

COURT ACCESS LIBRARY CENTER



With the goal of reducing barriers to court access, the court-library partnership aims to enable libraries throughout the state of Illinois to provide new resources to the public to assist patrons with navigating the legal system.

By establishing court access centers in libraries, all patrons, particularly those with limited technology capabilities or transit challenges, can more easily get legal information and assistance with navigating the process.

Below, you can find a list of ways a library staff member can and cannot help court patrons.



STAFF MEMBER CAN:

- Provide general information about court rules, terms, and procedures.
- Provide information and technical assistance to allow you to appear remotely before the Court.
- Instruct how to electronically file (e-file) court documents or get an exemption from e-filing.
- Inform you about free or low-cost legal help.
- Help you identify what court forms you may need for your case and explain how to fill them out.
- Guide you on how to ask to waive your court fees.
- Help you to get an interpreter.
- Inform you on how to obtain reasonable accommodations for a disability.



STAFF MEMBER CANNOT:

- Provide information about a case in violation of an order, statute, or rule.
- Represent you in court, including via Zoom or other remote technology.
- Refer you to a lawyer or firm that charges fees. Give you legal advice or represent you in court.
- Fill out a form for you unless you are unable to complete it yourself due to a disability, a literacy barrier, or limited English proficiency.
- Give an opinion about what will happen in court.
- Tell you if a case should be started or help you decide how to handle your case.

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WHAT TYPES OF CASES CAN YOU GET HELP WITH?

Divorce and Child Custody

Domestic Violence

Wills, Trusts, and Estates

Housing

Consumer Debt

KEEP IN MIND:

STAFF MEMBERS CANNOT PROVIDE YOU WITH LEGAL ADVICE. IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR LEGAL ADVICE, PLEASE CONTACT AN ATTORNEY. A STAFF MEMBER CAN HELP YOU IDENTIFY AN APPROPRIATE RESOURCE.

For more information, see the Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Assistance to Court Users at ilcourts.info/PolicySafeHarbor.

Questions? Contact Illinois Court Help at 833-411-1121 or ilcourthelp.gov.

If you have questions regarding the Court Access Library Center Project, contact Roya Samarghandi at rsamarghandi@chicagobarfoundation.org.