



THE CBA YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION thanks *The Chicago Bar Foundation* for the funding of this publication and gratefully acknowledges the assistance of The Chicago Bar Foundation in its preparation.

WHERE TO GO FOR
Legal Assistance in or around Chicago



- FINDING A LAWYER
- FINDING LEGAL INFORMATION
- FINDING FREE OR LOW-COST LEGAL ASSISTANCE

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES

A list of organizations that are available to help people with legal problems or questions.

- If you have a question about the law;
- If you want to sue someone;
- If you are being sued;
- If you just need to talk with a lawyer or get some information about a legal issue...

In any type of case, it's a good idea to talk to a lawyer if at all possible. Lawyers are trained in what the law says about your situation, what your legal options are, how to help you decide what's best for your case, and how to present your case in the best way.

In this guide, we'll give you information about how you can find out if a lawyer is available to represent you—even if you don't think you can afford an attorney. If your case is not very complicated, or if it's not possible for you to talk to an attorney, this guide also has information about other resources that may be helpful.

IF YOU WANT LEGAL INFORMATION... or answers to “frequently asked questions,” go online to www.IllinoisLegalAid.org. The Chicago Bar Association's website, www.chicagobar.org, is another useful resource. The law is complicated and it is always best to have the assistance of an attorney in handling any legal matter.

IF YOU NEED A REFERRAL TO AN ATTORNEY... contact *The Chicago Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service* at 312.554.2001. These attorneys, screened to ensure that they are qualified to help people in specific areas of law, are available to consult with you for a small fee.

IF YOU ARE LOW-INCOME... and cannot afford to pay the initial consultation fee, you may be eligible for free or low-cost legal services. Cook County has many legal aid programs with different eligibility requirements and guidelines. To find out if you are eligible for free legal services, call *CARPLS, Cook County's legal aid hotline*, at 312.738.9200.

CARPLS attorneys can give you legal advice and send you instructions and materials if it is a simpler matter and you want to or need to handle it yourself. If your problem is more complicated, CARPLS will try to refer you to another legal aid program, which may be able to help you. The hotline receives more calls than CARPLS can answer. Please be patient as it may take up to 20 minutes to speak to an attorney.

IF YOU ARE DEAF, HARD-OF-HEARING, SPEECH-DISABLED, OR DEAFBLIND... you may contact the organizations listed in this guide through a Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS). This is a free operator assisted service that allows you to place calls to a standard voice telephone by using a keyboard or assistive device, like a cell phone. To place a TRS call from a standard voice phone, dial 711 to be automatically connected to a TRS operator.

IF YOU ARE SPANISH SPEAKING... you can call CARPLS at 312.738.9200 or go online to www.AyudaLegalIL.org.

OTHER THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Most of the legal aid programs listed in this guide do not accept walk-ins. Be sure to call first to see if you are eligible for their services and to get an appointment. While you might qualify for assistance from an organization, their resources are limited, so they may not be able to help you.

As an alternative to going to court, you may want to consider mediation. In mediation, a third party will attempt to negotiate a solution to your problem outside of court with you and the person with whom you have a disagreement. *The Center for Conflict Resolution* provides mediation services to people without lawyers in Cook County for small claims matters, community disputes, and landlord-tenant disputes. Call CCR for more information at 312.922.6464.

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ACCIDENTS/PERSONAL INJURY

CARPLS

312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

AIDS

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago

312.427.8990
www.aidslegal.com

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

ADOPTIONS

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago

*For families impacted
by HIV/AIDS*
312.427.8990
www.aidslegal.com

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.738.1762
www.clclaw.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

AGE DISCRIMINATION

SEE ALSO “Employment”

CARPLS

312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

Center for Disability and Elder Law

312.376.1880
www.cdclaw.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

ARTISTS

Lawyers for the Creative Arts

312.649.4111
www.law-arts.org

ASYLUM/REFUGEES

National Immigrant Justice Center

312.660.1370
www.immigrantjustice.org

BANKRUPTCY/DEBT COLLECTION

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago

For persons with HIV/AIDS
312.427.8990
www.aidslegal.com

Center for Disability and Elder Law

312.376.1880
www.cdclaw.org

Bankruptcy Desk

Monday–Friday 9:30–12:30
312.435.6032

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

CHILD CUSTODY

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

312.738.2452
www.cgla.net

CARPLS

312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services

312.986.4200
www.metrofamily.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

