

# WEBWATCH

## TOPICAL SERIES

### COOK COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

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## Legal Topics on the Web

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## Adoption

### [Adoptions](#)

Includes an [adoption law and process](#), FAQs, information on adoption records, orders and forms. From the County Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

### [Adoption Law in Illinois](#)

Information from the Illinois State Bar Association.

### [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

Information on child abuse and neglect, adoption, financial resources, adoption laws and legal issues, and publications on adoption. Provides information on the different types of adoption, search for state statutes and statistics. From U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services.

### [InterCountry Adoptions \(US Citizenship and Immigration Service\)](#)

Information on adopting from overseas including processes, country information, and forms.

### [Adoption \(Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services\)](#)

### [Adoption Laws of the Fifty States, DC and Puerto Rico](#)

## Automobiles

### [Driver Services](#)

Includes Rules of the Road, information on licenses, title and registration, traffic safety and other information. From the Illinois Secretary of State.

[IllinoisLegalAid.org](#)

Enter search terms in box or select "Browse articles" then select consumer law. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Repossession**

Topics covered include getting your car and property back, stopping a resale, unlawful repossessions and defenses to repossession. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **DUI/Traffic**

Legal information on your car from buying a care, auto accidents, traffic courts and DUI. From the Illinois State Bar Association.

### **Buying, Selling, or Leasing a Vehicle**

From the American Bar Association Division for Public Education.

### **Buying and Owning a Car**

Information on car maintenance, buying a new or used car, financing, leasing and renting a car. From the FTC.

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## **Bankruptcy**

### **WebWatch: Bankruptcy Resources**

A legal research guide with links to statutes, regulations, cases and other bankruptcy resources. Compiled by the Cook County Law Library.

### **Bankruptcy Basics, 3rd ed. (Nov. 2011)**

This publication from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts provides general information about federal bankruptcy laws and the bankruptcy process.

### **Major Consumer Bankruptcy Effects of the 2005 Reform Legislation**

Prepared by Eugene R. Wedoff, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, N.D. Illinois, April 13, 2005.

### **U.S. Bankruptcy Courts**

Links to forms, rules, resources, and administrators. Additional information on Chapter 7, Chapter 11, and Chapter 13.

### **Straight Bankruptcy - Chapter 7**

### **"Wage Earner's" Bankruptcy - Chapter 13**

### **Bankruptcy Pros and Cons**

Resources from the American Bar Association (ABA).

See tab on left "Filing Bankruptcy without a Lawyer" for additional resources. Included publication, [Filing for Bankruptcy Without an Attorney](#) ()

[Bankruptcy Basics](#) Bankruptcy Basics with links to more bankruptcy information. From Illinois Legal Aid Online.

## **Business Law**

### **State of Illinois Business Portal**

Form and information on starting, running and changing a business.

### **Business Owner's Toolkit**

Provides articles, checklists, business plans and forms.

### **Business USA (U.S. Small Business Administration)**

The official business link to the US government. Topics include business laws, employees, finances, government contracting, international trade, research and resources, taxes, training and work environments.

### **Business Resources on the Web**

Extensive collection of links to business resources from the Foster Business Library, University of Washington.

## **Business Formation: LLCs & Corporations**

**Small Business** Information on starting a business, ownership structures, buying or selling a business, nonprofits, and human resources.

From Nolo Press.

See the

## **Franchise Information and Publications (IL Attorney General)**

Franchise act and rule, registration tips, forms and "Before You Buy A Franchise - Understand Your Risks."

## **50 States' Information: Business**

Links to business and corporate filing information by state.

## **Limited Liability Company: The Importance of Choosing the Correct Business Vehicles (LLRX)**

## **Civil Rights**

Library resources for **Civil Rights**.

### **GobernioUSA.gov**

A portal for U.S. government information in Spanish. Information on civil rights and descriptions of laws in Spanish.

### **Section 1983 Litigation**

Publication from the Federal Judicial Center provides a summary of the legal principles governing litigation under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983.

### **U.S. Commission on Civil Rights**

Directs you to appropriate federal agency for filing a complaint. Links to reports and other publications on civil rights, education, employment, housing, immigration, and voting.

### **U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division**

A Special Topics section covers the ADA, national origin discrimination (multi-lingual information), trafficking in persons, race and veterans and service members. A Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) section addresses many civil rights areas.

### **Getting Uncle Sam to Enforce Your Civil Rights**

Extensive information on where, when and how to file a complaint. Provided by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

### **First Amendment Resources (ALA)**

Supreme Court links including **Notable First Amendment Court Cases**.

### **Civil Rights**

Information with links to the U.S. Constitution, federal statutes, regulations and opinions. From Wex, Cornell LII.

