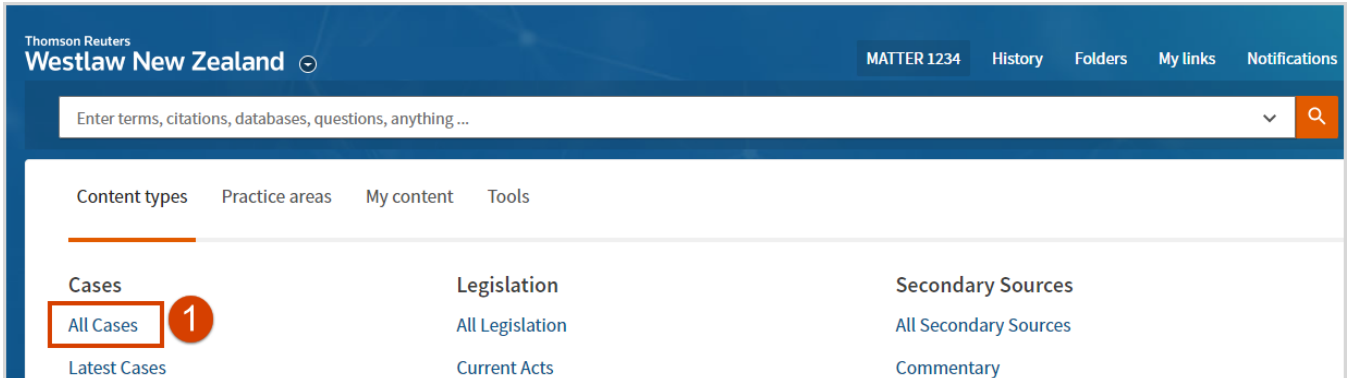
8. Best Portion is indicated by the green arrow and square brackets. These indicate areas of the case that best match your search, based on search term frequency. Use the right-hand arrow to jump to the next best portion indicator.
9. Use the arrow to navigate to the next search result.

The screenshot shows the document page for **Eight Mile Style, LLC v New Zealand National Party**. The search navigation menu is closed, and the document text is visible. The search results are highlighted in yellow. A red circle with the number 8 points to the search navigation menu, and a red circle with the number 9 points to the right-hand arrow in the search navigation menu. The text shows the following highlights: **musical work**, **musical work**, **work**, **music**, **music**, **music**, **copyright**, and **music**.

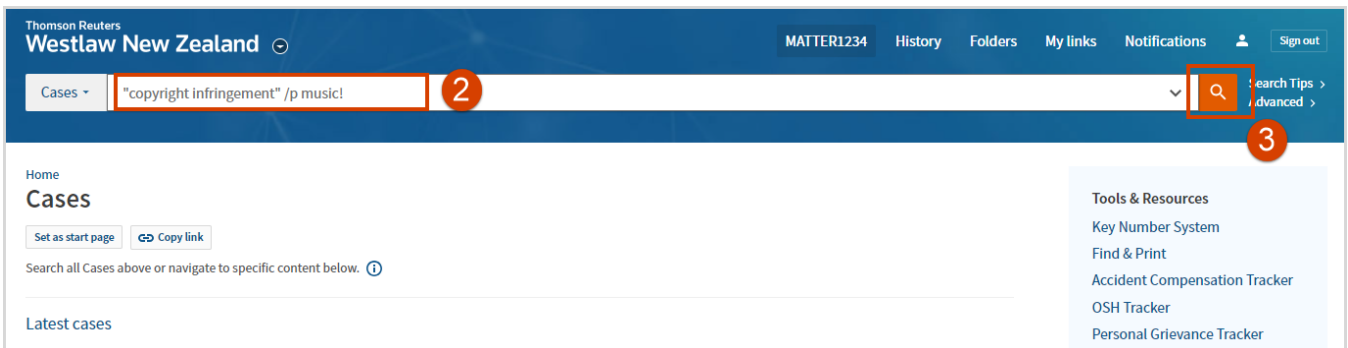
Search for cases using Terms and Connectors

Identify phrases and keywords in your research query and use them in a search strategy.