CHILD GUARDIANSHIP

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago

For families impacted by HIV/AIDS
312.427.8990
www.aidslegal.com

Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM)

312.675.0912
www.claim-il.org

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

Guardianship Assistance Desk for Minors

312.603.0135

CHILD SUPPORT

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

312.738.2452
www.cgla.net

CARPLS

312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

**Legal Aid Society of
Metropolitan Family Services**
312.986.4200
www.metrofamily.org

**Legal Assistance Foundation
of Metropolitan Chicago**
312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

CHILD VISITATION

Cabrini Green Legal Aid
312.738.2452
www.cgla.net

CARPLS
312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

Chicago Legal Clinic
773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

**Chicago Volunteer
Legal Services**
312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

**Legal Aid Society of
Metropolitan Family Services**
312.986.4200
www.metrofamily.org

**Legal Assistance Foundation
of Metropolitan Chicago**
312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

CIVIL RIGHTS

Access Living
Handles discrimination cases on behalf of persons with disabilities, including discrimination in housing accommodation, government programs (lack of access to government buildings or failure of a government program to serve persons with disabilities) and public accommodations (access to businesses, such as a store, restaurant, etc.).
312.640.2100 *voice*
800.613.8549 *toll free*
312.640.2169 *TTY*
888.253.7003 *toll free TTY*
www.accessliving.org

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
For persons with HIV/AIDS
312.427.8990
www.aidslegal.com

CARPLS
312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
For homeless persons
312.641.4141
800.940.1119 *toll free*
www.chicagohomeless.org

**Chicago Lawyers' Committee
for Civil Rights Under Law**
Discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, age or gender in housing or employment and hate crimes.
312.630.9744
www.clccrul.org

Equip for Equality
Discrimination based on disability(ies) in employment, special education, transportation settings and voting rights.
312.341.0022 *se habla español*
800.537.2632 *voice*
800.610.2779 *TTY*
www.equipforequality.org

**Legal Assistance Foundation
of Metropolitan Chicago**
Employment discrimination cases
312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

Lambda Legal
Discrimination based on sexual orientation
312.663.4413
www.lambdalegal.org

National Immigrant Justice Center
For immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers
312.660.1370
www.immigrantjustice.org

**Roger Baldwin Foundation
of ACLU, Inc.**
Discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or gender.
312.201.9740
www.aclu-il.org

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND NONPROFITS

The Law Project
312.939.3638
www.thelawproject.org

CONSUMER ISSUES

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
For persons with HIV/AIDS
312.427.8990
www.aidslegal.com

CARPLS
312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

**Center for Disability
and Elder Law**
312.376.1880
www.cdela.org

Chicago Legal Clinic
773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

**Chicago Volunteer
Legal Services**
312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

**Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan
Family Services**
312.986.4200
www.metrofamily.org

**Legal Assistance Foundation
of Metropolitan Chicago**
312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

CRIMINAL LAW

SEE ALSO “Juvenile Offender”

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

312.738.2452
www.cgla.net

Chicago Bar Association Bar Attorney Program

312.554.2001 *voice*
312.554.2055 *TTY*
www.chicagobar.org

Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender

312.603.0600

Federal Defender Program

Federal cases
312.621.8300

First Defense Legal Aid

If you or someone you know is arrested, detained or called in for questioning by the Chicago Police, call 1.800.LAW.REP4 (1.800.529.7374) before appointment of a lawyer
www.first-defense.org

Office of the State Appellate Defender

Criminal Appeals
217.782.7203
www.state.il.us/defender

DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

Midwest Center on Law and the Deaf

Information, resources and referrals only; organization does not represent individual clients
1.800.894.3653 *voice*
1.800.894.3654 *TTY*
www.mclld.org

DISABILITY

Access Living

Handles discrimination cases on behalf of persons with disabilities, including discrimination in housing accommodation, government programs (lack of access to government buildings or failure of a government program to serve persons with disabilities) and public accommodations (access to businesses, such as a store, restaurant, etc.).
312.640.2100 *voice*
800.613.8549 *toll free*
312.640.2169 *TTY*
888.253.7003 *toll free TTY*
www.accessliving.org

