

# Resources for Free Legal Help

Help desk staff cannot represent you in court, but they may be able to answer questions and help with paperwork. Most services are first come, first served so please arrive early and expect a wait.

## Free Legal Help In & Near the Daley Center (50 West Washington Street, Downtown Chicago)

FAMILY



- Domestic Relations Advice Desk**  
**Divorce & child custody/visitation cases**  
🕒 8:30am - 12:00pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 Concourse Level, CL-16

- Parentage & Child Support Advice Desk**  
**Child support & paternity cases**  
🕒 9:30am - 12:15pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 Concourse Level, CL-24

HOUSING & MONEY



- Municipal Court Advice Desk**  
**Evictions, debt collections, car accidents, contract disputes & claims under \$30,000**  
🕒 8:30am - 4:00pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 Concourse Level, CL-16

- Collection Advice Desk**  
**Garnishments, frozen bank accounts & other debt collection cases**  
🕒 9:00am - 12:00pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Courtroom 1401



- Foreclosure Advice Desk**  
**Mortgage foreclosure cases**  
🕒 8:30am - 2:00pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 Concourse Level, CL-16

- Pro Se Filing Desk**  
**Small claims cases under \$5,000**  
🕒 8:30am - 4:30pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 602

GUARDIANSHIP



- Adult Guardianship Assistance Desk**  
**Guardianship of disabled adults**  
🕒 9:00am - 1:00pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1202

- Minor Guardianship Assistance Desk**  
**Guardianship of minor children**  
🕒 9:00am - 1:00pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 69 W. Washington, Room 1020  
☎ (312) 603-0135

**NOTE:** Free mediation is available in family, housing, money & guardianship cases. Ask the judge or clerk in your courtroom to request a mediator. Visit [www.ccrchicago.org](http://www.ccrchicago.org) to learn more.

SENIORS

60+

- Elder Justice Center**  
**Information & referrals for people ages 60+ (call or visit to schedule an appointment)**  
🕒 9:00am - 4:00pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 Concourse Level, CL-16 ☎ (312) 603-9233

- Elder Justice Help Desk**  
**Legal advice & document preparation for most civil case types for people 60+**  
🕒 9:00am - 1:00pm, Mon - Thu  
📍 Concourse Level, CL-16

CRIMINAL RECORD



- Adult Expungement Advice Desk**  
**Expunge & seal criminal records**  
🕒 8:30am - 12:00pm, Mon - Thur  
📍 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1006

- Juvenile Expungement Advice Desk**  
**Expunge juvenile arrests & records**  
🕒 9:00am - 4:00pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 1100 S. Hamilton, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

## Free Legal Help in Other Courthouses



- Domestic Violence Legal Clinic**  
**Orders of protection**  
🕒 8:30am - 2:30pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 555 W. Harrison, Suite 1900

- Bankruptcy Advice Desk**  
**Bankruptcy & creditor issues**  
🕒 9:30am - 12:30pm, Mon, Wed & Fri  
📍 219 S. Dearborn, Room 625

- Administrative Hearings Advice Desk**  
**Building code violations, vehicle impoundments & municipal matters**  
🕒 8:30am - 4:30pm, Mon, Wed, Thu & Fri  
📍 400 W. Superior, Room 121

- U.S. District Court Advice Desk**  
**Lawsuits in federal court**  
🕒 By appointment only  
📍 219 S. Dearborn, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
☎ (312) 435-5691

# Other Helpful Resources

## FREE LEGAL HELP



- CARPLS Legal Aid Hotline**  
Free advice & referrals from lawyers (you may wait up to 20 minutes)  
🕒 9:00am - 7:30pm, Mon & Wed  
9:00am - 4:30pm, Tue, Thur & Fri  
☎ (312) 738-9200 🌐 [www.carpls.org/](http://www.carpls.org/)
- Illinois Legal Aid Online**  
Free legal information & court forms from your computer or mobile device  
🕒 Available 24/7  
🌐 [www.illinoislegalaid.org](http://www.illinoislegalaid.org)

## HIRE A LAWYER



- JEP Lawyers**  
Lawyers who charge fixed fees for flexible & customizable legal help  
☎ (312) 546-3282 🌐 [www.jepchicago.org](http://www.jepchicago.org)
- Limited Scope Referral Panels**  
Lawyers who offer unbundled legal services in family law & eviction law  
🌐 [www.chicagobarfoundation.org/limitedscope](http://www.chicagobarfoundation.org/limitedscope)
- Chicago Bar Lawyer Referral Service**  
☎ (312) 554-2001  
🌐 [lrs.chicagobar.org](http://lrs.chicagobar.org)  
\$30 consultation fee (additional costs after)
- Illinois State Bar LawyerFinder**  
☎ (800) 922-8757  
🌐 [www.zeekbeek.com/isba](http://www.zeekbeek.com/isba)  
\$25 consultation fee (additional costs after)

## HELPFUL WEBSITES



- Cook County Circuit Clerk**  
Find court forms & case information  
🌐 [www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org)  
☎ (312) 603-4023
- Cook County Circuit Court**  
Learn about court operations & services  
🌐 [www.cookcountycourt.org](http://www.cookcountycourt.org)
- E-Filing Website**  
File court documents electronically  
🌐 [efile.illinoiscourts.gov](http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov)  
☎ (312) 603-4023  
✉ [efilehelp@cookcountycourt.com](mailto:efilehelp@cookcountycourt.com)
- IL Supreme Court Website**  
Use easy forms & self-help resources  
🌐 [www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp)

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES



- ADA Accommodations Requests**  
Contact the Court Disability Coordinator to make an accommodation request  
☎ (312) 603-1915  
✉ [ocj.accommodations@cookcountyiil.gov](mailto:ocj.accommodations@cookcountyiil.gov)
- Interpretation**  
To request a free interpreter at court, ask the clerk in your courtroom
- Notary Public at the Bond Desk**  
Notarize affidavits & court documents  
\$ Cost of notarization is one dollar (\$1.00)  
🕒 9:00am - 3:00pm, Mon - Fri, 📍 12<sup>th</sup> Floor
- Rhoda Bresler Children's Room**  
Free child care with proof of court date or a referral from judge or court staff (bathroom-independent children ages 2-12)  
🕒 8:30am - 4:30pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1319
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing Access**  
Request a sign language interpreter accommodation as soon as possible  
☎ (312) 603-1918 VP (312) 603-9187  
✉ [ocj.accommodations@cookcountyiil.gov](mailto:ocj.accommodations@cookcountyiil.gov)
- Cook County Law Library**  
Free access to public computers, legal research tools & court forms  
\$ Cost of printing & scanning is 15¢/page  
🕒 8:30am - 7:00pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 29<sup>th</sup> Floor
- Lactation Room (Mothers Rooms)**  
Private room for nursing mothers (call to request access to the room)  
🕒 8:30am - 5:00pm, Mon - Fri  
☎ (312) 603-6000

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Ensuring access to justice for all

Last Updated May 2019