1. Click **All Cases** on the Westlaw New Zealand homepage to refine the global search bar to search for Case Law.



2. Enter **"copyright infringement" /p music!** in the search bar.
In this example the quotation marks are used to search for the phrase 'copyright infringement'. The exclamation point is a root expander, and is used to search for music, musical or musician. The /p is used to deliver search terms appearing in the same paragraph.
3. Click **search** to display results.



 **Note:** To view a full list of connectors and expanders click **Search Tips** or **Advanced** to the right of the global search bar.

 **Note:** If no connector is used, the default connector is **OR**.

- Click on a highlighted word or phrase to open the document to the area where your search term appears.

Back to Cases

Cases (16)

YOUR SEARCH Edit

All of These Terms: "copyright infringement" /p music!

1 - 16 Sort: Relevance

Select all items No items selected

1. **Eight Mile Style, LLC v New Zealand National Party**

High Court · NZ · 25 October 2017 · [2017] NZHC 2603 · 127 IPR 318 · 2017 WL 4839074

You better lose yourself in the **music**, the moment You own it, you better never let it go ... So raps Eminem to the **musical** work Lose Yourself. The plaintiffs claim the **copyright** in Lose...

4

...to as the National Party) deny there has been any **copyright infringement** because there was no reproduction or copying of Lose Yourself...

...Party had paid for a synchronisation licence to use the **music** sound-alike Eminem Esque [5] There are three separate copyrights...

- Click the arrows either side of the **Original Terms** to display the portion of text in each document that contain your search terms.
- Click the arrows to navigate between search results.

Thomson Reuters Westlaw New Zealand

Cases adv: "copyright infringement" /p music!

Search Tips Advanced Sign out

← **Eight Mile Style, LLC v New Zealand National Party**

High Court · 25 October 2017 · [2017] NZHC 2603 · 127 IPR 318 · 2017 WL 4839074 (Approx. 78 pages)

Document Negative Treatment (2) History (3) Citing References (19) Table of Authorities Powered by KeyCite

Fullscreen

1 of 16 results Original terms 5

6

copyright, by using *Lose Yourself* or a substantially similar version or adaptation of it, called *Eminem Esque*, in national party campaign advertisements on television, the internet and a National Party video. Eight Mile Style seek damages for the National Party's copyright infringement.

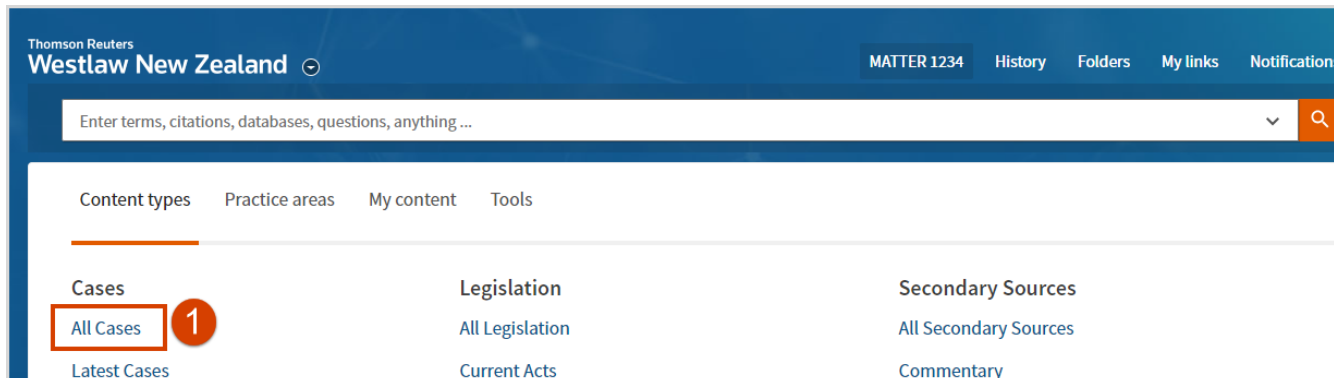
[4] The National Party and the Party Secretary (both of whom I will refer to as the National Party) deny there has been any **copyright infringement** because there was no reproduction or copying of *Lose Yourself*; that not every aspect of *Lose Yourself* was original; and the National Party had paid for a synchronisation licence to use the **music** sound-alike *Eminem Esque*.