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago

For persons impacted by HIV/AIDS
312.427.8990
www.aidslegal.com

CARPLS

312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

Center for Disability

and Elder Law
Includes employment discrimination based on age or disability
312.376.1880
www.cdela.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

Equip for Equality

Includes discrimination based on disability(ies) in employment, special education, transportation settings and voting rights
312.341.0022 *se habla español*
800.537.2632 *voice*
800.610.2779 *TTY*
www.equipforequality.org

Health & Disability Advocates

Healthcare
312.223.9600 *voice*
866.584.8750 *TTY*
www.hdadvocates.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

Includes public benefits, employment discrimination, special education, etc.
312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

Uptown People’s Law Center

Includes public benefits
773.769.1411

DIVORCE

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

312.738.2452
www.cgla.net

CARPLS

312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services

312.986.4200
www.metrofamily.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

312.738.2452
www.cgla.net

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

312.325.9155
www.dvlcchicago.org

Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services

312.986.4200
www.metrofamily.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

Life Span Center for Legal Services and Advocacy

312.408.1210
www.life-span.org

National Immigrant Justice Center

Immigrants only

312.660.1370
www.immigrantjustice.org

EDUCATION

Access Living

Failure to serve or accommodate students with disabilities in educational setting

312.640.2100 *voice*
800.613.8549 *toll free*
312.640.2169 *TTY*
888.253.7003 *toll free TTY*
www.accessliving.org

CARPLS

312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Homeless youth
312.641.4141
800.940.1119
www.chicagohomeless.org

Equip for Equality

Special education
312.341.0022 *se habla español ASL*
800.537.2632 *voice*
800.610.2779 *TTY*
www.equipforequality.org

James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy

School discipline cases and special education
847.492.1410
www.moran-center.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

Special education, school discipline cases, vocational colleges
312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

ELDERLY

CARPLS

312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

Center for Disability and Elder Law

312.376.1880
www.probonocdel.org

Chicago Bar Association Senior Citizens Will Program

312.554.2001
www.chicagobar.org

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

312.332.1624
www.cvl.org

Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services

312.986.4200
www.metrofamily.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

EMPLOYMENT

Access Living

Disabled persons
312.640.2100 *voice*
800.613.8549 *toll free*
312.640.2169 *TTY*
888.253.7003 *toll free TTY*
www.accessliving.org

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago

Persons with HIV/AIDS
312.427.8990
www.aidslegal.com

CARPLS

312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

Center for Disability and Elder Law

312.376.1880
www.cdclaw.org

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

312.630.9744
www.clccrul.org

Equip for Equality

Disabled persons
312.341.0022 *se habla español*
800.537.2632 *voice*
800.610.2779 *TTY*
www.equipforequality.org

Illinois Department of Human Rights

312.814.6200
www.state.il.us/dhr

Lambda Legal

Sexual orientation
312.663.4413
www.lambdalegal.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

312.353.2713
www.eeoc.gov

Working Hands Legal Clinic

Wage and hour theft
312.795.9115
www.workers-law.org

EVICTION

SEE [Landlord-Tenant](#)

EXPUNGEMENT/SEALING OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

312.738.2452
www.cgla.net

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy

847.492.1410
www.moran-center.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

FAMILY LAW

SEE ALSO [Child Custody](#), [Child Guardianship](#), [Child Visitation](#) and [Divorce](#)

FORECLOSURE

**Circuit Court of Cook County
Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation
Program**
877.895.2444
(if you have received a foreclosure
summons)
www.cookcountyforeclosurehelp.org

Chicago Legal Clinic
773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

**Chicago Volunteer
Legal Services**
312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

**Legal Assistance Foundation
of Metropolitan Chicago**
312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

GUARDIANSHIP FOR DISABLED ADULTS

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
Persons with HIV/AIDS
312.427.8990
www.aidslegal.com

CARPLS
312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

**Center for Disability
and Elder Law**
312.376.1880
www.cdclaw.org

Chicago Legal Clinic
773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

**Chicago Volunteer
Legal Services**
312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

Equip for Equality
312.341.0022 *se habla español*
800.537.2632 *voice*
800.610.2779 *TTY*
www.equipforequality.org

