



STATE OF ILLINOIS

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

AN INFORMATIONAL GUIDE

www.cookcountycourt.org



STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
Office of the Chief Judge

2023

Honorable Timothy C. Evans
Chief Judge



The Circuit Court of Cook County stands as one of the largest unified court systems in the world. Nearly 400 judges working within the court's 16 divisions and districts serve the 5.1 million residents of Cook County. To provide the citizens of Cook County with a general understanding of how their judicial system operates, the court has assembled this booklet, *An Informational Guide*. I hope you will take a few moments to review its contents. The *Guide* contains broad descriptions of the circuit court's organization, functions and operations as well as a directory of circuit court facilities and government offices. I am pleased to note additional information about the circuit court can also be found on the court's web site, www.cookcountycourt.org.

As Chief Judge, I am immensely proud of our court system. The collective efforts of our judges and employees have made the Circuit Court of Cook County a national model of efficiency, innovation and public service. We are committed to always remaining responsive to the needs of those we serve.

Timothy C. Evans
Chief Judge

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy C. Evans".



First Printing, May 1999
Revised Edition Feb. 2023



STATE'S ATTORNEY

Ministerio Fiscal Público

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

*Ministerio Fiscal Público del
Condado de Cook*
50 W. Washington St., Room 500
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.5440 **Civil** *Civiles*
773.674.2700 **Criminal** *Penales*

TOURS

Recorridos

**Circuit Court of Cook County
Office of Accessibility and Education Outreach**

Oficina de Acceso y Programa de Educativo
69 W. Washington St., Suite 3300
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.1928

*(for those interested in
a tour of the Daley
Center Courthouse)*

TRAFFIC

Tránsito

Traffic Safety School

*Escuela de Orientación para la
Seguridad Vial*
888.245.8450

VOTER

REGISTRATION

Registro de Votantes

Cook County Voter Registration

Chicago & Suburbs
*Registro de Votantes del Condado
de Cook - Chicago y Suburbios*
312.269.7900 (Chicago)
312.603.0903 (Suburbs)

WARRANTS

*Ordenes Judiciales
Detención Fianzas*

Civil	Criminal
<i>Civiles</i>	<i>Penales</i>
312.603.6475	312.603.4641

THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

Overview _____ 2
Organizational Chart _____ 3

COUNTY DEPARTMENT _____ 4

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

Overview _____ 8
The Six Municipal Districts of Cook County
 Courthouse Locations _____ 9
*Municipal Districts 1-6, Cities, Villages, Towns
& Townships Map* _____ 10

**JUVENILE JUSTICE &
CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT** _____ 12

NON-JUDICIAL OFFICES _____ 14

THE TRIAL PROCESS

The Participants _____ 18
Trial Proceedings _____ 20

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
DIRECTORY** _____ 22

COOK COUNTY DIRECTORY _____ 30

For more information about the Circuit Court
of Cook County, go to:
www.cookcountycourt.org

The State of Illinois is divided into 24 judicial circuits. Each circuit is a unified court system in which all trial courts are consolidated under a chief judge. The chief judge has centralized administrative authority to coordinate and supervise the functions of the court.

The **Circuit Court of Cook County** is not only the largest of the 24 circuits in Illinois, it is also one of the largest unified court systems in the world. It was created by a 1964 amendment to the Illinois Constitution which reorganized the courts of our state. The amendment effectively merged the often confusing and overlapping jurisdictions of Cook County's 161 courts into one uniform and cohesive court of general jurisdiction.

Today, Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans and nearly 400 judges serve the 5.1 million residents of Cook County within the City of Chicago and its 126 surrounding suburbs.

More than one million cases are filed every year. To accommodate its vast caseload, the Circuit Court of Cook County is organized into three functional departments: **County, Municipal and Juvenile Justice and Child Protection.**

PUBLIC GUARDIAN

Tutoría Oficial

Cook County Public Guardian's Office
Tutoría Oficial del Condado de Cook

Adult Guardianship Advocacy & Domestic Relations Divisions

Apoyo de Tutoría de Adultos y División de Relaciones Domésticas
 69 W. Washington St., 7th Floor
 Chicago, IL 60602
 312.603.0800
 312.603.0801 TTY

Child Abuse & Neglect Division

División de Abuso y Abandono Infantil
 2245 W. Ogden Ave., 4th Floor
 Chicago, IL 60612
 312.433.4300

SHERIFF

Alguacil

Cook County Sheriff's Office
Oficina del Alguacil del Condado de Cook

General Information

Información General
 50 W. Washington St., Room 704
 Richard J. Daley Center
 Chicago, IL 60602
 312.603.6444

CARPLS (Legal Aid Nonprofit)

Juzgado Pro-Se Por si mismo

Circuit Court of Cook County First Municipal District

Primer Distrito Municipal
50 W. Washington St., Room 602
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.5626

PROBATION

Probatoria

Circuit Court of Cook County Adult Probation Department Administrative Offices

*La Dependencia de Libertad
Probatoria de Adultos*
69 W. Washington St., Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.0240