## **Consumer**

### **Protecting Consumers (IL Attorney General)**

Information on advertising, auto buying, financing and repair, children's issues, charities, consumer alerts and warnings, credit and lending, franchise information, general consumer issues and common scams, healthcare, housing, ID theft, internet, protecting small businesses and telecommunications.

### **Consumer Law**

Enter Search terms in box or select "Browse articles" then select consumer law. Areas covered include automobiles, bankruptcy, credit, debt collection, and utilities. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Consumer Law**

Topics include bankruptcy, consumer fraud, contracts, co-signers and guarantors, debt collection, Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Fair Credit Billing Act, Fair Credit Reporting, student loans, and public utilities. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Consumer Legal Guides**

Over 25 guides on a variety of consumer topics. From the ISBA.

### **Financial Literacy 101**

Information on credit accounts, buying/leasing a car, buying a home, setting up a household, money management and investing. Provided by the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation.

### **Consumer Protection**

Covers a wide range of consumer information and tips. From usa.gov, the U.S. government's official web portal. Includes the **Consumer Action Handbook** that has general advice on shopping for goods or services, with warnings on what to watch out for and also includes information on how to solve consumer problems.

### **Answers About National Banks**

Information on credit cards, credit, insurance, bank accounts and mortgages. Provided by Comptroller of the Currency.

### **ABA Guide to Consumer Law**

Fifteen chapters covering topics such as contracts, leases, warranties, automobiles, insurance and buying and selling a home.

### **Consumer Law (ABA)**

Covers ATMs, buying and using software and legal issues of the Internet. ABA Division of Public Education.

### **Federal Citizen Information Center (FCIC)**

Online consumer information from federal government sources.

### **Credit**

Applying for credit, choosing a credit card, checking your credit record. From the ABA Division of Public Education.

### **Consumer Information**

Numerous publications with advice on avoiding scams and rip-offs. Consumer topics include automobiles, computers/Internet, credit, education, job placement, energy, ID theft, investments, shopping, and telephone/telemarketing. Information also available **in Spanish**. Provided by the Federal Trade Commission.

### **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)**

Information on recalls, safety education, law, regulations, standards, and information for business.

### **Recalls.gov**

One-stop source for U.S. government recalls on consumer products, motor vehicles, boats, food, medicine, cosmetics and environmental products.

### **Consumer Protection**

Provided by Nolo Press.

### **Resource Library - Better Business Bureau (BBB)**

Alerts, security alerts, consumer tips, video library, and FTC articles for consumers.

### **Consumer Help**

From the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Information on checking accounts, consumer credit, consumer protection laws, electronic banking, foreclosures, fraud and scams, and home mortgages.

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## **Copyright**

### **US Copyright Office**

Information about copyrights, searching copyright records, publications, licensing, registering a work, recording a document, and the law and policy of copyright.

### **Copyright Basics**

From the Copyright Public Information Office, US Copyright Office. Revised August 2010.

### **Copyright & Fair Use**

Links to primary materials, guides and policies. Provided by the Stanford University Libraries.

### **Patents, Copyright & Trademark (Nolo Press)**

General information on patents, copyright, creative arts & music, software & web development, trademarks, and trade

secrets.

## Courts and Procedure

### **WebWatch: Litigation Resources**

A legal research guide with links to court rules, expert witnesses, forms, jury instructions, and practice sites. Compiled by the Cook County Law Library.

### **Cook County Online Court Forms**

Interactive, fillable forms from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Searchable and arranged by division.

### **Court Terms and Definitions**

From the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

### **Juror Information**

Provided by the Chief Judge of the Cook County Circuit Court.

### **Going to Court**

Enter Search terms in box or select "Browse articles" then select Going to Court. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **How Courts Work**

Topics include: Courts and Legal Procedure, Steps in a Trial, The Human Side of Being a Judge, and Mediation. From ABA Division of Public Education.

### **Filing Court Papers for Free**

Enter Search terms in box or select "Browse articles" then Going to Court. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Illinois Civil Practice**

Select Legal Resources tab, then select Civil Practice.

### **Selected Statutes of Limitation**

Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

## Criminal Law

### **WebWatch: Criminal Law Resources**

Extensive research guide with links to statutes, court cases, administrative agencies, secondary resources and international criminal law resources. Compiled by the Cook County Law Library.

### **Criminal Law**

Topics covered include general information, crime victim compensation, defenses, expungement, crimes and victim's rights. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Criminal & Traffic Expungement & Sealing Procedural Guide**

FAQs and forms about sealing. Also contains information on Executive Pardons; Criminal Identity Theft; and on Certificates of Innocence, Good Conduct, and Relief from Disabilities. Provided by the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

### **Prisoner Litigation Handbook**

Prepared with grant from the Federal District Court of the Northern District of Illinois.

