Lexis Nexis Academic Universe for federal and state statutes, regulations, and cases, as well as articles:

Begin at the Buley Library Home Page and roll your mouse over Research Databases.

Click on Article Databases.

Click on the letter L.

Click on Lexis Nexis Academic Universe. If you’re off-campus, you’ll be prompted to login. Use your network username and password.
Finding cases:

Click on Look up a Legal Case.

You can search for cases by citation, case name, or topic.

Citation is the most precise and will retrieve the opinion.

Case name will retrieve all cases with both names in them.

Topic will retrieve cases at all levels containing the search term(s) you enter. Use quotation marks around phrases like “living will”.

Results are displayed by court level with federal courts before state courts:

U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals
Federal District Courts
States are in alphabetical order

On the left, you can see the courts that had applicable cases and click on one to limit the results.

There are no Connecticut cases.

Too many cases with the same name? Usually the most recent one is the one you want, so just check the date on the results page.

However, if you open the document and it’s very short—just a line or two—it’s probably not the full opinion. Email me: clerics1@southernct.edu

FYI: You can use the Search the News function on the main search screen to search for articles in magazines and newspapers.

If you’re comfortable with legal jargon, you can also search for law review articles using the Search for Content Type menu.
U.S. Supreme Court cases in Lexis Nexis have a lot of extra explanatory material.

The most useful is probably Case in Brief which opens a PDF document that includes a discussion of the case’s significance.

You can also see the briefs filed by parties to the case.

Opinions from other courts don’t usually have these features.

In the body of the opinion you’ll see links to related cases and relevant statutes and regulations. Clicking on the links will display the text.

You can also search directly for statutes and regulations.

This is the Case in Brief for Washington v. Glucksberg.
Finding federal statutes and regulations:

Return to the Lexis Nexis main screen and click on Search for Content Type.

Click on Federal Statutes and Regulations.

Type your topic in the Search box, remembering to use quotation marks around phrases like “living will”.

Use AND to add ideas: “living will” and hospice
The result list mixes statutes and regulations. Use the links on the left to limit to one or the other.

Lexis Nexis doesn’t tell you much at this stage so you have to open a few records before you find one you want.

Click on the citation to open the statute or regulation.

42 USCS 1397j-1 is the way to cite this statute.

The text of the law is often quite brief.

Links to additional material, like law review articles, cases interpreting the law, and so on are located below the text of the law.
Finding state statutes and regulations:

Return to the Lexis Nexis main screen and click on Search by Content Type.

Click on State Statutes and Regulations.

Click on Advanced Options.
Choose a source and then choose a state, or choose all states.

Click Apply at the bottom of the box.

Type your topic in the Search box, remembering to use quotation marks around phrases like “living will”.

Use AND to add ideas: “living will” and hospice.
The text of the law is often quite brief.

Links to additional material, like law review articles, cases interpreting the law, and so on are located below the text of the law.
Other places to find cases:
There are several public-access legal websites that have federal and state court opinions.

Cornell Legal Information Institute (LII): http://www.law.cornell.edu/
Findlaw: http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/
Google Scholar: http://scholar.google.com or via the library’s Articles tab. Select Case Law.
Public Library of Law: http://www.plol.org

Other places to find state laws:

The Public Library of Law (http://www.plol.org) is a public access website that allows you to search state and federal laws and regulations. Click on the Statutes or Regulations tabs

You can often find state statutes by visiting the website for the state’s legislature. For example, the Connecticut State Assembly’s page allows you to search the state code (http://www.cga.ct.gov/). Some states have friendlier interfaces and are easier to search. Google can be a big help when searching for state laws.

Cornell Legal Information Institute (LII) has a list of links to state statute pages: http://www.law.cornell.edu/statutes.html#state
Findlaw does as well : http://statelaws.findlaw.com/state-codes/

Finding state regulations/administrative law is more challenging. If you can’t find anything in Lexis Nexis or the Public Library of Law, you can try to find the appropriate agency’s website. If they don’t have their regulations posted, you can contact them directly.

You can find links to Connecticut state agencies by beginning at http://www.ct.gov/, and clicking on Executive.