Circuit Court of Cook County Social Service Department General Information

*Departamento de Servicio Sociales
Información General*
2650 S. California Ave., Rm. 901
Chicago, IL 60608
773.674.6012

Circuit Court of Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department

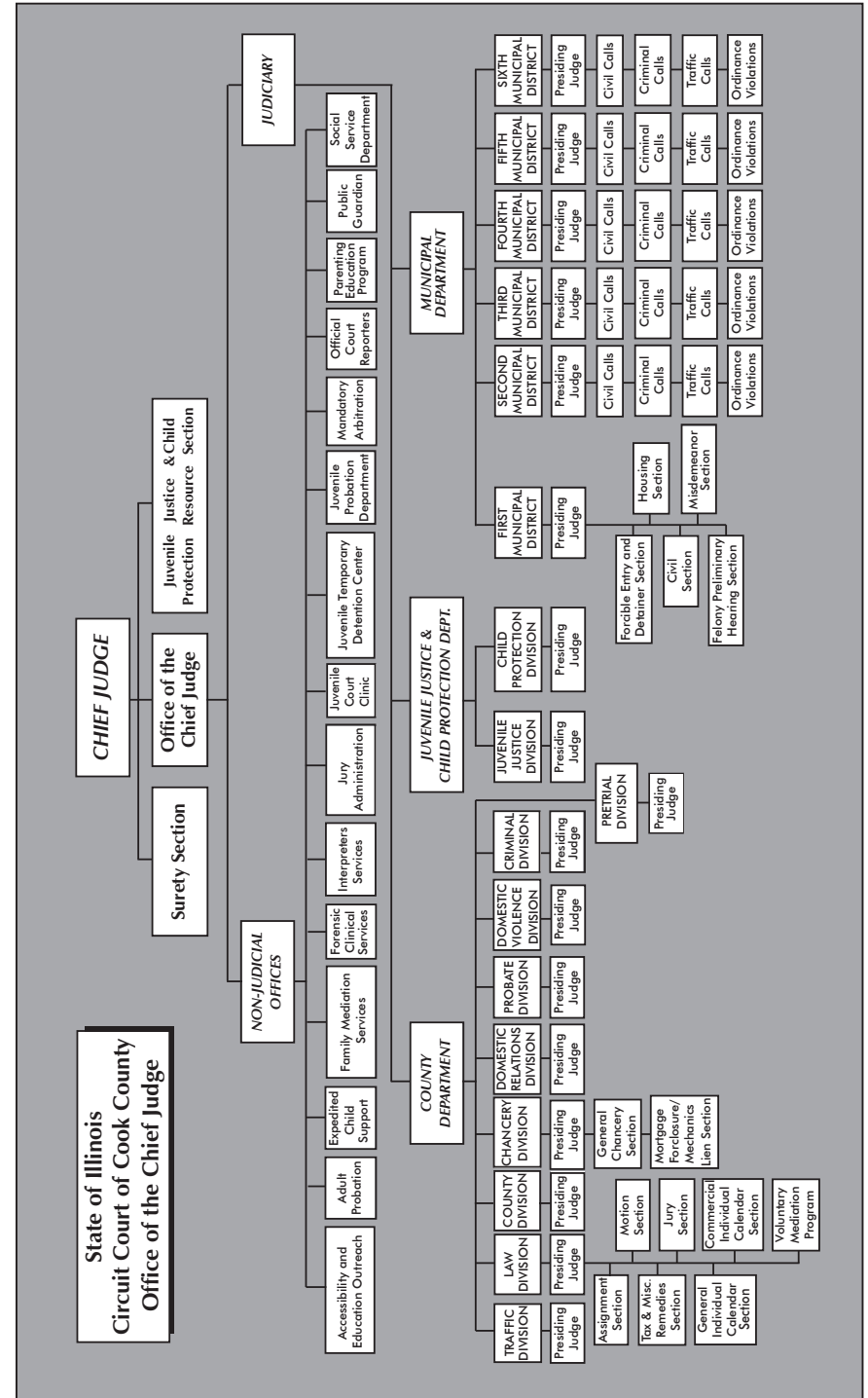
*La Dependencia de Libertad Probatoria
y Servicios Judiciales para Menores*
1100 S. Hamilton Ave., 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60612
312.433.6901

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Defensor de Oficio

Cook County Public Defender's Office

Defensor de Oficio del Condado de Cook
69 W. Washington St., 15th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.0600



The COUNTY DEPARTMENT is divided into eight divisions. Each division is headed by a presiding judge. The types of cases heard in each division depend on the nature of the controversy.