[5] There are three separate copyrights in *Lose Yourself*, namely, the original sound recording, the lyrics and the music. Copyright is a property right that exists in original works. This case concerns the copyright in the music only. The references to *Lose Yourself* in this decision, therefore, are to the musical work of *Lose Yourself*, unless otherwise stated.

Build your search using “Find document that have” fields in the Cases advanced search template

The advanced search allows you to use field restrictions or use a template to create a Terms and Connectors search.

1. Select **All Cases** located under the **Content types** tab on the homepage.



2. Click **Advanced** to be directed to the Cases advanced template.



3. The section ‘Find documents that have’ includes a set of fields that can be populated to build a search string, for example:
 - **All of these terms** will use AND to look for all words you enter e.g., **Eminem**
 - **Any of these terms** uses the OR connector to search for any of the words you enter. e.g. **music! lyric word song**
 - **This exact phrase** will look for a phrase exactly as it is written. e.g., **copyright infringement**As you type your terms into the relevant search fields, your search will appear in the global search bar. The results will deliver cases that mention Eminem and either music, musical, musician, lyric, word or song. The cases will also mention the phrase Copyright infringement.
4. Click **search**.

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MATTER1234 History Folders My links Notifications

Cases - advanced: (music! lyric word song) & eminem & "copyright infringement"

Home > Cases
Advanced Search: Cases

Set as start page

Use at least one field to create a Boolean Terms & Connectors query.

Find documents that have

All of these terms
e.g., construction defect (searched as construction & defect)
eminem

Any of these terms
e.g., physician surgeon (searched as physician OR surgeon)
music! lyric word song

This exact phrase
e.g., medical malpractice (searched as "medical malpractice")
copyright infringement

But not any of these terms
e.g., residence domicile (searched as "% residence domicile")

Term frequency

Term frequency

Term frequency

Connectors and Expanders

&	AND
/s	In same sentence
or	OR
+s	Preceding within sentence

Sorting search results

Case search results can be sorted by relevance, date, court level and most cited.

- Click the **Sort** down arrow to sort case by relevance, date, court level or most cited.
 - Select **Most cited** to view cases in order from most cited to least cited.
 - Select **Date** to view cases in reverse chronological order.
 - Select **Court order** to view cases ordered from the highest to lower courts.
 - The **Relevance** sort option relies on a series of algorithms to order cases from most to least relevant.

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MATTER1234 History Folders My links Notifications Sign out

All content adv: "copyright infringement" /p music!

Content types Filters

Content type: Cases (16)

Select multiple filters

Restore previous Clear

Search within results

Jurisdiction +

Date +

Reported Status +

Practice Area +

Cases (16)

1 - 16

Select all items - No items selected

Sort: Most cited

1

Relevance

Date

Court level

Most cited

1. **Ruscoe v Cryptopia Ltd (in liq)**
High Court - NZ - 8 April 2020 - [2020] NZLR 809 - (2020) 5 NZTR 30-001 - 2020 WL 1820505 - 84 Citing References

Cryptopia Ltd (in liquidation) (Cryptopia) was formed in 2014 as a cryptocurrency trading exchange. It had a short but tumultuous history. It was placed into liquidation in May 2019 after...

...categories of recognised copyright, which are to include literary, dramatic, musical or artistic works, sound recordings, films, communication works and typographical...

...be identifiable, in many cases whether there has been a copyright infringement will involve an element of judgment in the tribunal called...

- If Most cited is selected, the number of times a case has been cited will be displayed for each result if the **Detail level menu** is set to **Most detail**.

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MATTER1234 History Folders My links Notifications Sign out

All content adv: "copyright infringement" /p music! Search Tips > Advanced >

Content types Filters 1 - 16 Sort: Most cited

Select all items - No items selected

Content type: Cases (16)

Select multiple filters
Restore previous Clear

Search within results

Jurisdiction +
Date +
Reported Status +
Practice Area +
Judge +
Legal Practitioner +
Law Firm +
Key Number +
Party Name +
Court File Number +
Previously Viewed +

1. **Ruscoe v Cryptopia Ltd (in liq)**
High Court - NZ - 8 April 2020 - [2020] NZHC 728 - [2020] 2 NZLR 809 - (2020) 5 NZTR 30-001 - 2020 WL ...
Cryptopia Ltd (in liquidation) (Cryptopia) was formed in 2014 as a cryptocurrency trading exchange. It had a short but tumultuous history. It was placed into liquidation in May 2019 after...
...categories of recognised copyright, which are to include literary, dramatic, musical or artistic works, sound recordings, films, communication works and typographical...
...be identifiable, in many cases whether there has been a copyright infringement will involve an element of judgment in the tribunal called...

