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# Free & Affordable Legal Help In Cook County

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This directory is provided solely for informational purposes by the Circuit Court of Cook County, Office of the Chief Judge. The information provided has been collected by the Circuit Court of Cook County Pro Se Advisory Committee and is subject to change without notice. Last updated July 2019.

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## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide will help you connect with:

- Free and affordable legal help in Cook County
- Free online legal information and court forms
- Fee-based lawyer referral services, including those that offer limited scope representation and other affordable options
- Court-based help desks and other resources for people without lawyers
- Commonly asked questions about getting legal help

### GETTING STARTED

**In most cases, the best place to start is by calling the CARPLS Legal Advice Hotline at (312) 738-9200.**

CARPLS is Cook County's legal aid hotline. It is staffed by lawyers who can give free legal advice by phone. If there is a legal aid or pro bono organization that might be able to offer more help, the CARPLS lawyers will tell you who else to call. You can learn more about the CARPLS Legal Advice Hotline and other options for getting legal help in this guide.

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## GETTING STARTED – MORE INFORMATION

### Call CARPLS Legal Advice Hotline (312-738-9200)

- The CARPLS Legal Advice Hotline is open from Monday – Friday from 9:00am – 4:30pm (7:30pm on Monday/Wednesday). CARPLS lawyers give legal advice and other help, and if an organization might be able to take your case, CARPLS lawyers will tell you where to call.
- Many people call CARPLS for free legal help. If you get a busy signal, call back at another time, but keep trying. If the wait time is more than 20 minutes, you may be asked to leave your number and a CARPLS attorney will call you back.
- For \$25, you can avoid waiting and set a time for a lawyer to call you. You need a credit card and access to the internet. Visit [www.carpls.org](http://www.carpls.org) to make an appointment.
- CARPLS helps people up to 350% of the Federal Poverty Level. You can find the current poverty levels at: <https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/federal-poverty-levels>.

### Learn More with Illinois Legal Aid Online ([www.IllinoisLegalAid.org](http://www.IllinoisLegalAid.org)) ([www.IllinoisLegalAid.org/es](http://www.IllinoisLegalAid.org/es) en Español)

- Find information, forms, visual aids, and videos on over 30 areas of law (civil and criminal). You can also use easy form prep programs to complete and print or save your court forms.
- You can apply for legal services at a limited number of legal aid organizations. Look for the pop-up screen when you visit a page to learn more.
- Free and available 24/7. Navigational assistance is also available during the daytime.

### Affordable Options

There are good lawyers who charge reasonable fees. They may be able to handle just part of your case or coach you on handling your case to make it more affordable.

- **JEP Lawyers**
  - JEP lawyers provide affordable, quality legal services that often include set fees and flexible representation options.
  - Learn more at [jepchicago.org](http://jepchicago.org) or 312-546-3282.
- **Chicago Legal Clinic**
  - The Chicago Legal charges clients sliding scale fees based on their ability to pay.

- Learn more at [www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org) or call 773-731-1762.

## The Chicago Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service

- The Lawyer Referral Services connects people to experienced lawyers who charge fees for their time and services.
- Some kinds of cases allow lawyers to earn fees, but clients do not pay for those services. Some examples are personal injury and consumer fraud cases.
- Learn more or find a lawyer at [lrs.chicagobar.org](http://lrs.chicagobar.org) or 312-554-2001.

## Other Lawyer Referral Services

- Cook County Bar Association ([www.cookcountybar.org](http://www.cookcountybar.org))
- Illinois State Bar Association ([www.zeebeek.com/isba](http://www.zeebeek.com/isba) or 800-252-8908)
- North Suburban Bar Association ([new.ilnsba.org/home.html](http://new.ilnsba.org/home.html))
- South Suburban Bar Association ([www.southsuburbanbar.org](http://www.southsuburbanbar.org) or 708-633-9700)
- Southwest Bar Association ([www.southwestbar.org](http://www.southwestbar.org))
- West Suburban Bar Association ([www.westsuburbanbar.org](http://www.westsuburbanbar.org))

## Other Helpful Websites and Information

- **Circuit Clerk of Cook County**  
[www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org)
  - Court forms, online dockets, and case information
- **Circuit Court of Cook County**  
[www.cookcountycourt.org](http://www.cookcountycourt.org)
  - Information about court operations and services (including disability access)
  - Information for people without lawyers
  - Information about help desks and other free court-based resources
- **Illinois Supreme Court Access to Justice**  
[www.illinoiscourts.gov/CivilJustice/AccessToJustice.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/CivilJustice/AccessToJustice.asp)
  - Statewide standardized forms, language access resources, and e-filing guides

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## COMMON QUESTIONS

### Can I get a free lawyer?

It depends on the type of help you need. In non-criminal or "civil" cases, you usually do not have the right to a free lawyer, but there are many legal aid and pro bono programs that provide free legal help if you meet their income and other eligibility criteria.