### **Manual on Recurring Problems in Criminal Trials, 5th ed., 2001**

Guide to law governing procedure in criminal trials. From the Federal Judicial Center.

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## Debtor/Creditor Law

### **When You Owe Money: A Guide for Illinois Consumers**

Scroll down to publication listing. From the Prairie State Legal Services.

### **Wage Garnishments**

Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Debt Collection**

Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Dealing with Debt**

Articles on consumer credit, fair credit billing, fair debt collection, mortgage payments, debt management plans and more. From the Federal Trade Commission.

### **Debt Collection Practices: When Hardball Tactics Go Too Far**

Information and sample letters. From the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse.

### **State Debt Collection Laws and Publications** ([www.privacyrights.org/fs/fs27plus.htm](http://www.privacyrights.org/fs/fs27plus.htm))

Collection of online guides published by state or consumer agencies that provide an overview of debt collection from other jurisdictions.

## **Disability Law**

### **Illinois Codes**

Includes Illinois Accessibility Code and Building Codes and Regulations. From the Illinois Capital Development Board.

### **Illinois Health and Wellness Page**

### **The Guidebook of Laws and Programs for People with Disabilities**

Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **United States Access Board**

From the federal agency committed to accessible design, find extensive information includes guidelines and standards, publications and enforcement.

### **ADA Homepage (US Dept. of Justice)**

Links to ADA regulations and technical assistance materials.

### **A Guide to Disability Rights Laws (US Dept. of Justice)**

Provides a brief overview of ten federal laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities.

### **Disability.gov**

Serves as a clearinghouse of the federal government's disability-related information and resources.

### **Benefits for People with Disabilities**

From the Social Security Administration.

### **The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act**

Written by Michael K. Fridkin and Laurie Wardell of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, April 2006.

### **Office of Disability Employment Policy**

Select Publications from right sidebar for an extensive listing of factsheets on employment disability law.

### **Disability Discrimination (EEOC)**

### **Legal Rights of Individuals with Hearing Loss**

From the Better Hearing Institute.

## **Discrimination Law**

### **Illinois Human Rights Commission**

The Commission's primary responsibility is to make impartial determinations of whether there has been unlawful discrimination as defined by the Illinois Human Rights Act.

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

The Department of Human Rights administers the Illinois Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination. **Filing a Charge of Discrimination under the Illinois Human Rights Act.**

### **Title VII and Section 1981**

A manual for use by attorneys appointed by judges in the Northern District of Illinois to represent indigent clients in employment discrimination cases. From the Northern District of Illinois.

### **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**

Facts and guidance arranged by type of discrimination (age, disability, equal pay, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, retaliation, sex and sexual harassment). Information on filing a claim, statistics and laws.

**Major Issues in the Federal Law of Employment Discrimination, Fourth Edition (2004)** From the Federal Judicial Center.

### **Employment Discrimination**

Topics covered include applicable law, limitations, filing a charge, investigation, evidence, right of action and relief. Addresses federal and state laws. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Discrimination**

Information on discrimination - employment, housing, voting, disability, education, age, sexual orientation. From Lawyers.com.

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## **Domestic Violence**

### **Domestic Violence Resources**

Select Services/Resources tab. Information on how to obtain an order of protection.

### **Domestic Violence**

Select Legal Resources tab, then select Family Law. Scroll down to this publication from the Attorney Desk Reference Manual. Topics covered include protected persons, remedies, procedures, types of orders, and enforcement. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Advocating for Women, IL Attorney General**

Information and brochures on domestic violence, teen dating violence, and crime victim services.

### **Safety Plan for Domestic Violence Victims**

Resource from Barbara Hart, PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Peggy J. Patty, Director of Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence Legal Institute. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Cook County Brochures**

Topics include order of protection, dating violence, domestic violence guidelines. Provided by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

### **Office on Violence Against Women (US Dept. of Justice)**

**Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence** Resources for survivors, attorneys, and by practice area.

### **WomensLaw.org**

State-by-state legal information and resources for domestic violence.

## **Education Law**

### **Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)**

See **Resources for Students/Parents** for a selection of resources and publications from the ISBE.

## **Education Law**

Information on special education for disabled students, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), education for homeless students, educational rights and privacy. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Special Education Services**

See **Educational Rights and Responsibilities: Understanding Special Education in Illinois (Revised June 2009)**

A publication from the Illinois State Board of Education.