**Legal Assistance Foundation
of Metropolitan Chicago**
312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

HATE CRIMES

**Chicago Lawyers' Committee
for Civil Rights Under Law**
312.630.9744
www.clccrul.org

HOUSING

SEE ALSO *Landlord-Tenant*

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
Persons with HIV/AIDS
312.427.8990
www.aidslegal.com

Cabrini Green Legal Aid
312.738.2452
www.cgla.net

CARPLS
312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

**Center for Disability
and Elder Law**
312.376.1880
www.cdclaw.org

**Chicago Lawyers' Committee
for Civil Rights Under Law**
312.630.9744
www.clccrul.org

Chicago Legal Clinic
773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services
312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

Equip for Equality
312.341.0022 *se habla español*
800.537.2632 *voice*
800.610.2779 *TTY*
www.equipforequality.org

**Lawyers' Committee for
Better Housing, Inc.**
312.347.7600
www.lcbh.org

**Legal Aid Society of
Metropolitan Family Services**
312.986.4200
www.metrofamily.org

**Legal Assistance Foundation
of Metropolitan Chicago**
312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

Uptown People's Law Center
773.769.1411

IMMIGRATION

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
Persons with HIV/AIDS
312.427.8990
www.aidslegal.com

CARPLS
312.738.9200
www.carpls.org

Centro Romero
773.508.5300
www.centroromero.org

Chicago Legal Clinic
773.731.1762
www.clclaw.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services
312.332.1624
www.cvls.org

Indo-American Center
773.973.4444
www.indoamerican.org

Latinos Progresando
773.542.7077
www.latinospro.org

**Legal Assistance Foundation
of Metropolitan Chicago**
312.341.1070
www.lafchicago.org

**Life Span Center for Legal
Services & Advocacy**
*For victims of domestic and sexual
violence only*
312.408.1210
www.life-span.org

National Immigrant Justice Center
312.660.1370
www.immigrantjustice.org

**World Relief – Chicago
Immigration Legal Services**
773.583.9191
www.worldrelief.org/chicago

INSURANCE BENEFITS

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago

Persons with HIV/AIDS

312.427.8990

www.aidslegal.com

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.731.1762

www.clclaw.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

312.332.1624

www.cvls.org

Health & Disability Advocates

Medical only

312.223.9600 *voice*

866.584.8750 *TTY*

www.hdadvocates.org

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Law Project

312.939.3638

www.thelawproject.org

Lawyers for the Creative Arts

312.649.4111

www.law-arts.org

JUVENILE ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Family Defense Center

312.251.9800

www.familydefensecenter.net

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

312.341.1070

www.lafchicago.org

JUVENILE OFFENDER

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

312.738.2452

www.cgla.net

James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy

847.492.1410

www.moran-center.org

LANDLORD-TENANT/EVICTION

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

312.738.2452

www.cgla.net

CARPLS

312.738.9200

www.carpls.org

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.731.1762

www.clclaw.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

312.332.1624

www.cvls.org

Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, Inc.

312.347.7600

www.lcbh.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

312.341.1070

www.lafchicago.org

Uptown People's Law Center

773.769.1411

MEDIATION

Center for Conflict Resolution

312.922.6464

www.ccrchicago.org

PRISONER ISSUES

Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM)