### What types of cases do free lawyers take?

Pro bono and legal aid organizations provide free (sometimes called pro bono) legal help in many kinds of cases, including:

- Family (divorce, child custody and support, domestic violence, guardianship)
- Housing (evictions, foreclosure, condition of property)
- Money and Debt (bills, debt, utility shutoff, bankruptcy)
- Public Benefits (food stamps, unemployment, Social Security, Social Security disability, Medicaid, TANF)
- Immigration (citizenship, asylum, visas)
- Most organizations do not take criminal cases. If you have a criminal case, you may need to hire a lawyer or ask for a public defender (312-603-0600 in Cook County).

### Do I need a lawyer?

Lawyers are trained to know what the law says about your legal problem, what your options are, how to help you decide what's best for your case, and how to present your case. For many legal issues, it is best to have help from a lawyer. For simpler matters, you may be able to handle the matter on your own with help from legal information. To help decide whether you need a lawyer, consider the following questions:

1. How important is the matter to you? The more important the matter, the more important it is to have a lawyer.
2. How much is at stake if you do not win? If a lot is at stake, it is important to have a lawyer.
3. How complicated is your legal issue? If your matter is complicated, legal assistance may be needed.
4. How comfortable are you filling out forms and appearing in court? If you are not comfortable with forms or speaking in public, assistance from a lawyer is important.
5. Does the other side have a lawyer? If so, it may be more important for you to have a lawyer.

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## COURT-BASED HELP DESKS

Court-based help desks provide same-day legal information or advice and help with forms. Help desks do not generally provide in-court representation.

Most help desks are first-come, first served and often fill up early. Plan to arrive early and be prepared to wait for an appointment.

### Learn more about court-based help desks online:

#### State Court Matters in Cook County

- [www.cookcountycourt.org](http://www.cookcountycourt.org) (Information available under “For People without Lawyers”)
- [www.chicagobarfoundation.org/category/resources/courts/](http://www.chicagobarfoundation.org/category/resources/courts/) (Lists of resources at the Daley Center, the Markham Courthouse, and the Leighton Criminal Courthouse)

#### Bankruptcy Advice Desk in the Northern District of Illinois

- [www.ilnb.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy-assistance-desk](http://www.ilnb.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy-assistance-desk)

#### U.S. District Court Advice Desk (federal civil cases; by appointment only)

- [www.ilnd.uscourts.gov](http://www.ilnd.uscourts.gov) (Information and online appointments under “Information for People without Lawyers”)

#### City of Chicago Administrative Hearings Advice Desk

- [www.carpls.org/client-services/administrative-desk/](http://www.carpls.org/client-services/administrative-desk/)

### Learn more about court-based help desks at court:

At the Daley Center, visit the Resource Center for People without Lawyers on the Concourse Level (CL-16) next to the Starbucks to learn more about the many help desks at court. The Resource Center is open Monday-Friday from 8:00-4:00.

At the other Cook County courthouses, visit the Law Library or Information Desk to learn about available resources.

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# DIRECTORY OF LEGAL AID ORGANIZATIONS

The legal aid organizations listed in this Guide provide free or affordable legal services. Many websites have helpful information about their services, including the type of cases they accept, the areas they serve, and income eligibility criteria.

