

# 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

📍 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Admin-Side

☎ (312) 603-0600

🌐 [www.cookcountypublicdefender.org/](http://www.cookcountypublicdefender.org/)

**Appellate Defender (Illinois)**

**Criminal defense (on appeal)**

☎ (217) 782-7203

🌐 [www2.illinois.gov/osad](http://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](http://www.lclc.net)

**Cabrini Green Legal Aid**

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

☎ (312) 738-2452

🌐 [www.cgla.net](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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, 10<sup>th</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.illinoislegalaid.org)