The **Chancery Division** hears matters concerning:

- injunctions
- class actions
- mortgage foreclosures
- declaratory judgments
- contract matters
- creditors' rights
- liens
- construction of wills and trusts
- trusteeships
- receiverships
- dissolutions of partnerships and corporations
- statutory and administrative reviews

The **County Division** hears matters concerning:

- adoption
- marriage of minors
- annexation and deannexation of land to a tax body
- elections
- inheritance taxes
- mental health proceedings
- real estate taxes
- municipal organizations
- orders of protection filed in conjunction with a mental health proceeding

The **Criminal Division** hears cases in which the state alleges the commission of a serious criminal act such as:

- armed robbery
- assault
- burglary
- criminal sexual assault
- murder

MEDIATION

Mediación

**Circuit Court of Cook County
Family Mediation Services**

Servicios de Mediación para Familias
69 W. Washington St., Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.1540

NAME CHANGE

*Cambios de Nombre
o Apellido*

**Circuit Court of Cook County
Name Change Information**

Información para el Cambio de Nombre
50 W. Washington St., Room 802
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.5594

**ORDERS OF
PROTECTION**

*Ordenes de
Protección*

**Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cook County**

*Secretaria del Tribunal de Circuito
del Condado de Cook*
General Information
Información General
555 W. Harrison Street
Chicago, IL 60607

**PARENTING
EDUCATION
PROGRAM**

*Adiestramiento
para Ser Mejor
Padre de Familia*

**Circuit Court of Cook County
Focus on Children
Parenting Education Program
General Information**

Información General
69 W. Washington St., Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.1540

**JUVENILE
DETENTION**

Detención Juvenil

**Circuit Court of Cook County
Juvenile Temporary Detention Center**
Centro Temporal de Detención Juvenil
(formerly Audy Center)

General Information
Información General
1100 S. Hamilton Ave.
Chicago, IL 60612
312.433.7102 (Center)

LAW LIBRARY

*Biblioteca
Jurídica*

Cook County Law Library
Biblioteca Jurídica del Condado de Cook
50 W. Washington St., 29th Floor
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.5423

LICENSES

Licencias

- *Birth, Death, Marriage Certificates*
- *Business Registration*
- *Election & Voter Registration*
- *Notary Registration*

Cook County Clerk's Office

County Building
118 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60602 312.603.5656

- *Driver's Licenses*
- Illinois Secretary of State**
General Information
*Información General sobre
Licencia de Conducir*
312.793.1010

- *Business Licenses*
- *Chicago City Vehicle Stickers*
- *Dog Licenses*
- *Going Out of Business Info*
- *Residential Parking Permits*

**Office of the City Clerk
City of Chicago**

City Hall
121 N. La Salle St. Chicago,
IL 60602
312.742.5375

- *Liquor Licenses*

**Illinois Liquor Control
Commission**
*Comisión sobre Control de
Bebidas Alcohólicas de Illinois*
312.814.2206

The **Domestic Relations Division** hears matters concerning:

- dissolution of marriage (formerly divorce)
- dissolution of civil union
- legal separation
- invalidity of marriage or civil union
- civil orders of protection filed in conjunction with a domestic relations proceeding
- child support
- allocation of parental responsibilities
- parenting time
- third party visitation
- parentage
- enforcement and modification of previously entered judgements in these matters

The **Domestic Violence Division** hears matters concerning:

- civil orders of protection
- criminal actions involving relationships defined by the Illinois Domestic Violence Act including:
 - all matters through the preliminary hearing or indictment in which the most serious offense charged is a Class 1, 2, or 3 felony
 - Class 4 felonies
 - misdemeanors
 - aggravated stalking
- civil no contact orders
- stalking no contact orders

The **Law Division** hears civil suits for recovery of monetary damages in excess of \$30,000 in the City of Chicago, and in excess of \$100,000 in the suburban districts, as well as many types of administrative reviews. Cases heard include:

- personal injury/wrongful death
- motor vehicle injury
- medical malpractice
- legal malpractice
- product liability
- intentional tort
- construction injuries
- commercial litigation
- fraud
- breach of contract
- breach of warranty
- employment security
- property damage
- premises liability
- miscellaneous remedies

The **Pretrial Division**, previously known as Bond Court, conducts the initial proceedings in various criminal cases and is in session every day of the year, including weekends and court holidays. On weekdays, the Pretrial Division conducts the initial bail hearings in all criminal (misdemeanor and felony) cases filed in the 1st Municipal District (city of Chicago), except felony cases resulting from grand jury action. On weekends and holidays, the Pretrial Division conducts the initial bail hearings in all criminal cases, regardless of the district or division in which they are filed, except cases resulting from grand jury action. The Pretrial Division also hears the following matters:

- bail review hearings prior to transfer of the case to the Criminal Division, Domestic Violence Division, a suburban Municipal District, or a First District branch court, unless otherwise ordered by the court
- felony cases assigned to a pretrial diversion program or referred to a deferred prosecution program
- preliminary examination (probable cause for detention) hearings, including emergency hearings outside of regular business hours
- extradition (fugitive) cases
- return of intrastate (other Illinois counties) warrants
- return of warrants for violation of probation or bail bond
- return of body attachments (warrants) in civil cases, including, but not necessarily limited to, warrants for unpaid child support (only on weekends and holidays)
- applications for search warrants, including emergency applications outside of regular business hours

