

# Resources for Free & Low-Cost Legal Help

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

## Free Legal Help in Criminal Cases

- Cook County Public Defender**  
**Criminal defense (trial court)**  
🕒 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Admin-Side  
☎ (773) 674-3217  
🌐 [www.cookcountypublicdefender.org/](http://www.cookcountypublicdefender.org/)
- Cook County Appellate Defender**  
**Criminal defense (appellate court)**  
☎ (217) 782-7203  
🌐 [www.illinois.gov/osad](http://www.illinois.gov/osad)
- First Defense Legal Aid**  
**Immediate 24/7 help for people arrested, detained, or questioned by the Chicago Police Department**  
🕒 Open 24/7  
☎ (800) 529-7374  
🌐 [www.first-defense.org](http://www.first-defense.org)
- Lawndale Christian Legal Center**  
**Defending youth (24 and younger) in the North Lawndale area**  
☎ (773) 762-6381 🌐 [www.lclc.net](http://www.lclc.net)
- Cabrini Green Legal Aid**  
**Criminal defense (cannot take DUI, traffic, murder, sex crimes, or animal cruelty cases)**  
☎ (312) 738-2452 🌐 [www.cgla.net](http://www.cgla.net)

**NOTE:** 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 above can help a very limited number of people. Call the organizations directly to learn more about their intake criteria.

## Fee-Based Legal Help in Criminal Cases

- CBA Lawyer Referral Service**  
**Free referrals to experienced lawyers who charge fees for their legal services**  
☎ (312) 554-2001  
🌐 [lrs.chicagobar.org/](http://lrs.chicagobar.org/)  
💰 \$30 consultation fee (additional costs after)
- Justice Entrepreneurs Project**  
**Lawyers who offer fixed fees and flexible legal representation options**  
☎ (312) 546-3282 🌐 [www.jepchicago.org](http://www.jepchicago.org)  
💰 No consultation fee (additional costs after)
- CBA Bar Attorney Program**  
**Lawyers assigned to traffic and criminal courts each day to provide legal help for a reasonable fee or a cash bond**  
☎ (312) 554-2001 📠 312-554-2055 (TTY)  
🌐 [lrs.chicagobar.org/pages/in-court](http://lrs.chicagobar.org/pages/in-court) 💰 Fees vary
- Illinois State Bar Lawyer Finder**  
**Free referrals to lawyers statewide who charge fees for their legal services**  
☎ (800) 922-8757 🌐 [www.zeekbeek.com/isba](http://www.zeekbeek.com/isba)  
💰 \$25 consultation fee (additional costs after)

## 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 survivors of domestic violence**  
🕒 Available 24/7  
☎ (877) 863-6338 📠 (877) 863-6339

GENERAL HELP FROM HOME

- 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 from your computer or mobile device  
🌐 [www.illinoislegalaid.org](http://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@cookcountyil.gov

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

CHILDCARE



- Children's Advocacy Room**  
Free child care for families involved in any court-related matter (available for bathroom-independent children ages 2-12)  
🕒 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Courthouse Room 099  
☎ (773) 674-8260

- Mother's Room**  
Private space for nursing mothers (ask for more information at the front desk)  
🕒 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 1<sup>st</sup> 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  
📍 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Courthouse  
☎ (773) 674-5038

- Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County**  
Information about court hearings  
🕒 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Administrative Building  
☎ (773) 674-3140  
💻 [www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org)

FOOD



- Cafeteria**  
Meals available for purchase  
🕒 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Administrative Building

- Don's Snack Shop**  
Snacks available for purchase  
🕒 8:30 am - 2:00 pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Administrative Building

PUBLIC SAFETY



- Cook County Department of Corrections**  
Questions about the location and status of someone detained at the Cook County Jail  
☎ (773) 674-8225  
💻 <https://inmatelocator.ccsheriff.org/>  
✉ doc.visitation@cookcountyil.gov

- Cook County State's Attorney**  
Questions for the State's Attorney's Office  
🕒 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri  
📍 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Administrative Building  
☎ (312) 603-1880  
💻 [www.cookcountystatesattorney.org/](http://www.cookcountystatesattorney.org/)

- Victim Witness Assistance Unit**  
Advocacy and court support services for crime victims and witnesses  
🕒 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri  
☎ (773) 674-7200

- TASC Inc.**  
Treatment alternatives for incarceration  
📍 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Courthouse Room 107B  
☎ (773) 674-6656  
💻 [www.tasc.org/](http://www.tasc.org/)

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