2. **BNZ Investments Ltd v Commissioner of Inland Revenue**
High Court - NZ - 2 December 2009 - HC Wellington CIV-2004-485-1059, 2 December 2009 - (2010) 24 NZTC 23,997 - (2009) 20 PRNZ 311 - 2009 WL 4507740 - 38 Citing References
On 24 September 2009, an Australian law firm, Maddocks, applied to the Registrar of this Court to search, inspect and copy the statements and transcripts of evidence of eight witnesses,...

3. **New Zealand National Party v Eight Mile Style, LLC**
Court of Appeal - NZ - 18 December 2018 - [2018] NZCA 596 - 144 IPR 486 - [2019] 2 NZLR 352 - (2018) 15 TCLR 312 - 2018 WL 6616723 - 21 Citing References

Less detail
More detail
Most detail

Refining search results

Case search results can be narrowed down by editing your search, searching within your results for additional terms or phrases, and/or applying filters.

- Edit your search in the global search bar, or click **Edit** to return to the search template.
- Search within results for cases containing additional term(s) or phrases – enter your search terms in the **Search within results** field and click **Search**. Remember that the default connector is OR.
- Available filter categories will be displayed in the left hand column. Use the plus icon to expand a category and select or enter your filter.

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MATTER1234 History Folders My links Notifications Sign out

Cases adv: copyright infringement" /p music! Search Tips > Advanced >

Filters

Content type: Cases (16)

Select multiple filters

Restore previous Clear

Search within results

Jurisdiction +

Date +

Reported Status +

Practice Area +

Judge +

Legal Practitioner +

Law Firm +

Key Number +

Party Name +

Court File Number +

Previously Viewed +

Cases (16)

YOUR SEARCH Edit

All of These Terms: "copyright infringement" /p music!

1 - 16 Sort: Relevance

Select all items - No items selected

1. **Eight Mile Style, LLC v New Zealand National Party**
High Court - NZ - 25 October 2017 - [2017] NZHC 2603 - 127 IPR 318 - 2017 WL 4839074 - 19 Citing References

You better lose yourself in the **musical**, the moment You own it, you better never let it go ... So raps Eminem to the **musical** work Lose Yourself. The plaintiffs claim their **copyright** in Lose...

...to as the National Party) deny there has been any **copyright infringement** because there was no reproduction or copying of Lose Yourself...

...Party had paid for a synchronisation licence to use the **musical** sound-alike Eminem Esque [5] There are three separate copyrights...

...in New Zealand? 1.2 Does copyright subsist in the **musical** work known as Lose Yourself 2. Was there copying of...

...connection between Eminem Esque and Lose Yourself? 3. Was there **copyright infringement**? 3.1 Have any restricted acts taken place? 3.2...

2. **Re Inquiry pursuant to s 23 of the Copyright Act 1962**
Copyright Tribunal - NZ - 30 July 1986 - COPYT, 30 July 1986 - 1986 WL 1178155

This is a report to the Minister of Justice pursuant to s 23(2) of the Act consequent upon the conducting of an inquiry. Section 23(1) provides as follows: "If at any time after the end of...

...set out beside them: (a) Works shall mean all copyright **musical** works and lyrics or words written to accompany those works...

⚠ Note: The case filters available vary depending on how you retrieved the cases. Ie there are fewer filters available when viewing Cases under the Citing References tab vs. more filters available when you are viewing a list of search results.

⚠ Note: If filters are not displayed in the left hand column, check that the **Filters** tab has been selected.

Looking for more information?

To sign into Westlaw New Zealand, visit <https://nzlaw.thomsonreuters.com/>

For technical assistance, call the help desk on 0800 10 60 25

For assistance using Westlaw New Zealand, email NZTrainers@thomsonreuters.com

To request training, click <https://support.thomsonreuters.co.nz/request-training>

For additional training materials, visit <https://support.thomsonreuters.co.nz/product/new-westlaw-new-zealand>