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## Accidents/Personal Injury

*Note: Private lawyers may take these cases in exchange for part of the money awarded at the end of the case. **Go to page 7 for more information about finding a private lawyer.***

*For defendants in small cases:*

**Chicago Legal Clinic**  
*charges fees based on ability to pay*  
773.731.1762  
[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

**Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**  
312.332.1624  
[www.cvls.org](http://www.cvls.org)

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## Adoption

**Chicago Legal Clinic**  
*charges fees based on ability to pay*  
773.731.1762  
[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

**Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**  
312.332.1624  
[www.cvls.org](http://www.cvls.org)

*For families adopting children from the foster care system:*

**Department of Child and Family Services**  
800.572.2390  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/lovinghomes/adoption/Pages/default.aspx>

*For families impacted by HIV/AIDS:*

**Legal Council for Health Justice**  
312.427.8990  
[www.legalcouncil.org](http://www.legalcouncil.org)

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## Artists & Arts Organizations

**Lawyers for the Creative Arts**  
312.649.4111  
[www.law-arts.org](http://www.law-arts.org)

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## Bankruptcy/Debt Collection

**Bankruptcy Assistance Desk  
(Dirksen Federal Building, 219 S. Dearborn)**  
*advice and help with forms only*  
Call 312-435-6032 or visit  
[www.ilnb.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy-assistance-desk](http://www.ilnb.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy-assistance-desk) to learn more.

**Chicago Legal Clinic**  
*charges fees based on ability to pay*  
773.731.1762  
[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

**Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**  
312.332.1624  
[www.cvls.org](http://www.cvls.org)

**Legal Aid Chicago**  
312.341.1070  
[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

*For elderly and disabled persons:*

**Center for Disability & Elder Law**  
312.376.1880  
[www.cdclaw.org](http://www.cdclaw.org)

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## **Child Abuse And Neglect**

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### **Legal Aid Chicago**

312.341.1070

[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

*For families in the child welfare system:*

### **Ascend Justice**

*charges fees based on ability to pay*

312.325.9155

[www.ascendjustice.org](http://www.ascendjustice.org)

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## **Child Custody**

### **Catholic Charities Legal Assistance**

312.948.6821

[www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net)

### **Chicago Legal Clinic**

*charges fees based on ability to pay*

773.731.1762

[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

### **Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**

312.332.1624

[www.cvls.org](http://www.cvls.org)

### **Legal Aid Chicago**

312.341.1070

[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

### **Legal Aid Society of Metro. Family Services**

312.986.4200

<https://www.metrofamily.org/legal-aid-society/>

*For individuals who are incarcerated, serving a sentence or facing a pending criminal case:*

### **Cabrini Green Legal Aid**

312.738.2452

[www.cgla.net](http://www.cgla.net)

## **Child Guardianship**

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### **Minor Guardianship Assistance Desk**

**(69 W. Washington, Room 1020)**

*walk-in or call for an appointment*

312-603-0135

### **Catholic Charities Legal Assistance**

312.948.6821

[www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net)

### **Chicago Legal Clinic**

*charges fees based on ability to pay*

773.731.1762

[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

### **Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**

312.332.1624

[www.cvls.org](http://www.cvls.org)

*For individuals who are incarcerated, serving a sentence or facing a pending criminal case:*

### **Cabrini Green Legal Aid**

312.738.2452

[www.cgla.net](http://www.cgla.net)

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## **Child Support/Child Visitation**

### **Catholic Charities Legal Assistance**

312.948.6821

[www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net)

### **Chicago Legal Clinic**

*charges fees based on ability to pay*

773.731.1762

[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

### **Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**

312.332.1624

[www.cvls.org](http://www.cvls.org)

**Legal Aid Society of Metro. Family Services**  
312.986.4200  
<https://www.metrofamily.org/legal-aid-society/>

**Legal Aid Chicago**  
312.341.1070  
[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

*For individuals who are incarcerated, serving a sentence or facing a pending criminal case:*

**Cabrini Green Legal Aid**  
312.738.2452  
[www.cgla.net](http://www.cgla.net)

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### **Civil Rights**

*For discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, age or gender in housing or employment:*

**Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights**  
312.630.9744  
[www.clccrul.org](http://www.clccrul.org)

*For people with disabilities:*

**Access Living**  
*discrimination based on disability in housing, government programs and access to businesses*  
800.613.8549 voice  
888.253.7003 TTY  
[www.accessliving.org](http://www.accessliving.org)

**Equip for Equality**  
*discrimination based on disability in employment, special education, transportation settings and voting rights*  
800.537.2632 voice  
800.610.2779 TTY  
[www.equipforequality.org](http://www.equipforequality.org)