Handles family law issues on
behalf of incarcerated mothers

312.675.0912

www.claim-il.org

Equip for Equality

Disabled persons

312.341.0022 *se habla español*

800.537.2632 *voice*

800.610.2779 *TTY*

www.equipforequality.org

Uptown People's Law Center

Handles civil rights issues on
behalf of inmates

773.769.1411

PUBLIC BENEFITS

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago

Persons with HIV/AIDS

312.427.8990

www.aidslegal.com

CARPLS

312.738.9200

www.carpls.org

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

312.641.4141

800.940.1119 *toll free*

www.chicagohomeless.org

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.731.1762

www.clclaw.org

Equip for Equality

312.341.0022 *se habla español*

800.537.2632 *voice*

800.610.2779 *TTY toll free*

www.equipforequality.org

Health & Disability Advocates

312.223.9600 *voice*

866.584.8750 *TTY*

www.hdadvocates.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

312.341.1070

www.lafchicago.org

Uptown People's Law Center

773.769.1411

REAL ESTATE CLOSINGS

Chicago Legal Clinic

773.731.1762

www.clclaw.org

The Law Project

312.939.3638

www.thelawproject.org

SMALL BUSINESS

The Law Project

312.939.3638

www.thelawproject.org

SPECIAL EDUCATION

SEE Education

TAXES

CARPLS

312.738.9200

www.carpls.org

Center for Economic Progress, Tax Clinic

312.252.0280

www.economicprogress.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

312.332.1624

www.cvls.org

VETERANS

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

312.341.1070

www.lafchicago.org

LAW SCHOOL Clinics

Chicago has six law schools, each of which operates one or more clinics offering free or reduced cost legal representation to eligible clients. These clinics are designed to offer law students opportunities to act as legal practitioners while pursuing their degrees. However, each law school legal clinic has its own separate eligibility requirements, and may be seasonal, so each should be approached individually.

CHICAGO-KENT COLLEGE OF LAW www.kentlaw.edu

Areas of focus include: civil rights, criminal defense, employment, family law, immigration, small business, Social Security and tax

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW www.law.depaul.edu

Areas of focus include: asylum/immigration, civil rights, criminal appeals, death penalty, family law, intellectual property, misdemeanors and special education

THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL www.jmls.edu

Areas of focus include: denial of housing based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, familial status, marital status, age, source of income or sexual orientation

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW www.luc.edu/law

Areas of focus include: business, child welfare, community law, elder care, and tax

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW www.law.northwestern.edu

Areas of focus include: child delinquency, investor protection, small business and wrongful convictions

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL www.law.uchicago.edu

Areas of focus include: civil rights, criminal justice, employment discrimination, entrepreneurship and the rights of the mentally ill

HELP DESKS for People Without Lawyers

The Circuit Court of Cook County, in partnership with The Chicago Bar Foundation and a number of nonprofit entities, has a number of programs at or near the Richard J. Daley Center (50 W. Washington) to help people without lawyers. As detailed below, information and resources are available for a wide variety of legal needs from the Self-Help Web Center, and several other desks offer assistance in specific types of cases. There are no phones unless listed. The Desks are first-come first-serve, so arrive as early as possible in order to schedule an appointment.

RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT LAWYERS IN COOK COUNTY

General Information and Assistance

Self-Help Web Center

Richard J. Daley Center
6th Floor, Room 602

HOURS: Hours vary
Monday through Friday

- Find legal information and court forms online in over 20 areas of law with the help of a law student
- A search tool for free and low-cost legal representation

Administrative Hearings

Advice Desk

400 W. Superior Street, Room 121

HOURS: 9 am – 4:30 pm
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

- Building code violations
- Vehicle impound
- Online legal information assistance

Child Support and Paternity

Expedited Child Support and Paternity Advice Desk

Concourse level, Room CL24

HOURS: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Monday through Friday

- Child support
- Paternity issues

Debt Collection

Collection Advice Desk

Richard J. Daley Center
14th Floor, Room 1401

HOURS: 9 am – 12 pm
Monday through Friday

- Post-judgment debt collection (Plaintiff and Defendant)

Divorce and Other Domestic Relations Matters

Domestic Relations Self-Help Desk
Richard J. Daley Center, 30th floor

HOURS: 9 am – 1 pm

Monday through Friday

- Uncontested divorce
- Consultations on simple family matters such as custody and visitation issues
- Assistance in resolving issues after the entry of a divorce order
- CARPLS attorneys do not represent clients in court

Domestic Violence - Civil

Pro Se Assistance Area –
Domestic Violence Civil Order
of Protection Courtroom

555 W. Harrison, Suite 1400

HOURS: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Monday through Friday

- Civil order of protection
- Assistance in completing forms

The Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, located at 555 W. Harrison, Suite 1900, is available for victims of domestic violence who need legal assistance. The clinic is open 8:30 am – 1:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Expungement of Criminal Records

Expungement Help Desk

Richard J. Daley Center
10th Floor, Room 1006

HOURS: 9 am – 12 pm

Monday through Friday

- Expungement and sealing of criminal records
- Must have Chicago criminal record/rap sheet for Chicago cases before coming to the desk

