

Connectors <i>Search terms must be:</i>	Lexis	Westlaw
An exact phrase	" "	" "
In same document	AND &	AND &
One or more of these words	OR	OR
Within n words of each other <i>(where n = a natural number)</i>	/n	/n
In same sentence	/s	/s
In same paragraph	/p	/p
Not this word	AND NOT	BUT NOT %
Expanders	Lexis	Westlaw
All forms of a root word <i>(e.g., licens! to return license, licensing, licensed, licensure, licensee, licensor)</i>	!	!
Universal character <i>(for unknown or variable spellings, e.g., F??nb?rg to return Feinburg, Feinberg, Fienburg, Fienberg)</i>	?	*
Order of operations	Lexis	Westlaw
$2 + 3 \times 4 = 14$ $(2 + 3) \times 4 = 20$ $2 + (3 \times 4) = 14$	()	()

Chart: Proximity connectors*Results as of Sept. 8, 2022*

	Search phrase	Number of search results: Lexis		Number of search results: Westlaw	
		All Secondary	All Cases	All Secondary	All Cases
1.	stalking AND criminal AND credible AND threat	8,934	9,935	3,030	2,329
2.	stalking AND criminal AND "credible threat"	967	2,328	844	1,001
3.	stalking /p criminal /p "credible threat"	104	227	132	142
4.	stalking /s criminal /s "credible threat"	35	65	33	35
5.	stalking /2 criminal /2 "credible threat"	0	0	0	0

Important Ground Rules for Using Terms & Connectors:

- 1) Use natural language when searching for secondary sources
- 2) Expand your case law searching with headnotes before doing a terms and connectors search
- 3) Constructing a terms and connectors search:
 - a) Connect no more than 3 concepts (multiple synonyms ok)
 - b) Always use connectors between terms (and ideally parentheses) otherwise your search may default to a natural language search.
 - c) You cannot combine a natural language and terms and connectors search.