*For persons with HIV/AIDS:*

**Legal Council for Health Justice**  
312.427.8990  
[www.legalcouncil.org](http://www.legalcouncil.org)

*For homeless persons:*

**Chicago Coalition for the Homeless**  
312.641.4140  
800.940.1119 toll free  
[www.chicagohomeless.org](http://www.chicagohomeless.org)

*For discrimination based on sexual orientation:*

**Lambda Legal**  
312.663.4413  
[www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org)

*For employment discrimination:*

**Legal Aid Chicago**  
312.341.1070  
[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

*For immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers:*

**National Immigrant Justice Center**  
312.660.1370  
[www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org)

*For discrimination in housing:*

**John Marshall Fair Housing Clinic**  
312.786.2267  
[www.jmls.edu/clinics/fairhousing](http://www.jmls.edu/clinics/fairhousing)

*For prisoner civil rights:*

**Uptown People's Law Center**  
773.769.1411  
[www.uplcchicago.org](http://www.uplcchicago.org)

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### **Community-Based Organizations**

SEE SMALL BUSINESSES AND NON-PROFITS (PAGE 19)

## Consumer Issues

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*Note: In this area, the law sometimes requires the other side to pay your lawyer's fees if you win the case. **Go to page 7 for more information about finding a private lawyer.***

### **Catholic Charities Legal Assistance**

312.948.6821

[www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net)

### **Chicago Legal Clinic**

*charges fees based on ability to pay*

773.731.1762

[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

### **Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**

312.332.1624

[www.cvlvs.org](http://www.cvlvs.org)

### **Legal Aid Chicago**

312.341.1070

[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

### **Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services**

312.986.4200

<https://www.metrofamily.org/legal-aid-society/>

*For individuals with HIV/AIDS:*

### **Legal Council for Health Justice**

312.427.8990

[www.legalcouncil.org](http://www.legalcouncil.org)

*For the elderly or the disabled:*

### **Center for Disability & Elder Law**

312.376.1880

[www.cdclaw.org](http://www.cdclaw.org)

## Criminal Law

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*Note: The public defender is the main provider of free criminal defense. If you don't get a public defender, most of the time, you will need to pay for a criminal lawyer to take your case.*

### **Cook County Public Defender**

312.603.0600

### **Federal Defender Program**

312.621.8300

### **Office of the State Appellate Defender**

217.782.7203

[www2.illinois.gov/osad](http://www2.illinois.gov/osad)

### **Chicago Bar Association Bar Attorney Program**

*lawyers in traffic and criminal courts provide legal help for a reasonable fee or a cash bond*

312.554.2001 voice

312.554.2055 TTY

<https://lrs.chicagobar.org/>

### **Cabrini Green Legal Aid**

*criminal defense program that helps a limited number of people (excludes arrests for DUI, traffic cases, murder, manslaughter, sex crimes or animal cruelty)*

312.738.2452

[www.cgla.net](http://www.cgla.net)

*For youth 24 and younger in North Lawndale:*

### **Lawndale Christian Legal Center**

773-762-6381

[www.lclc.net](http://www.lclc.net)

*For youth 26 and younger in Evanston:*

### **James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy**

847.492.1410

[www.moran-center.org](http://www.moran-center.org)

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*If you or someone you know is arrested, detained or called in for questioning by the Chicago Police, call any time, 24/7:*

**First Defense Legal Aid**

1.800.LAW.REP4 (1.800.529.7374)

[www.first-defense.org](http://www.first-defense.org)

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**Disability**

*For discrimination based on disability in employment, special education, transportation settings and voting rights:*

**Equip for Equality**

800.537.2632 voice

800.610.2779 TTY

[www.equipforequality.org](http://www.equipforequality.org)

*For discrimination based on disability in housing accommodation, government programs and access to businesses:*

**Access Living**

800.613.8549 voice

888.253.7003 TTY

[www.accessliving.org](http://www.accessliving.org)

*For employment discrimination based on age or disability:*

**Center for Disability & Elder Law**

312.376.1880

[www.cdela.org](http://www.cdela.org)

*For public benefits, employment discrimination and special education:*

**Legal Aid Chicago**

312.341.1070

[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

*For social security disability benefits:*

**Uptown People's Law Center**

773.769.1411

[www.uplcchicago.org](http://www.uplcchicago.org)