Foreclosures and Other Chancery Court Matters

Circuit Court of Cook County
Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation
Program

www.cookcountyforeclosurehelp.org

PHONE: 877.895.2444

Access to free housing counseling, legal assistance and mediation for homeowners facing mortgage foreclosure in Cook County

Chancery Division Advice Desk

Richard J. Daley Center
13th Floor, Room 1303

HOURS: 9 am – 4:30 pm

Monday through Friday

- Mortgage foreclosures
- Name change
- Administrative review

Guardianship for Adults

Adult Guardianship Help Desk

Richard J. Daley Center
12th Floor, Room 1202

HOURS: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Monday through Friday

- Guardianship for a disabled adult
- Assistance in understanding the procedure and completing forms

Guardianships for Minors

Assistance Desk

69 West Washington, Room 1020

HOURS: By appointments only.

The receptionist is available from

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Monday through Friday

PHONE: 312.603.0135

- Guardianship of a minor
- Assistance in preparing court documents
- Referrals for more complex cases

Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Court

The Legal Assistance Foundation
Juvenile Expungement Help Desk

Cook County Juvenile Division

1110 South Hamilton Avenue

HOURS: 9 am – 12 pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays

- Expungement and sealing of all arrests that occurred before a person's 17th birthday and criminal charges filed against a person in juvenile court
- Assistance with expungement forms and fee waiver petitions
- Must have criminal record/rap sheet before coming to the Desk

Municipal Court

Advice Desk

Richard J. Daley Center
6th Floor, Room 602

HOURS: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Monday through Friday

- Eviction
- Contract disputes/debt collection
- Other Municipal Court cases
(under \$50,000)

Small Claims Matters

Help Desk

Richard J. Daley Center
6th Floor, Room 602

HOURS: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Monday through Friday

PHONE: 312.603.5626

- Recovery of monetary damages up to \$3,000
- Includes auto damage, clothing loss or damage, debt collection and tenant/landlord claims

OTHER RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT LAWYERS AT THE DALEY CENTER

Child Advocacy Room

The Rhoda Bresler Children's Room
13th Floor, Room 1309

HOURS: 8:45 am – 4:15 pm

Monday through Friday

PHONE: 312.603.6252

- Childcare during court proceedings
- Snacks provided

Cook County Law Library

Richard J. Daley Center
(and other Cook County court locations), 29th Floor

HOURS: 8:30 am – 9 pm

Monday through Friday

- The Law Library provides print and electronic resources to help find answers to law-related questions
- The Law Library is not a legal service and the staff cannot provide legal service

Notary Public at the Bond Desk

12th Floor

HOURS: 9 am – 3 pm

Monday to Friday

- Notarization costs \$1.00 and requires a government issued ID

RESOURCES FOR FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT LAWYERS AT FEDERAL COURT

General Information and Assistance for Federal District Court

U.S. District Court Pro Se
Assistance Program

The Dirksen Federal Courthouse
219 S. Dearborn Street, 20th Floor

HOURS: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Monday through Friday.

By appointment only.

Appointments can be made by
calling the Clerk's Office.

PHONE: 312.435.5691

- Employment discrimination
- Civil rights
- Information about court procedures
- Online legal information assistance

Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy Assistance Desk

The Dirksen Federal Courthouse
219 S. Dearborn Street, Room 622
Sign in, Room 625

HOURS: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Monday to Friday

No appointment necessary

PHONE: 312.435.6032

- Debtor-Bankruptcy
- Creditor issues
- Provide information about court procedures
- Online legal information assistance

SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY COURT-BASED HELP DESKS

In addition to a number of help
desks at or near the Richard J. Daley
Center (50 W. Washington) in
downtown Chicago, there are a
number of court-based resources
available in suburban Cook County.
There are no phone numbers
available unless listed.