HOSPITAL

Hospital

John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County

Hospital John H. Stroger, Jr. del Condado de Cook

Main Switchboard

Operadora Principal
1901 W. Harrison St.
Chicago, IL 60612
312.864.6000

INTERPRETER SERVICES

Servicios de Intérpretes

Circuit Court of Cook County Office of Interpreter Services

Oficina de Intérpretes

General Information

Información General
2650 S. California Ave.
Chicago, IL 60608
773.674.3210

JAIL

Cárcel

Cook County Jail

Cárcel del Condado de Cook

General Information *Información General*
773.869.7100

Cermak Health Services *Cermak*

Servicios de Sanidad

(Health Clinic for Cook County Jail)
2800 S. California Ave.
Chicago, IL 60608
773.674.7000

JURY SERVICE

Servicio de Jurados

Circuit Court of Cook County Office of Jury Administration

Administración de Jurados

50 W. Washington St., Room 1000
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.5417

COURT REPORTERS

Estenógrafos del Tribunal

**Circuit Court of Cook County
Office of Official Court Reporters**

Estenógrafos Oficiales del Tribunal
69 W. Washington St., Rm. 1920
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.8400

FORENSIC SERVICES

Servicios Forenses

**Circuit Court of Cook County
Forensic Clinical Services**

Servicios Clínicos Forenses
2650 S. California Ave., 10th Floor
Chicago, IL 60608
773.674.6100

**Circuit Court of Cook County
Cook County Juvenile Court Clinic**

Clinica del Tribunal de Menores del Condado de Cook
2245 W. Ogden, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60612
312.433.6666
312.433.6851 FAX

The **Probate Division** hears matters concerning wills and administration of estates. Cases heard include:

- probate and contest of wills and testamentary instruments
- claims against an estate arising in contract, tort or otherwise
- administration of estates of decedents, disabled persons, minors and wards
- contracts to make a will
- construction of wills
- actions arising under the Illinois Power of Attorney Act
- orders of protection filed in conjunction with a probate proceeding

The Probate Division hears cases involving elderly persons as defined by the Rules of the Circuit Court of Cook County and relevant statutes. Matters heard include:

- 1) cases arising under the Adult Protective Services Act
- 2) cases arising under the Illinois Power of Attorney Act
- 3) domestic violence cases in which the victim is an elderly person

It also hears the following criminal offenses in which the victim is an elderly person:

- felonies
- criminal abuse or neglect of a person with a disability
- theft
- aggravated identity theft
- forgery
- burglary
- residential burglary
- aggravated home repair fraud
- possession of lost/mislaidd credit/debit card
- possession of another's credit/debit card
- criminal housing management
- aggravated criminal housing management
- violation of an order of protection
- criminal trespass to a residence
- criminal damage to property
- possession of a stolen motor vehicle
- aggravated possession of a stolen motor vehicle

The **Traffic Division** of the Circuit Court hears all non-felony cases alleging violations of traffic laws. The Traffic Division is divided geographically into six locations including the Daley Center and courtrooms at the courthouses in Skokie, Rolling Meadows, Maywood, Bridgeview and Markham. The traffic cases are assigned to the geographical area where the violation was alleged to occur. Some exceptions exist when cases are brought by police agencies which have countywide jurisdiction such as the Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Conservation, Metra Police, various University Police or the Cook County Sheriff.

The **MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT** is divided into six geographic districts. Each district is supervised by a presiding judge.

The First Municipal District encompasses the City of Chicago. Municipal Districts Two through Six encompass the communities in suburban Cook County.

The First Municipal District hears cases involving:

- housing
- eviction proceedings
- small claims
- licenses
- misdemeanor criminal proceedings except for those heard in the Domestic Violence Division
- felony preliminary hearings except for those heard in the Domestic Violence Division
- ordinance and traffic enforcement
- contract cases decided by alternative dispute resolution process
- civil suits for damages up to \$30,000
- mandatory arbitration (less formal proceeding with three-member panel deciding case) in suits with damages of \$30,000 or less
- marriage and civil union court

The Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Municipal Districts hear cases involving:*

- orders of protection
- stalking/civil no contact orders
- housing
- eviction proceedings
- small claims
- licenses
- misdemeanor criminal proceedings
- felony preliminary hearings
- ordinance and traffic enforcement
- contract cases decided by alternative dispute resolution process
- civil suits for damages up to \$100,000
- mandatory arbitration (less formal proceeding with three-member panel deciding case) in suits with damages of \$30,000 or less
- name changes
- marriage and civil union court
- problem solving court (veterans, mental health, drug treatment)

*The following types of cases are also heard in the municipal district courthouses: felony criminal cases; domestic relations cases; juvenile justice cases; and law division tort cases seeking damages in excess of \$100,000.

