

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF COOK)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FIRST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

GENERAL ORDER 2011-01

PRO SE COURT

The *Pro Se* Branch of the Small Claims Court of the First Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County was established on May 15, 1972, under General Order No. 72-8(M). The jurisdictional limit of the *Pro Se* Court has been increased, from time to time, pursuant to General Order No. 78-13(M), 86-10(M), 92-12, 10-2 and Amended 10-2. The cost of goods and services has continued to rise, and an additional increase in the jurisdictional limit of the *Pro Se* Court is now warranted. It has been increased from \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00. In addition to satisfying the jurisdictional limit, all matters heard in the *Pro Se* Branch of the Small Claims Court, presently Courtroom 1308, must be filed by *pro se* plaintiffs.

It is hereby ordered that as to all complaints filed on or after March 7, 2011, the *Pro Se* Branch of the Small Claims Court of the First Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County shall hear *pro se* actions for money not in excess of \$3,000.00. The types of actions heard in the *Pro Se* Branch of the Small Claims Court includes, but is not limited to, torts, fraud, breach of contract, personal injury motor vehicle, property damage, and personal injury subrogation matters.

It is hereby ordered that, effective March 7, 2011, all complaints in the *Pro Se* Branch of the Small Claims Court of the First Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County must satisfy the jurisdictional limit and be filed by a *pro se* plaintiff. The *pro se* plaintiff's case may be versus a *pro se* defendant, or alternatively, a *pro se* plaintiff versus a defendant with counsel. If, in reaction to a defendant appearing with counsel, a *pro se* plaintiff then decides to retain and work with counsel, the case remains in the *Pro Se* Branch of the Small Claims Court.

The Clerk shall direct all *pro se* plaintiffs who file within the jurisdictional limit of the *Pro Se* Branch of the Small Claims Court to the *Pro Se* Desk. In the event *pro se* plaintiffs bypass the *Pro Se* Desk and are assigned to an eleventh floor non-jury civil courtroom, the court may immediately transfer the case to the Presiding Judge for reassignment to the *Pro Se* Branch of the Small Claims Court.

Effective immediately, General Order 2011-01 supercedes General Order No. 72-8(M), 78-13(M), 86-10(M), 92-12, 10-02, and Amended 10-02.

It is further ordered that this General Order shall be spread upon the records of the court.

Dated Chicago, Illinois this 20th day of January,

Judge E. Kenneth Wright, **ENTER:** _____

JAN 20 2011

Presiding Judge
First Municipal District

Circuit Court - [REDACTED]