## **US Department of Education**

### **Education Resources Information Center (ERIC)**

A bibliographic database of more than 1.1 million citations going back to 1966. More than 110,000 full-text non-journal documents going back to 1966 are available for free. ERIC is sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education.

## **Employment Law**

### **The Law & Your Job**

How Law Affects the Workplace, Major Federal Laws, and Sexual Harassment. From the ABA Division for Public Education.

### **Work**

Enter Search terms in box or select "Browse articles" then select Work. Topics covered include employment, family and medical leave act, minimum wage, records, termination, wage claims and workers compensation. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Employment Law (Other Than Discrimination)**

Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Employment Discrimination: A Guide to Working with Chicago Agencies**

### **Find It! By Topic (U.S. Dept. of Labor)**

Categories of information include equal employment, health benefits, hiring, labor relations, leave benefits, termination, unemployment insurance, wages, work hours, workers' compensation and Spanish resources.

### **Pension and Health Care Coverage...Questions and Answers for Dislocated Workers**

Provided by the U.S. Department of Labor.

### **Handbook on Workers' Compensation and Occupational Diseases**

From the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission. **Handbook in Spanish**

## **Family Law**

### **WebWatch: Family Law Resources**

Research guide with links to statutes, court cases, administrative agencies, secondary resources and international family law resources. Compiled by the Cook County Law Library.

### **Family Law**

Topics covered include adoption, birth certificates, childcare, divorce & annulment, domestic violence, grandparent's rights, name change, paternity, termination of parental rights, and visitation. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Family Law**

Select Legal Resources tab, then select Family Law. Scroll down to this publication from the Attorney Desk Reference Manual. Topics covered include family law resources, adoption, child support, custody, divorce/separation/annulment, domestic violence, paternity, and visitation. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Joint Simplified Dissolution of Marriage Information and Instructions**

Provided by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

### **Getting A Divorce in Illinois (ISBA)**



### **ABA Guide to Family Law**

This publication focuses on the responsibilities of people who are married, divorced, or living together.

### **Tables Summarizing the Law in the Fifty States**

Tables for alimony, custody criteria, child support guidelines, divorce grounds and residency requirement, and property. From the American Bar Association.

### **Marriage Laws of the Fifty States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico**

In chart form. From Cornell Legal Information Institute (LII).

### **Divorce Laws of the Fifty States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico**

From Cornell Legal Information Institute (LII).

### **Handbook on Child Support Enforcement**

From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Family Law & Immigration (Nolo Press)**

General information on changing your name, parenting & adoption, marriage & living together, divorce & child custody, healthcare & elder care.

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## **Finding an Attorney**

### **Legal Assistance Referrals**

Selection of links to legal aid providers in Chicago, suburban and downstate areas compiled by the Illinois Attorney General's office.

### **Consumers' Guide to Legal Help: Illinois (ABA)**

Links to lawyer referral services, free legal assistance and legal information. Links available for **other states**.

### **Where to Go for Legal Assistance in Chicago**

A listing of attorney-referral and free or low-cost legal services in the Chicago area. Provided by the Chicago Bar Association.

### **Find Lawyers and Law Firms**

Search for attorneys by name, by location/area of practice, by firm, or for lawyers in corporations, agencies of the US government, or law school faculty. From Martindale.com.

### **Find a Lawyer - Findlaw (West Legal Directory)**

### **When You Need a Lawyer**

Help from Lawyers, Looking for a Lawyer, Questions to Ask a Lawyer, Legal Fees and Expenses, If You're Not Satisfied. ABA Division of Public Education.

### **WebWatch: Legal Ethics**

A legal research guide with links to statutes, regulations, cases and other bankruptcy resources. Compiled by the Cook County Law Library.

## **FOIA/Public Disclosure Laws**

### **Ensuring Open and Honest Government**

Information on the new FOIA law with training and educational materials.

### **A Citizen's Guide to Using the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act of 1974 to Request Government Records**

A report by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, House Report 105-37, March 20, 1997. A PDF version of the **report** is also available.

### **Federal Open Government Guide, 10th Edition**

A how-to guide for federal FOIA.

### **Open Government Guide**

A compendium of state's open records and open meetings laws. Provided by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

### **FOIA, U.S. Department of Justice**

Also includes links to principal FOIA contacts at federal agencies and other federal agencies' FOIA web sites.

### **Freedom of Information Center**

Comprehensive collections of links to guides, laws, sample letters and other resources on freedom of information. The Freedom of Information Center is located at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

**State FOI laws** are a collection of links to state open meetings and open records laws.

## **Forms**

### **EBSCO Legal Information Reference Center**

Access this subscription service provided by Cook County Law Library for self-help publications on dozens of topics and many forms.