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

REMOTE ASSISTANCE LOCATIONS

Ubicaciones de los Asistencia Remota

Richard J. Daley Center
50 West Washington Street
Concourse Level, CL-16
Chicago, Illinois 60602
312.603.9232

- East Lobby Information Desk
- 1302 Eviction Zoom Station

Criminal Division
Leighton Criminal Court Building
2600 South California Avenue, Suite 99
Chicago, Illinois 60608
773.674.8260

Second Municipal District
Skokie Courthouse
5600 Old Orchard Road, Suite 155B
Skokie, Illinois 60077
847.470.7489

Third Municipal District
Rolling Meadows Courthouse
2121 Euclid, Room 221
Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008
847.818.3198

Fourth Municipal District
Maywood Courthouse
1500 Maybrook Dr., Suite 200
Maywood, Illinois 60153 708.865.5951

Fifth Municipal District
Bridgeview Courthouse
10220 S. 76th Ave., Room 235
Bridgeview, Illinois 60455
708.974.7023

Sixth Municipal District
Markham Courthouse
16501 S. Kedzie Pkwy., Suite LL071
Markham, Illinois 60428 708.232.4003
or 4004

CLERK OF THE COURT

Secretaria del Tribunal

Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

Secretaria del Tribunal de Circuito del Condado de Cook
50 W. Washington St., Room 1001
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, Illinois 60602
312.603.5030

CHILD ABUSE

Abuso Infantil

**Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline
Department of Children &
Family Services**

*Línea de Emergencia para Abuso y
Descuido Infantil, Departamento de
Servicios Familiares e Infantiles*
1.800.252.2873
(24 hours / 7 days a week)

**CHILD SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT**

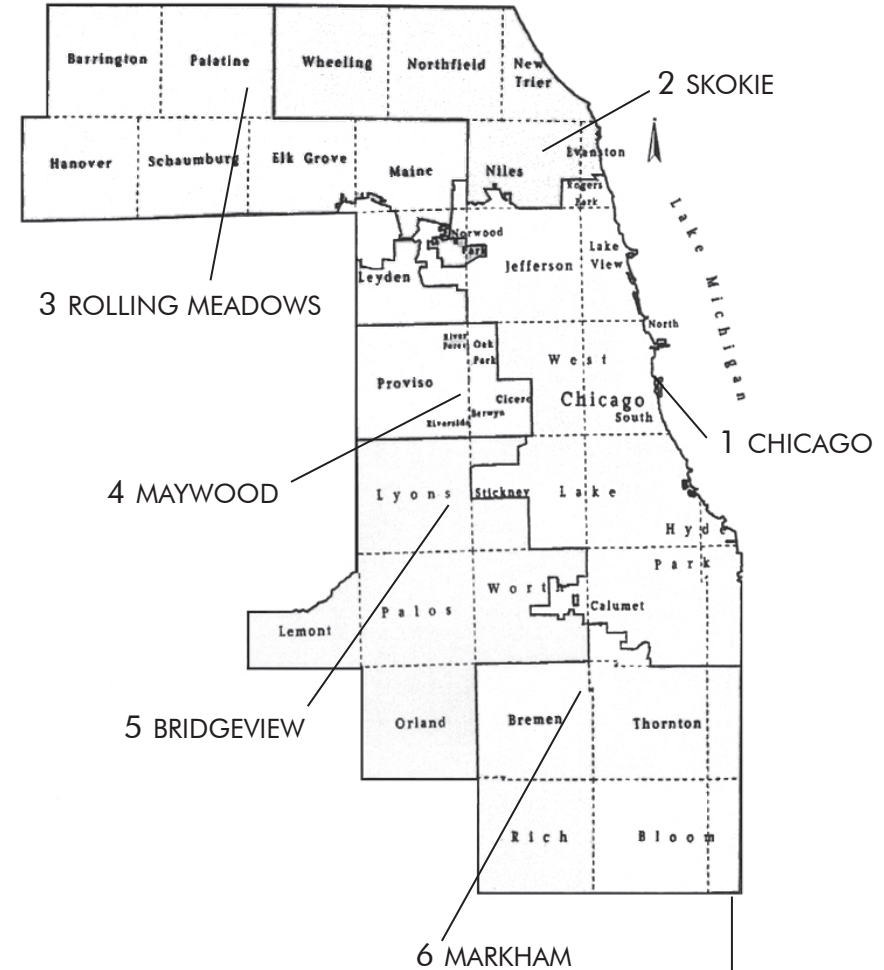
*Aplicación de las
Ordenes de
Manutención de
Menores*

**Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cook County
Child Support Division**

*División de Manutención de Menores
del Secretario del Tribunal de Circuito
del Condado de Cook*
General Information
Información General
312.603.6300

**Illinois Department of Healthcare
and Family Services**

Child Support Intake Department
*Manutención de Menores y
Recepción de Datos*
800.447.4278



**THE SIX MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS OF
COOK COUNTY
COURTHOUSE LOCATIONS**

1

Chicago The City of Chicago

2

Deerfield*	Kenilworth	Park Ridge
Des Plaines	Lincolnwood	Skokie
Evanston	Morton Grove	Wilmette
Glencoe	Niles	Winnetka
Glenview	Northbrook	
Golf	Northfield	

