

# County Division Resources

Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60602  
Clerk's Office – 12<sup>th</sup> Floor (Room 1202)

The County Division is one of the ten divisions in the Circuit Court of Cook County. It handles the following cases:

- Adoption
- Civil Asset Forfeiture
- Election
- Mental Health
- Name Change
- Real Estate Tax Proceedings

To learn more about these areas of law, please visit the County Division website: <http://bit.ly/CountyDivision>.

For general information about the Circuit Court and court services, please visit <http://www.cookcountycourt.org>.

## Resources for Legal Help

### Adoption



Most **adoptive parents** hire a private attorney. A small number of adoptive parents may be able to get free legal help by contacting one of the listed organizations. If you are interested in adopting a child from the foster care system, contact an Adoption Information Specialist at DCFS.

**Biological parents** who are fighting the termination of their parental rights may be able to get an attorney appointed. Ask the judge for more information.

- Chicago Volunteer Legal Services**  
Pro bono help with uncontested adoptions  
☎ (312) 332-1624 🌐 [www.cvls.org](http://www.cvls.org)
- Center for Law and Social Work**  
Help for families seeking to adopt a child in their care  
☎ (773) 728-7800 🌐 [www.clsw.org](http://www.clsw.org)
- Chicago Legal Clinic**  
Sliding scale fees for adoptive parents  
☎ (773) 731-1762 🌐 [www.clclaw.org](http://www.clclaw.org)
- Department of Child & Family Services (DCFS)**  
Information and resources on adoption  
🌐 <https://www2.illinois.gov/dcf/lovinghomes/adoption/>  
Adoption attorneys approved by DCFS  
☎ (800) 572-2390 🌐 [www.bit.ly/adoptionpanel](http://www.bit.ly/adoptionpanel)

### Civil Asset Forfeiture



Your **property** can be taken by the government if it was involved in a crime. You can ask a judge to have it returned.

If you owe **fees for towing and storage** of a car, you may also have to go to the City of Chicago Department of Administrative Hearings.

- Cabrini Green Legal Aid**  
Pro bono help with civil asset forfeiture cases  
☎ (312) 738-2452 🌐 [www.cgla.net/](http://www.cgla.net/)
- Administrative Hearings Advice Desk**  
Same-day advice for vehicle impoundment cases  
🕒 8:30am - 4:30pm, Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri  
📍 400 W. Superior, Room 121

### Civil Mental Health



If a loved one is experiencing a **mental health crisis**, the State's Attorney can help you ask for a court order to take them to a hospital for evaluation. The hospital can petition the court to order involuntary commitment or treatment.

You can hire an attorney to help, or you may be able to get a free **pro bono consultation** by contacting CDEL. You can also find more information and answers to frequently asked questions on the Court's website at <http://bit.ly/ILMentalHealth>.

- State's Attorney of Cook County**  
Learn about court-ordered evaluation and involuntary treatment and commitment  
☎ (312) 603-8600  
📍 69 W. Washington Street, Suite 3130
- NAMI Chicago Hotline**  
Learn about civil mental health court proceedings  
🕒 9:00am - 5:00pm, Mon - Fri  
☎ (312) 563-0445 🌐 [www.namichicago.org](http://www.namichicago.org)
- Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL)**  
Consult with a pro bono attorney to learn about the legal options for helping a loved one  
☎ (312) 738-2452 🌐 [www.cdela.org](http://www.cdela.org)

**Name Changes  
(Minor and Adult)**



You can find **simple forms** and instructions to file a name change at <http://bit.ly/NameChangeLL>. For **help completing forms**, visit the Resource Center for People Without Lawyers.

**Transgender people** looking for help with a name change should contact the Transformative Justice Law Project for information on their monthly clinics. A toolkit is also available at <http://tinyurl.com/EI-Guide>.

Please note, a **minor name change** does not establish paternity of a child.

- Resource Center for People Without Lawyers**  
**Help completing and filing name change petitions**  
 ☎ 8:30am - 4:30pm, Mon - Fri  
 📍 Concourse Level, CL-16 (next to Starbucks).
- Transformative Justice Law Project**  
**Monthly name change clinic for transgender people**  
 ☎ Last Friday of each month, 9:00am - 3:00pm  
 📍 Richard J. Daley Center, Courtroom 1202  
 ☎ (312) 558-1472 ✉ NameChange@tjlp.org  
 📄 <http://tjlp.org/services/name-change-mobilization/>

**Property Tax Sales**



The county can sell unpaid real estate property taxes if the owner didn't pay them. If you are the owner of the property, you may have the right to **pay (redeem) the back taxes** so you do not lose your property.

If you are a tenant in the property, you may have to move. Call the Metropolitan Tenants Organization for more information about your **rights and options as a renter**.

- City of Chicago Homeless Prevention Funds**  
**Learn about emergency short-term rental assistance, homeless shelters & resources**  
 ☎ 311 📄 [www.cityofchicago.org](http://www.cityofchicago.org)
- Metropolitan Tenants Organization**  
**Free hotline for assistance & referrals for renters**  
 ☎ (773) 292-4988 📄 [www.tenants-rights.org](http://www.tenants-rights.org)  
 ☎ 1:00pm - 5:00pm, Mon - Fri

**Additional Resources**

**General Legal Help**

- Illinois Legal Aid Online**  
**Free legal information & court forms from your computer or mobile device**  
 ☎ Available 24/7  
 📄 [www.illinoislegalaids.org](http://www.illinoislegalaids.org)
- Chicago Bar Lawyer Referral Service**  
**Lawyers who charge for legal help**  
 ☎ (312) 554-2001 📄 [lrs.chicagobar.org](http://lrs.chicagobar.org)  
 💰 \$30 consultation (additional costs after)

- CARPLS Legal Aid Hotline**  
**Free advice & referrals from lawyers**  
 ☎ 9:00am - 7:30pm, Mon & Wed  
 9:00am - 4:30pm, Tue, Thur & Fri  
 ☎ (312) 738-9200 📄 [www.carpls.org/](http://www.carpls.org/)
- Justice Entrepreneurs Project**  
**Lawyers who charge fixed fees for flexible & customizable legal help**  
 ☎ (312) 546-3282 📄 [www.jepchicago.org](http://www.jepchicago.org)

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