### **Forms on IllinoisLegalAid.org**

Use the word "form" in the search box. Find pleading forms and other procedural forms.

### **Cook County Government Agency Listing**

Many agencies include relevant forms on their pages.

### **Cook County Department of Revenue Forms and Ordinances**

Select general forms or type of tax.

### **Vital Records, Cook County Clerk**

### **Cook County Treasurer Forms**

### **Court Forms Search, Cook County Clerk of Court**

### **Illinois Government Agencies**

### **Illinois Attorney General Complaint Form**

### **Illinois Tax Forms/Publications**

### **Illinois Department of Human Rights Commission (IHRC) Forms**

### **Illinois Department of Labor Complaint Forms**

### **Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) Forms & Information**

### **Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board Forms & Publications**

### **Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Forms**

### **Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board Forms**

### **Federal Government Agency Index**

### **Forms from the Feds**

Links to federal government agency forms. Arranged by agency.

### **Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Forms and Publications**

### **'Lectric Law Library Forms Room**

## Health Care Law

### [Illinois Department of Insurance](#)

Information for consumers, providers and seniors.

### [Illinois Hospital Report Card and Consumer Guide to Health Care](#)

Find and compare info in volume and cost of services in hospitals and ambulatory surgery treatment centers, quality and safety data, nurse staffing data, patient satisfaction surveys, summaries and links to Illinois laws that ensure consumer protection.

### [Hospital Compare \(US Dept. Health & Human Services\)](#)

This tool provides you with information on how well the hospitals in your area care for all their adult patients with certain medical conditions. Search by location.

### [Continuation of Health Coverage-COBRA \(US Dept. of Labor\)](#)

### [HIPAA General Information \(Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services\)](#)

### [A Consumer Guide to Handling Disputes with Your Employer or Private Health Plan, 2005 Update](#)

Information about types of coverage, appealing to your health plan, independent opinions and external review programs.

### [Lawyers Tool Kit for Health Care Advance Planning, Second Edition](#)

Checklists and planning guides from the ABA Commission on Law and Aging.

## Home Repair

### [Tips to Avoid Home Repair Fraud](#)

### [Home Repair: Know Your Consumer Rights](#)

For additional brochures from the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, see [Home Repair and Housing Issues](#).

### [Remodeling and the Law](#)

From the ABA Division for Public Education.

## Housing

### [Federally Assisted Housing](#)

A publication from the Attorney Desk Reference Manual. Topics covered include public housing programs, federal assistance for private housing, eviction and termination, and denial or termination of Section 8 assistance. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### [Housing Law](#)

Publication from the Attorney Desk Reference Manual. Topics covered include Landlord and Tenant, Mobile Home Parks, Mortgage Foreclosure, Federally Assisted Housing, and Home Equity Loans. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### [Housing](#)

Topics covered include federal housing programs, homeownership, housing discrimination, and landlord/tenant. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### [Fair Housing: Equal Opportunity for All](#)

Provided by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. Additional information is available at [www.hud.gov/fairhousing](http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing).

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## Identity Theft

### [Identity Theft](#)

Resources from the Illinois Attorney General including complaint forms, resource guides, ID Theft Hotline info, statistics, and factsheets.

### **Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Identity Theft Site**

A "one-stop national resource to learn about the crime of identity theft" from the Federal Trade Commission.

### **Take Charge: What To Do If Your Identity is Stolen**

An informative booklet from the Federal Trade Commission. Available in text and PDF formats. Available in a **Spanish version**

### **Identity Theft: A Bibliography of Federal, State, Consumer and News Resources**

An extensive bibliography on identity theft with links to publications from federal and state jurisdictions, books, and articles.

### **Consumer Alerts**

Consumer alerts on phishing, identity theft and check clearing from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

### **Identity Theft Resource Center**

The Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC) is a nonprofit program focusing solely on identity theft. The site has information for victims, consumers, law enforcement and the media.

### **Identity Theft**

Information and resources on identity theft from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service in the Department of Justice.

### **Privacy Rights Clearinghouse**

Links to identity theft resources.

### **Managing Household Records**

From the Federal Citizen Information Center.

## **Immigration and Citizenship**

### **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services**

**Immigration forms**  
**Employment Eligibility Verification**

### **U.S. Dept. of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)**

**EOIR Forms Page**  
**Board of Immigration Appeals Decisions**  
**Immigration Courts**

### **Citizenship and Nationality, US Dept. of State**

Information on acquisition and loss of citizenship and nationality.