The Townships of Evanston, Maine, excluding that part of the Township of Maine within the territorial limits of the municipality of Rosemont, New Trier, Niles, Northfield, excluding that part of the Township of Northfield within the territorial limits of the municipality of Prospect Heights, and that part of the Township of Wheeling within the territorial limits of the municipality of Des Plaines

3

Arlington Heights	Harwood Heights	Rosemont
Barrington*	Hoffman Estates*	Schaumburg*
Barrington Hills*	Inverness	Schiller Park
Bartlett*	Mount Prospect	South Barrington
Buffalo Grove*	Norridge	Streamwood
East Dundee*	Palatine	Wheeling
Elgin*	Prospect Heights	
Elk Grove Village*	Rolling Meadows	
Hanover Park*	Roselle*	

The Townships of Barrington, Elk Grove, Hanover, Palatine and Schaumburg, that part of the Township of Leyden within the territorial limits of the municipalities of Rosemont and Schiller Park, that part of the Township of Maine within the territorial limits of the municipality of Rosemont, that part of the Township of Northfield within the territorial limits of the municipality of Prospect Heights, Wheeling, excluding that part of the Township of Wheeling within the territorial limits of the municipality of Des Plaines, Norwood Park, excluding that part of the Township of Norwood Park within the territorial limits of the City of Chicago

4

Bellwood	Forest Park	Oak Park
Berkeley	Franklin Park	River Forest
Bensenville*	Hillside	River Grove
Berwyn	La Grange Park	Riverside
Broadview	Maywood	Stone Park
Brookfield	Melrose Park	Westchester
Cicero	Northlake	
Elmwood Park	North Riverside	

The Townships of Berwyn, Cicero, Leyden, excluding that part lying within the territorial limits of the municipalities of Rosemont and Schiller Park, Oak Park, Proviso, River Forest, and Riverside

APPLICATION TO SUE OR DEFEND AS AN INDIGENT PERSON

Solicitud para eximirse del pago de presentación de demanda por ser persona de escasos recursos

(for individuals seeking a waiver of filing fees)

Circuit Court of Cook County First Municipal District

Primer Distrito Municipal
50 W. Washington St., Room 1301
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.4424

ARBITRATION

Arbitrio

Circuit Court of Cook County Mandatory Arbitration

Resoluciones Obligatorias de Arbitrio
222 N. LaSalle St., 13th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601
312.793.0125
312.793.0145 TTY

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Actas de Nacimiento

Cook County Clerk's Office

Secretario del Condado de Cook
50 W. Washington St. - East
Concourse Level - 25
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.7790

BOND REFUND

Devolución de Fianzas

Bond Forfeit Information

Información sobre Confiscación de Fianzas

General Information

Información General
50 W. Washington St., Room 1005
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60608
312.603.5035

For questions about...

ACCESSIBILITY

Accesibilidad

Circuit Court of Cook County

Court Disability Coordinator

Coordinador de Servicios para Personas Discapacitad

69 W. Washington St., Room 3300

Chicago, IL 60602

(312) 603-1915

ocj.accommodations@cookcountyil.gov

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Access

Acceso para Personas Sordas / Hipoacúsicas

Videophone: 312.603.9187

(Voice): 312.603.1918

ocj.deafhardofhearingaccess@cookcountyil.gov

Juror Access

Acceso para el jurado

For persons who have received a summons for jury service and have a disability other than deafness or hard of hearing