**Divorce (Dissolution of Marriage)**

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**Chicago Legal Clinic**

*charges fees based on ability to pay*

773.731.1762

[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

**Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**

312.332.1624

[www.cvl.org](http://www.cvl.org)

**Legal Aid Chicago**

312.341.1070

[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

**Legal Aid Society of Metro. Family Services**

312.986.4200

<https://www.metrofamily.org/legal-aid-society/>

*For individuals who are incarcerated, serving a sentence or facing a pending criminal case:*

**Cabrini Green Legal Aid**

312.738.2452

[www.cgla.net](http://www.cgla.net)

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**Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault**

*Need help now? Call the IL Domestic Violence Helpline at 1.877.863.6338 (open 24/7)*

**Ascend Justice**

312.325.9155

[www.ascendjustice.org](http://www.ascendjustice.org)

**Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation**

773.244.2230

[www.caase.org](http://www.caase.org)

**Chicago Legal Clinic**

*charges fees based on ability to pay*

773.731.1762

[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

**Legal Aid Society of Metro. Family Services**

312.986.4200

<https://www.metrofamily.org/legal-aid-society/>

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**Life Span Center for Legal Services & Advocacy**  
312.408.1210  
[www.life-span.org](http://www.life-span.org)

*For victims of domestic violence/sexual assault  
with immigration needs:*

**Ascend Justice**  
312.325.9155  
[www.ascendjustice.org](http://www.ascendjustice.org)

**Legal Aid Chicago**  
312.341.1070  
[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

**Legal Aid Society of Metro. Family Services**  
312.986.4200  
<https://www.metrofamily.org/legal-aid-society/>

**National Immigrant Justice Center**  
312.660.1370  
[www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org)

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## Education

**Equip for Equality Special Education Helpline:**  
*help getting appropriate education services*  
1-866-KIDS-046 (1-866-543-7046)

**Access Living**  
*failure to serve or accommodate students with  
disabilities in educational setting*  
800.613.8549 voice  
888.253.7003 TTY  
[www.accessliving.org](http://www.accessliving.org)

**Equip for Equality**  
*special education*  
800.537.2632 voice  
800.610.2779 TTY  
[www.equipforequality.org](http://www.equipforequality.org)

**Legal Aid Chicago**  
*special education, school discipline, vocational  
colleges*  
312.341.1070  
[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

**Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights**  
*school discipline*  
312.630.9744  
[www.clccrul.org](http://www.clccrul.org)

*Evanston residents:*

**James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy**  
*school discipline cases and special education in  
Evanston*  
847.492.1410  
[www.moran-center.org](http://www.moran-center.org)

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## Elderly

**Center for Disability & Elder Law**  
312.376.1880  
[www.cdela.org](http://www.cdela.org)

**CBA Senior Citizens Will Program**  
*at various Chicago area senior centers; costs  
range from \$50 to \$125*  
312.554.2001  
[lrs.chicagobar.org/pages/senior-wills](http://lrs.chicagobar.org/pages/senior-wills)

**Chicago Legal Clinic**  
*charges fees based on ability to pay*  
773.731.1762  
[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

**Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**  
312.332.1624  
[www.cvl.org](http://www.cvl.org)

**Legal Aid Chicago**  
312.341.1070  
[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

**Legal Aid Society of Metro. Family Services**

312.986.4200

<https://www.metrofamily.org/legal-aid-society/>

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### **Employment**

*Note: In this area, the law sometimes requires the other side to pay your lawyer's fees if you win the case. **Go to page 7 for more information about finding a private lawyer.***

#### **Illinois Department of Human Rights**

312.814.6200 voice

866.740.3953 TTY

<http://www2.illinois.gov/dhr>

#### **Legal Aid Chicago**

312.341.1070

[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

#### **U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**

1.800.669.4000 voice

312.869.8001 TTY

[www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov)

#### **Access Living**

*employment discrimination based on a disability*

800.613.8549 voice

888.253.7003 TTY

[www.accessliving.org](http://www.accessliving.org)

#### **Lambda Legal**

*employment discrimination based on sexual orientation*

312.663.4413

[www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org)

#### **Legal Council for Health Justice**

*employment discrimination based on HIV/AIDS*

312.427.8990

[www.legalcouncil.org](http://www.legalcouncil.org)

#### **Center for Disability & Elder Law**

*employment discrimination based on age or disability*

312.376.1880

[www.cdela.org](http://www.cdela.org)