### **U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions**

## **Landlord-Tenant**

### **Residential Landlords and Tenants Ordinance, Chicago**

### **Renting the Right Way: A Guide for Chicago Landlords**

### **Landlord and Tenant Law**

Topics covered include leases, security deposits, notice to terminate, evictions, defenses to eviction, and enforcement of judgment. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Eviction Court Bench Book - Chicago Residential Tenancies**

Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Typical Landlord's 10-Day Eviction Notice**

Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Typical Landlord's 30-Day Eviction Notice**

Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Renters Handbook, 2009 Edition**

From Prairie State Legal Services.

### **Renting a Home**

Information on leases, evictions, security deposits, and fair housing. From the ABA Division for Public Education.

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

See **Renter's Resource Guide** in English, Spanish, and Chinese and information about tenants' rights during foreclosure available in English, Spanish, and Polish.

### **Metropolitan Tenants Organization**

Information for tenants including frequently asked questions for landlords and tenants.

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## **Legal Encyclopedias**

### **Free Legal Articles**

From Nolo Press, a collection of "plain-english" articles on legal topics.

### **Zimmerman's Research Guide**

An online encyclopedia for legal researchers. Entries describe topics and identify some of the leading print and electronic resources for the topic.

### **Wex**

Wex is a collaboratively built, freely available legal dictionary and encyclopedia from the **Cornell Legal Information Institute**.

### **WebWatch: The Reference Shelf**

A legal research guide with links to statutes, regulations, cases and other bankruptcy resources. Compiled by the Cook County Law Library.

### **Court Terms and Definitions, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County**

## **Legal Research Techniques**

### **How to Research a Legal Problem: A Guide for Non-Lawyers Making Sure You Have the Most Current Information**

Provided by the Legal Information Service to the Public Special Interest Section, American Association of Law Libraries (AALL).

### **How to Do Legal Research: Basics**

Topics covered include Overview: What are you looking for; How to start; Case law; Statutory law; Administrative law; Secondary sources; Updating case law. A tutorial on legal research from the Cornell Law Library.

### **Tutorials**

Guides and tutorials from Georgetown Law Library for conducting legal research.

## **Media Law & Publishing**

### **Citizen Media Law Project's Legal Guide**

Information on the rights and responsibilities of publishing online. Search by keyword, browse or search by state.

## **Military**

### **Called to Duty**

Information on laws protecting military personnel from financial hardship. A resource of the Illinois State Bar Association.

### **Military Legal Resources, Library of Congress**

### **A Judge's Guide to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act**

Guide in Q&A format from the American Bar Association.

### **The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Guide (March 2006)**

From the Administrative & Civil Law Department, Judge Advocate General's School.

### **Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Replaces Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act**

A guide from the Office of the Judge Advocate General U.S. Army Legal Assistance Policy Division.

### **JAGCnet**

Select Legal assistance from right sidebar. From the Judge Advocate General's Corp U.S. Army.

### **Military Law & Legal Links, Air War College**

## **Minors**

### **Illinois Law About Minors**

Topics include paternity, minor guardianship, emancipation, authoritative intervention, and abuse-neglect-dependency. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Laws for Youth**

This booklet summarizes major laws that affect Illinois' young residents. Provided by the Legislative Research Unit of the Illinois General Assembly.

### **Kids & the Law: An A-Z Guide for Parents**

## **Mortgages**

### **Illinois Mortgage Lending Guide**

"Tips and resources for consumers in the market for sustainable home loans and homeowners trapped in unaffordable loans." From the Illinois Attorney General.

### **Mortgage Foreclosure**

Topics include foreclosure process, options, workout agreements, defenses to foreclosure, tenants, judicial sale, investment property, and foreclosure scams. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Foreclosure Guide: Learn about Your Rights and Option in a Foreclosure**

Provided by the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Center for Self-Representation.

### **Making Home Affordable Program - Handbook for Servicers of Non-GSE Mortgages**

### **Becoming An Adult: Your Legal Rights and Responsibilities at Age 18**

### **Consumer Handbook on Adjustable Rate Mortgages**

From the Federal Reserve Board.

See also the [Mortgage and Foreclosure Resources](#)

### **Home & Mortgages**

Information on buying a home, mortgages, and foreclosure rescue scams. From the Federal Trade Commission.

### **Federal Housing Administration (FHA)**

## **Guide to Avoiding Foreclosure**

From Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

## **Moving**

### **Household Goods Movers**

Find the following publications from the Illinois Commerce Commission: Household Moves in Illinois: A Consumer's Guide, Top 10 Recommendations to Consumers, and information on filing a complaint.

### **Choosing a Mover**

From the Illinois Movers' and Warehousemen's Association.