(312) 603-5879

ADOPTION

Adopción

**Circuit Court of Cook County
County Division**

La División del Condado

50 W. Washington St., Room 1701

Richard J. Daley Center

Chicago, IL 60602

312.603.6194

APPELLATE COURT

Tribunal de Apelaciones

**Illinois Appellate Court
First District**

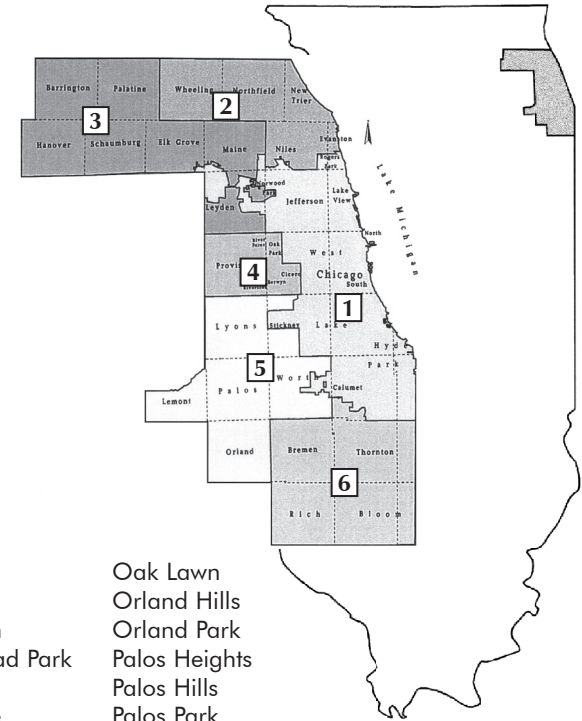
Tribunal de Apelaciones de Illinois

Primer Distrito

160 N. LaSalle St.

Chicago, IL 60601

312.793.5484



5

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Alsip | Hinsdale* | Oak Lawn |
| Bedford Park | Hodgkins | Orland Hills |
| Bridgeview | Hometown | Orland Park |
| Burbank | Indian Head Park | Palos Heights |
| Burr Ridge* | Justice | Palos Hills |
| Chicago Ridge | La Grange | Palos Park |
| Crestwood* | Lemont | Stickney |
| Countryside | Lyons | Summit |
| Evergreen Park | McCook | Tinley Park* |
| Forest View | Merrionette Park | Western Springs |
| Hickory Hills | Oak Forest | Willow Springs |
| | | Woodridge* |
| | | Worth |

The Townships of Lemont, Lyons, Orland, Palos, Stickney, and Worth

6

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Blue Island | Glenwood | Posen |
| Burnham | Harvey | Richton Park |
| Calumet City | Hazel Crest | Riverdale |
| Calumet Park | Homewood | Robbins |
| Chicago Heights | Lansing | Sauk Village |
| Country Club Hills | Lynwood | South Chicago Heights |
| Crete* | Markham | South Holland |
| Dixmoor | Matteson | Steger |
| Dolton | Midlothian | Thornton |
| East Hazel Crest | Olympia Fields | |
| Flossmoor | Park Forest | |
| Ford Heights | Phoenix | |

The Townships of Bloom, Bremen, Calumet, Rich, and Thorton

The **JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT** was created in 1995. It was originally known as the Juvenile Justice Division and was part of the County Department.

The establishment of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Division marked the first restructuring of the Circuit Court of Cook County since it was organized as a unified court system in 1964.

The department is divided into two divisions: Juvenile Justice and Child Protection. Each division is headed by a presiding judge.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF
COOK COUNTY**

ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Jueces Comisionados

- Donald D. Panarese, Jr.
- Joseph D. Panarese
- Luciano Panici
- Linda J. Pael
- Jennifer J. Payne
- Angela Munari Petrone
- Diane M. Pezanoski
- Michele M. Pitman
- Jeanne Marie Reynolds
- Edward N. Robles
- Lori Rosen
- Geri Pinzur Rosenberg
- Steven Jay Rosenblum
- Stanley Sacks
- Eric Michael Saucedo
- Naomi H. Schuster
- Joseph M. Sconza
- Robert E. Senechalle, Jr.
- Rouhy J. Shalabi
- Terrence V. Sharkey
- John A. Simon
- Theresa Marie Smith Conyers
- Ankur Srivastava
- Patrick T. Stanton
- Domenica A. Stephenson
- Pamela J. Stratigakis
- Marita C. Sullivan
- Anthony C. Swanagan
- Sybil C. Thomas
- Daniel O. Tiernan
- Daniel A. Trevino
- Mary S. Trew
- Andreanna Ann Turano
- Gregory P. Vazquez
- Peter J. Vilkelis
- Steven M. Wagner
- Allen Price Walker
- Neera Walsh
- Jeffrey L. Warnick
- James A. Wright
- William Yu

**CIRCUIT COURT OF
COOK COUNTY
ASSOCIATE JUDGES**

Jueces Comisionados

Carmen K. Aguilar
 Gregory Emmett Ahern,
 Jr. Maryam Ahmad
 Ameer Alonso
 Marina E. Ammendola
 Frank John Andreou
 Sophia Atcherson
 David B. Atkins
 Callie Lynn Baird
 Patrice Ball-Reed
 Fredrick H. Bates
 Laura Bertucci Smith
 Shauna L. Boliker
 Darron Edward Bowden
 Karen J. Bowes
 William Stewart Boyd
 James Lloyd Brooks
 Elizabeth M. Budzinski
 Joel D. Buikema
 Clarence L. Burch
 Anthony John Calabrese
 George L. Canellis, Jr.
 Matthew J. Carmody
 James R. Carroll
 Joseph Michael Cataldo
 Peggy Chiampas
 Vincenzo Chimera
 Jeffery G. Chrones
 Gerald V. Cleary
 Jean M. Coccozza
 Thomas J. Condon
 Geraldine A. D'Souza
 Barbara Lynette Dawkins
 James Thomas Derico, Jr.
 Israel A. Desierto
 Melissa A. Durkin
 Sabra Lynne Ebersole
 Lauren Gottainer Edidin
 Carl Lauras Evans, Jr.
 William Nicholas Fahy
 John A. Fairman
 Brian K. Flaherty