#### **Equip for Equality**

*employment discrimination based on disability*

800.537.2632 voice

800.610.2779 TTY

[www.equipforequality.org](http://www.equipforequality.org)

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### **Eviction/Landlord-Tenant**

#### **Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing**

312.347.7600

[www.lcbh.org](http://www.lcbh.org)

#### **Chicago Legal Clinic**

*charges fees based on ability to pay*

773.731.1762

[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

#### **Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**

*Represents both landlords and tenants*

312.332.1624

[www.cvl.org](http://www.cvl.org)

*For evictions and voucher terminations for people with Housing Choice (Section 8) Vouchers and people living in public housing or project-based Section 8 housing:*

#### **Legal Aid Chicago**

312.341.1070

[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

#### **Uptown People's Law Center**

773.769.1411

[www.uplcchicago.org](http://www.uplcchicago.org)

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*For evictions, voucher terminations or denials of admission based on criminal legal involvement:*

**Cabrini Green Legal Aid**  
312.738.2452  
[www.cgla.net](http://www.cgla.net)

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### **Expungement/Sealing Of Criminal Records**

**Cabrini Green Legal Aid**  
312.738.2452  
[www.cgla.net](http://www.cgla.net)

**Chicago Legal Clinic**  
*charges fees based on ability to pay*  
773.731.1762  
[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

*For Juvenile Expungement:*

**Legal Aid Chicago**  
312.341.1070  
[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

*For Evanston youth and their families:*

**James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy**  
847.492.1410  
[www.moran-center.org](http://www.moran-center.org)

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### **Foreclosure**

**Chicago Legal Clinic**  
*charges fees based on ability to pay*  
773.731.1762  
[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

**Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**  
312.332.1624  
[www.cvls.org](http://www.cvls.org)

**Legal Aid Chicago**  
312.341.1070  
[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

*For tenants facing eviction due to a foreclosure:*

**Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing**  
312.347.7600  
[www.lcbh.org](http://www.lcbh.org)

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### **Guardianship For Disabled Adults**

**Center for Disability & Elder Law**  
312.376.1880  
[www.cdclaw.org](http://www.cdclaw.org)

**Chicago Legal Clinic**  
*charges fees based on ability to pay*  
773.731.1762  
[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

**Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**  
312.332.1624  
[www.cvls.org](http://www.cvls.org)

**Legal Aid Chicago**  
312.341.1070  
[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

*For guardianship defense:*

**Equip for Equality**  
800.537.2632 voice  
800.610.2779 TTY  
[www.equipforequality.org](http://www.equipforequality.org)

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### **Housing**

SEE ALSO LANDLORD-TENANT (PAGE 16), FORECLOSURE (PAGE 17), OR DISABILITY (PAGE 13)

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### **Immigration**

*There are many community-based immigration service providers in Chicago. For a complete list, visit: <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org>.*

**National Immigrant Justice Center**  
312.660.1370  
[www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org)

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**Centro Romero**  
773.508.5300  
[www.centroromero.org](http://www.centroromero.org)

**Chicago Legal Clinic**  
*charges fees based on ability to pay*  
773.731.1762  
[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

**Latinos Progresando**  
773.542.7077 Ext: 10  
[www.latinospro.org](http://www.latinospro.org)

**World Relief – Immigration Legal Services**  
773.583.9191  
<https://worldreliefchicago.org/>

*For victims of domestic and sexual violence:*

**Ascend Justice**  
312.325.9155  
[www.ascendjustice.org](http://www.ascendjustice.org)

**Legal Aid Chicago**  
312.341.1070  
[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

**Legal Aid Society of Metro. Family Services**  
312.986.4200  
<https://www.metrofamily.org/legal-aid-society/>

**Life Span Center for Legal Services & Advocacy**  
312.408.1210  
[www.life-span.org](http://www.life-span.org)

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### **Insurance Benefits**

SEE ALSO PUBLIC BENEFITS (PAGE 18)

**Legal Council for Health Justice**  
312.427.8990  
[www.legalcouncil.org](http://www.legalcouncil.org)

**Chicago Legal Clinic**  
*charges fees based on ability to pay*  
773.731.1762  
[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

**Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**  
312.332.1624  
[www.cvl.org](http://www.cvl.org)

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### **Intellectual Property**