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## **Online Legal Help Sites**

### **EBSCO Legal Information Reference Center**

A service provided by the Law Library, the Reference Center contains more than 320 full-text publications (including NOLO Press titles) and thousands of legal forms. Topics covered include Business & Corporations, Family Affairs & Divorce, Immigration & Travel, Money & Financial Planning, Patents, Copyright & Trademarks, Property & Real Estate, Rights & Disputes, Wills & Estate Planning.

### **IllinoisLegalAid.org**

This site provides easy to understand legal information and pro se assistance to the public. Enter Search terms in box or select "Browse articles" for the following topics: accidents & injuries, arts & entertainment, children, civil rights, consumer law, criminal law, disability, education, family law, general resources, going to court, health care, housing, immigration, licenses, life planning, public benefits, senior citizens, small business, taxes, traffic, voting, work. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

See the [Spanish version](#).

### **Find Help form Other States - LawHelp.org**

Links to lawhelp sites (similar to IllinoisLegalAid.org) from other states.

### **Illinois Attorney Desk Reference Manual: Main Table of Contents**

The Illinois Attorney Desk Reference Manual is an overview of 10 areas of Illinois law including civil practice, consumer law, drivers' licenses, education law, employment law, family law, health care, housing law, income maintenance, wills & estates. The Manual was created by Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation with the assistance of Prairie State Legal Services and Coordinated Advice and Referral Program for Legal Services (CARPLS). Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Law Issues for Consumers**

Information on a variety of topics from the American Bar Association.

### **Dial-Law**

Select General Legal Information under For the Public. DIAL-LAW is a collection of general information about Illinois law and our legal system. Dial-Law is a free public service program sponsored by the Chicago Bar Association and the Chicago Public Library.

### **Legal Health CheckUp**

Tips on everyday legal concerns regarding auto, home and health. From Illinois State Bar Association.

### **Practical Law**

Information on legal issues involving real estate, auto/vehicle, consumer, personal finance, family law, workplace law, health care, and working with lawyers. From the ABA Division for Public Education.

### **FindLaw for the Public**

A selection of topics covered including accidents & injuries, divorce & family law, bankruptcy & debt, criminal law, employees' rights, estates & probate, real estate, DWI/DUI.

### **Illinois Law Now**

Information on health, family, home, automobiles, money matters and estates from the Illinois State Bar Association.

### **Self Help Legal Center**

Information packets cover child support, children, financial matters, court proceedings, divorce/separation, health & aging, how to serve, immigration, individual forms, mediation, property, protective orders and expungement. Some packets cannot be used in Cook County actions. Provided by the Southern Illinois University School of Law.

### **Legal Topics A-Z**

An extensive collection of links. From the Wisconsin State Law Library.

### **Locating the Law - Handbook for Non-Law Librarians, 5th ed.**

## **Personal Injury**

### **Personal Injury**

Select Personal Injury under Research Legal Topics. Information on automobile accidents, dog bites, slip and fall, medical malpractice, and personal injury basics. From Lawyers.com.

### **ABA Family Legal Guide**

See Chapter 13, Personal Injury.

### **Personal Injury**

Personal injury claims, negligence, medical malpractice, and product liability. ABA Division of Public Education.

### **Accident and Injury Center**

Information on different types of accidents and injuries arranged alphabetically. Additional topics include personal injury, car and motor vehicle accidents, dangerous products, medical malpractice, mesothelioma & asbestos, mold, nursing home abuse, and workers' compensation. From FindLaw.

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## **Predatory Lending**

### **Predatory Lending FAQs**

Answers to commonly asked questions about predatory lending. From the IL Dept. of Financial & Professional Regulation, Division of Banking.

### **Predatory Lending**

Information compiled by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

## **Privacy**

### **Ensuring Privacy in the Workplace**

Select Business & Human Resources, then select Human Resources.

### **Privacy Rights Clearinghouse**

Links to **fact sheets** on a wide variety of privacy issues including telemarketing, HIPAA & medical records, social security, identity theft, online shopping and banking. The Privacy Rights Clearinghouse is nonprofit, consumer information and advocacy organization.

### **Reporter's Recording Guide**

Covers tape-recording guidelines, state-by-state guide, consent, interstate calls, and copyright and taped interviews. From the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

## **Real Estate**



**ABA Guide to Consumer Law** ([www.abanet.org/publiced/practical/books/consumer/](http://www.abanet.org/publiced/practical/books/consumer/))

See Chapter 11: Buying and Selling a Home.

### **Home Equity Loans**

Select Legal Resources tab, then select Consumer. Scroll down to this publication from the Attorney Desk Reference Manual. Topics include disclosure and substantive requirements, consumer right to rescind, cooling off period, duty of creditor, effect of rescission, enforcement and statute of limitations. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Buying A Home (ISBA)**

### **Selling A Home (ISBA)**

### **The Law & Your Home**

Avoiding liability, liability insurance, and remodeling and the law. ABA Division of Public Education.

