

Resources for Legal Help

George N. Leighton Criminal Courthouse
2560 S. California Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60608

Free Legal Help in Criminal Cases

The Cook County Public Defender is the main provider of free criminal defense. If you do not qualify for or do not want to use the Public Defender, you will probably have to pay for a lawyer. The other organizations listed below can help a very limited number of people (call to learn more about their intake criteria).

If you or someone you know is being held by the Chicago Police or any Suburban Cook County Police Department, call 1-800-529-7374 to send a free public defender 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Public Defender (Cook County)

Criminal defense (at trial)

🕒 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon - Fri

📍 7th Floor Admin-Side

☎ (312) 603-0600

🌐 www.cookcountypublicdefender.org/

Appellate Defender (Illinois)

Criminal defense (on appeal)

☎ (217) 782-7203

🌐 www2.illinois.gov/osad

Lawndale Christian Legal Center

Criminal defense for youth (24 and under) in the North Lawndale area

☎ (773) 762-6381

🌐 www.lclc.net

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

Criminal defense (no traffic, murder, sex crimes, or animal cruelty)

☎ (312) 738-2452

🌐 www.cgla.net

Fee-Based Legal Help in Criminal Cases

Chicago Bar Lawyer Referral Service

Connect with lawyers in the Chicago area

☎ (312) 554-2001

🌐 lrs.chicagobar.org/

💰 \$30 consultation fee (additional costs after)

JEP Lawyers

Lawyers who offer set fees and flexible legal representation options

☎ (312) 546-3282 🌐 www.jepchicago.org

💰 No consultation fee (additional costs after)

Chicago Bar Attorney Program

Connect with lawyers at the courthouse for same-day help in traffic and criminal court

☎ (312) 554-2001 📠 312-554-2055 (TTY)

🌐 lrs.chicagobar.org/pages/in-court

Illinois State Bar LawyerFinder

Free referrals to lawyers statewide who charge fees for their legal services

☎ (800) 922-8757

🌐 www.zeekbeek.com/isba

Free Legal Help in Civil (Non-Criminal) Cases

CRIMINAL RECORDS

Expungement Advice Desk

Expunge & seal adult criminal records

🕒 8:30 am - 12 pm, Mon - Thur

📍 50 W. Washington, 10th Floor, Room 1006

Juvenile Expungement Advice Desk

Expunge & seal juvenile records

🕒 9 am - 4 pm, Mon/Tue; 9 am -12 pm, Th

📍 1100 S. Hamilton, 1st Floor

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

Help with civil orders of protection

🕒 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon – Fri

📍 555 W. Harrison, Suite 1400

☎ (312) 325-9155

Domestic Violence Help Line

Confidential help for DV survivors

🕒 Available 24/7

☎ (877) 863-6338

📠 (877) 863-6339

GENERAL HELP

CARPLS Legal Aid Hotline

Free advice & referrals from lawyers

🕒 9 am - 7:30 pm, Mon & Wed

9 am - 4:30 pm, Tue, Thur & Fri

☎ (312) 738-9200

Illinois Legal Aid Online

Free legal information & court forms

🕒 Available 24/7

🌐 www.illinoislegalaid.org

Other Helpful Court Resources

DISABILITY ACCESS



- ☐ **ADA Accommodations Requests**
Contact the Court Disability Coordinator to make an accommodation request
 ☎ (312) 603-1915
 ✉ ocj.accommodations@cookcountyiil.gov

- ☐ **Deaf/Hard of Hearing Access**
Request an accommodation 24 hours in advance when possible
 ☎ (312) 603-1918 VP (312) 603-9187
 ✉ ocj.accommodaions@cookcountyiil.gov

CHILDCARE



- ☐ **Children's Advocacy Room**
Free child care for families at court (bathroom-independent children 2-12)
 ⌚ 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri
 📍 1st Floor, Courthouse Room 099
 ☎ (773) 674-8260

- ☐ **Mother's Room**
Private space for nursing mothers (key available at Information Desk)
 ⌚ 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri
 📍 1st Floor, Courthouse Room 102A

CASE RESEARCH & INFORMATION



- ☐ **Cook County Law Library**
Free access to public computers and legal research tools
 ⌚ 8:30 am - 7 pm, Mon - Fri
 📍 4th Floor, Courthouse
 ☎ (773) 674-5038

- ☐ **Clerk of the Circuit Court**
Information about court hearings
 ⌚ 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri
 📍 5th Floor, Administrative Building
 ☎ (773) 674-3140
 🌐 www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

FOOD



- ☐ **Cafeteria**
Meals available for purchase
 ⌚ 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri
 📍 2nd Floor, Administrative Building

- ☐ **Don's Snack Shop**
Snacks available for purchase
 ⌚ 8:30 am - 2:00 pm, Mon - Fri
 📍 1st Floor, Administrative Building

PUBLIC SAFETY



- ☐ **Cook County Department of Corrections**
Questions about the location and status of someone held at Cook County Jail
 ☎ (773) 674-8225
 🌐 <https://inmatelocator.ccsheriff.org/>
 ✉ doc.visitation@cookcountyiil.gov
- ☐ **Victim Witness Assistance Unit**
Advocacy and support services for crime victims and witnesses
 ⌚ 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri
 ☎ (773) 674-7200

- ☐ **Cook County State's Attorney**
Questions for the State's Attorney
 ⌚ 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri
 📍 11th Floor, Administrative Building
 ☎ (312) 603-1880
 🌐 www.cookcountystatesattorney.org/
- ☐ **TASC Inc.**
Treatment alternatives for incarceration
 📍 1st Floor, Courthouse Room 107B
 ☎ (773) 674-6656
 🌐 <http://www2.tasc.org/>

Notes:



Ensuring access to justice for all

Last Updated May 2019