

Questions about evictions in Cook County? Call [Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt](#) at 855-956-5763 to speak with a lawyer for free.



1. Before You Start, Consider All Your Options

- MEDIATION:** You may be able to work out a resolution with your tenant without going to court. The [Center for Conflict Resolution](#) offers free mediation. Call **312-922-6464 x 22** or email newcase@ccrchicago.org.
- RENTAL ASSISTANCE:** You may be eligible for rental assistance when you file for eviction. To learn more, visit www.illinoishousinghelp.org/cbrap or call **866-454-3571**.



2. Make Sure You Have All Your Paperwork

You can find forms required to file an eviction case and more information on the [Chicago Volunteer Legal Services website](#) or call **855-956-5763** for additional assistance with filing an eviction case in Cook County. Taking these steps **before** filing a case can avoid delays.

- EVICTIION NOTICE:** Before you can file a case, you must give your tenant [the appropriate eviction notice](#) and wait the number of days stated in the notice.
- NOTICE/AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE:** This is a sworn statement that will tell the judge *how* and *when* you gave your tenant the Eviction Notice. This Notice must be delivered to tenants in a specific way. Review the resources above for instructions.
- LEASE:** Include a copy of the lease when you file your case. **If you never had a written lease with your tenant, you should include a sworn statement about your understanding of the terms of the lease.**

- AFFIDAVIT ABOUT MISSING DOCUMENTS:** If you do not have the Eviction Notice, Affidavit of Service, or Lease, then include an Affidavit that tells the judge what the missing paperwork said.
- COMPLAINT, SUMMONS, AND CIVIL ACTION COVER SHEET:** You must complete these forms that explain why you are filing a case, what you are seeking from the court, and how the tenant can respond.



3. Begin Your Court Case

- COURT FEES:** You will need to pay a fee to file your case. You can call 312-603-5030 if you have questions.
- E-FILING:** All court papers must be filed electronically. If you need help with filing, you can call 312-603-5030 or 833-411-1121.
- SERVICE:** After you have filed your court papers, you will need to have them served by the Sheriff and pay the required fee. You will need to [file directly with the Sheriff's Office](#) to begin this process. This can be done [online](#) or in person at the Daley Center, Bridgeview, Markham, Maywood, Rolling Meadows, or Skokie courthouses.