### **Real Estate & Rental Property Center**

Includes buying and selling a house, getting a mortgage, your home as a tax shelter, etc.

### **Selling Your Home**

Publication 523 from the Internal Revenue Service.

### **ABA Guide to Home Ownership**

### **Escrow Terms and Phrases**

Glossary of definitions, meanings, and descriptions as understood by Chicago Title Insurance Co.

## **Senior Citizens**

### **Laws for Older Americans**

This booklet summarizes major Illinois and federal laws and programs for older adults. Provided by the Legislative Research Unit of the Illinois General Assembly.

### **Judicial Determination of Capacity of Older Americans in Guardianship Proceedings**

An online publication from the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging and the American Psychological Association.

### **Publications**

From the ABA Commission on Law and Aging.

### **Health and Financial Decisions: Legal Tools for Preserving Your Personal Autonomy**

**Spanish version** available.

Published by the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging.

### **A Family Caregiver's Guide to Long Term Care**

Select Guardianship & Estates then scroll down to this publication from the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Brochures for Older Consumers**

A collection of articles and brochures from the National Consumer Law Center.

## **Taxes**

### **Internal Revenue Service**

#### **Forms and Publications**

Current year and previous years back to 1990.

#### **Electronic Reading Room**

Includes materials arranged under Published Tax Guidance, Non-precedential Rulings & Advice, Admin Manuals & Instructions, Program Plans & Reports, Training & Reference Materials

### **TaxTips4U.org: Your Rights and Responsibilities**

Extensive information for taxpayers. Provided by the American Bar Association.

## **Telephone**

### **Consumer Information: Telephone**

Scroll down to Consumer Service links. Information from the Illinois Commerce Commission on establishing and disconnecting service, understanding your telephone bill, resolving problems, slamming, and taxes.

## **Tobacco Issues**

### **State Legislated Actions on Tobacco Issues**

From American Lung Association.

### **State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation (STATE) System**

The STATE System is an electronic data warehouse containing current and historical state-level data on tobacco use prevention and control including legislation.

### **Tobacco Settlement Documents**

From the National Association of Attorneys General.

## **Traffic/Driver's Licenses**

### **Traffic Court Information**

Information on court locations, what to do if you receive a ticket, your rights, supervision, continuances, DUI, driver's license sanctions, suspensions and reinstatements. Provided by the Chief Judge of the Cook County Circuit Court.

### **Illinois Drivers Licenses**

Topics include revocation and suspension, reciprocity, proof of financial responsibility, operation of uninsured vehicle, DUI, hearings, and driving relief. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Driver Services, Illinois Secretary of State**

Information on driver services from the Illinois Secretary of State. Includes **Rules of the Road**.

### **Vehicle Services, Illinois Secretary of State**

Information on license plates, Illinois Vehicle Code, mandatory insurance and other topics.

## **Travel Law**

### **Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State**

Information for US citizens traveling abroad and for foreign visitors to the US. Passport and visa information, news on international travel, children and families and law and policy.

## **Wills, Guardianships and Estates**

### **Wills and Estates**

Topics include estate planning and probate, wills, statutory power of attorney, health care surrogate act, living will, mental health advance directive, and guardianship for disabled adults. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

### **Your Guide to Estate Planning (ISBA)**

### **What is a Living Trust? (ISBA)**

### **Statement of Illinois Law on Advance Directives and DNR Orders**

Provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Also available in **Spanish**.

### **A Practitioner's Guide to Adult Guardianship in Illinois**

This guide is a collaborative effort of the staff of the Office of State Guardian of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, a state agency.

### **Disabilities Guidebook: Guardianship of Minors**

Select Legal Resources tab, then select Guardianship & Estates. Scroll down to this work by David Wolowitz & Michael O'Connor of the Prairie State Legal Services. Provided by Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO).

## **Women**

### **Women'sLaw.org**

Information for all 50 states on domestic violence information and resources.

### **The Illinois Page**

### **Orders of Protection**

Select Brochures. Provided by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

## **Workers' Compensation**

### **Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission**

Rates, opinions, handbook, law and regulations.

### **Handbook on Workers' Compensation and Occupational Diseases**

**FAQs:** Frequently Asked Questions. Also available in **Spanish**.

### **State Workers' Compensation Laws**

U.S. Department of Labor.

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The web sites listed in this guide are for information only and are not endorsed or supported by the Cook County Law Library. Please independently verify the accuracy and currency of all information. Consult an attorney for legal advice.

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Compiled by Jean M. Wenger  
Government Documents/  
Foreign & International Law Librarian  
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