**The Community Law Project**  
312.630.9744  
[www.clccrul.org/community-law-project/](http://www.clccrul.org/community-law-project/)

*For artists and arts-based organizations:*

**Lawyers for the Creative Arts**  
312.649.4111  
[www.law-arts.org](http://www.law-arts.org)

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### **Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Legal Aid Chicago**  
312.341.1070  
[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

*For families in the child welfare system:*

**Ascend Justice**  
*charges fees based on ability to pay*  
312.325.9155  
[www.ascendjustice.org](http://www.ascendjustice.org)

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### **Mediation**

**Center for Conflict Resolution**  
312.922.6464  
[www.ccrchicago.org](http://www.ccrchicago.org)

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### **Prisoner Issues**

*For civil rights issues on behalf of prisoners:*

**Uptown People’s Law Center**  
773.769.1411  
[www.uplcchicago.org](http://www.uplcchicago.org)

*For disabled persons:*

**Equip for Equality**

312.341.0022

800.537.2632 voice

800.610.2779 TTY

[www.equipforequality.org](http://www.equipforequality.org)

*For incarcerated mothers:*

**Cabrini Green Legal Aid**

312.738.2452

[www.cgla.net](http://www.cgla.net)

*For wrongful convictions:*

**Northwestern Law School Bluhm Legal Clinic,  
Center on Wrongful Convictions**

312.503.8576

312.503.4472 TTY

[www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic](http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic)

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**Public Benefits**

**Legal Aid Chicago**

312.341.1070

[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

**Legal Council for Health Justice**

312.427.8990

[www.legalcouncil.org](http://www.legalcouncil.org)

**Chicago Legal Clinic**

*charges fees based on ability to pay*

773.731.1762

[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

*For social security disability benefits:*

**Uptown People's Law Center**

773.769.1411

[www.uplcchicago.org](http://www.uplcchicago.org)

*For homeless persons:*

**Chicago Coalition for the Homeless**

312.641.4141

800.940.1119 toll free

[www.chicagohomeless.org](http://www.chicagohomeless.org)

*For veterans benefits:*

**Illinois Armed Forces Legal Aid Network**

855.IL.AFLAN (855.452.3526)

<https://ilaflan.org/>

**John Marshall Law School Veterans Clinic**

312.427.2737

[www.jmls.edu/veterans](http://www.jmls.edu/veterans)

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**Real Estate Closings**

**Chicago Legal Clinic**

*charges fees based on ability to pay*

773.731.1762

[www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)

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**Small Businesses and Non-Profits**

**The Community Law Project**

312.630.9744

[www.clccrul.org/community-law-project/](http://www.clccrul.org/community-law-project/)

*For organizations with an arts focus:*

**Lawyers for the Creative Arts**

312.649.4111

[www.law-arts.org](http://www.law-arts.org)

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**Taxes**

**Center for Economic Progress/Ladder Up**

312.252.0280

[www.economicprogress.org](http://www.economicprogress.org)

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## Veterans

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*Note: The Illinois Armed Forces Legal Aid Network (<https://ilaflan.org/>) is a statewide hotline for veterans and active duty service members. Call 855.IL.AFLAN (855.452.3526) for free legal help.*

### **Center for Disability & Elder Law**

*monthly clinics at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center and Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital*  
312.376.1880  
[www.cdela.org](http://www.cdela.org)

### **Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**

312.332.1624  
[www.cvl.org](http://www.cvl.org)

### **Legal Aid Chicago**

312.341.1070  
[www.legalaidchicago.org](http://www.legalaidchicago.org)

### **John Marshall Law School Veterans Legal Clinic**

*veteran benefit claims*  
312.427.2737  
[www.jmls.edu/veterans](http://www.jmls.edu/veterans)

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## GETTING HELP OUTSIDE OF COOK COUNTY

Free or low cost legal assistance is also available outside Cook County. Visit <https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/get-legal-help> for more information.

*In Northern and parts of Central Illinois:*

**Prairie State Legal Services**

*visit the website for information and locations of the regional offices*

800.531.7057

[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

*In Southern and parts of Central Illinois:*

**Land of Lincoln Legal Aid**

*visit the website for information and locations of the regional offices*

877.342.7891

[www.lollaf.org](http://www.lollaf.org)