Second Municipal District/ Skokie Courthouse

The James B. Moran Center
Expungement Help Desk

Second Municipal District Courthouse
5600 Old Orchard Road, Skokie, IL

HOURS: 10 am – 12 pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays

- Expungement and sealing of
criminal records
- Must have criminal record/rap
sheet before coming to the Desk

The Legal Assistance Foundation
Eviction Help Desk

Second Municipal District Courthouse
5600 Old Orchard Road, Skokie, IL

HOURS: 9 am – 11 am, Fridays

- Consultation with an attorney on
landlord/tenant issues
- Legal assistance for eviction
proceedings

Sixth Municipal District/Markham Courthouse

The Legal Assistance Foundation
Domestic Violence Civil Order of
Protection Outreach Project

Sixth Municipal District Courthouse
16501 S. Kedzie Parkway

Room 204H, Markham, IL

HOURS: the 2nd and 4th Mondays
of each month

- Civil orders of protection
- Consultation with an attorney
on domestic violence issues
- Legal representation for civil
orders of protection

The Legal Assistance Foundation
Eviction Outreach Project

Sixth Municipal District Courthouse
16501 S. Kedzie Parkway

Room 207-208, Markham, IL

HOURS: the 2nd and 4th Mondays
of each month

- Consultation with an attorney
on landlord/tenant issues
- Legal assistance for eviction
proceedings

The Legal Aid Society of
Metropolitan Family Services
Civil Law Help Desk

Sixth Municipal District Courthouse
16501 S. Kedzie Parkway

Room 204H, Markham, IL

HOURS: 9 am – 12:30 pm, Fridays

Consultation with an attorney on
contract dispute/debt collection,
landlord/tenant and other consumer
law cases

The Legal Aid Society of
Metropolitan Family Services
Self-Help Web Center

Sixth Municipal District Courthouse
16501 S. Kedzie Parkway

Cook County Law Library
Basement Room 072, Markham, IL

HOURS: 8:30 am – 12 pm, 1 am – 4 pm
Monday through Friday (unattended)

Only staffed from 9 am – 12 pm
Mondays and Fridays

- Find legal information and court
forms online with the help of a
navigator
- Access via phone to CARPLS Legal
Aid hotline to speak with attorneys
who can provide help and referrals
to address legal problems

LEGAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS *Outside Cook County*

Free or low cost legal assistance is also available outside Cook County. In parts of central and southern Illinois, contact Land of Lincoln Legal Services Foundation, Inc. at 877.342.7891. Each office and list of counties served are listed below. In parts of central and northern Illinois, contact Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. at 800.531.7057 or one of the offices listed on the next page. Residents of DuPage County can contact DuPage Legal Aid Services at 630.653.6212.

For immigration matters in Central and Southern Illinois, contact the Immigration Project at 309.829.8703 or visit www.immigrationproject.org.

LAND OF LINCOLN LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION OFFICES:

Alton Office

618.462.0029
800.642.5570
Adams, Bond, Brown, Calhoun,
Greene, Hancock, Jersey, Macoupin,
Madison, Montgomery, Pike &
Schuyler

Carbondale Office

618.457.7800
800.642.5335
Alexander, Clay, Edwards, Franklin,
Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson,
Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence,
Marion, Massac, Perry, Pope,
Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Union,
Wabash, Wayne, White &
Williamson

Champaign Office

217.356.1351
800.747.5523
Champaign, Clark, Coles, Crawford,
Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas,
Edgar, Effingham, Ford, Jasper,
Moultrie, Piatt & Vermilion

East St. Louis Office

618.398.0958
Clinton, Fayette, Monroe, Randolph,
St. Clair & Washington

Springfield Office

217.529.8400
800.252.8629
Cass, Christian, Logan, Macon,
Mason, Menard, Morgan, Sangamon,
Scott & Shelby

PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES OFFICES:

Bloomington Office

309.827.5021
800.874.2536
Livingston, McLean & eastern
Woodford

Fox Valley Office

630.232.9415
800.942.4612
DeKalb, Kendall, & Kane

Joliet Office

815.727.5123
Will

Kankakee Office

815.935.2750
800.346.2864
Kankakee & Iroquois

McHenry Office

815.206.5828
800.942.3940
McHenry

Ottawa Office

815.434.5903
800.892.7888
Bureau, Grundy, La Salle,
Lee & Putnam

Peoria Office

309.674.9831
800.322.2280
Marshall, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell
& western Woodford

Rock Island Office

309.794.1328
800.322.9804
Henry, Mercer, Rock Island &
Whiteside

Rockford Office

815.965.2902
800.892.2985
Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Ogle,
Stephenson & Winnebago

Waukegan Office

847.662.6925
800.942.3940
Lake & McHenry

Wheaton Office

630.690.2130
800.690.2130
DuPage