Lawrence Edward Flood
 Barbara Nubia Flores
 Mohammed M. Ghouse
 Mitchell Benjamin Goldberg
 Jean M. Golden
 Renee G. Goldfarb
 Sanju Oommen Green
 Joel L. Greenblatt
 Maxwell Griffin, Jr.
 James E. Hanlon, Jr.
 David E. Haracz
 Patrick J. Heneghan
 Thomas J. Hennelly Jasmine
 Villaflor Hernandez
 Stanley L. Hill
 Michael James Hogan, Jr.
 Michael J. Hood
 Bridget Jane Hughes
 Matthew William Jannusch
 Martha-Victoria Jimenez
 Moira S. Johnson
 Robert Wade Johnson
 Timothy Joseph Joyce
 Michael Joseph Kane
 Demetrios G. Kottaras
 Maria Kuriakos Ciesil
 Kevin T. Lee
 James B. Linn
 Myron F. Mackoff
 Alfredo Maldonado
 Ellen Beth Mandeltort
 Marc W. Martin
 Patricia Mendoza
 Stephanie K. Miller
 Mary R. Minella
 Lisette Catherine Mojica
 Martin Paul Moltz
 Thomas A. Morrissey
 James Bryan Novy
 James Michael Obbish
 Margaret M. Ogarek
 Michael F. Otto

The **Juvenile Justice Division** hears cases involving delinquent minors under 18 years of age. A delinquent youth is any minor who, prior to his or her 18th birthday, has violated any federal or state law, county or municipal ordinance. The Juvenile Justice Division has an array of services that can be ordered by the Court to help rehabilitate the minor. These services are monitored by the Cook County Juvenile Probation Department. These services are designed to protect the community, impose accountability for delinquent behavior, and equip minors with competencies to live responsibly and productively.

Cases heard include:

- Proceedings to determine if a minor has violated any federal or state law, county or municipal ordinance
- Proceedings for minors addicted to alcohol or drugs
- Proceedings for minors requiring authoritative intervention (runaways or those beyond the control of a parent, guardian or custodian)

The **Child Protection Division** hears cases involving:

- child abuse
- child neglect
- child dependency
- private guardianship
- termination of parental rights
- orders of protection filed in conjunction with another Child Protection proceeding

The **Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Resource Section** serves as liaison to the academic, business and religious communities to identify and develop services and resources that will augment programs vital to juvenile justice. The section is supervised by an administrative presiding judge and is located in the Richard J. Daley Center.

NON-JUDICIAL OFFICES

The Circuit Court's fifteen non-judicial offices provide a number of important court-related services. Information for contacting each office is provided in the directory.

Accessibility and Education Outreach

The Office of Accessibility and Education Outreach responds to requests for reasonable and appropriate ADA accommodations under Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act from persons with disabilities who are participating in court proceedings. This includes witnesses, jurors, litigants, attorneys, and court observers. The office also manages the court's education outreach programs which include daily tours of the circuit's many court facilities; tours of the Richard J. Daley Center held in conjunction with annual observances celebrating ethnic and racial diversity; an annual mock trial competition for Chicago Public High Schools; and a driving under the influence prevention program for high school students presented by judges along with impact statements offered by victims and offenders.

Adult Probation Department

The Adult Probation Department supervises adults sentenced to probation who have been convicted of felonies, including drug-related offenses, domestic battery, criminal sexual assault, retail theft and criminal damage to property, as well as some misdemeanor offenses. The average length of a probation sentence is 18 months. Basic conditions of probation include reporting to a probation officer, refraining from further criminal activity and not leaving the state without permission from the court. A probationer may also be required to participate in counseling, drug treatment or other specialized programs. The department also administers pretrial services which provide supervision of accused persons released on bond and awaiting trial, as well as victim assistance, intensive probation supervision, home confinement, sex offender supervision and in the future, electronic monitoring.

Family Mediation Services

A part of the Domestic Relations Division, Family Mediation Services mediates allocation of parental responsibilities and parenting time disputes. The service operates under court order and offers emergency intervention and referral services when necessary. Through its Family in Focus program, the service assists with court facilitation of custody disputes and provides supervised visitation for parents who meet the program's qualifications. Services are provided free of charge.

Forensic Clinical Services

Forensic Clinical Services provides comprehensive and diagnostic clinical services to the court and related agencies under the court's jurisdiction. The agency employs psychiatric, psychological and social service meth-

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

CIRCUIT JUDGES

Jueces de Circuito

James P. Pieczonka
Tracie R. Porter
Joan E. Powell
Patrick J. Powers
Jill Rose Quinn
Marguerite A. Quinn
Clare J. Quish
ShawnTe Raines-Welch
Cynthia Ramirez
Sandra G. Ramos
Pamela Reaves-Harris
Erica L. Reddick
Eve M. Reilly
Judith C. Rice
Kristal Royce Rivers
Mary Colleen Roberts
Abbey Fishman Romanek
Joanne F. Rosado
Diana Rosario
Dominique C. Ross
Elizabeth C. Ryan
Jim Ryan
Kristyna C. Ryan
Stephanie D. Saltouros
Beatriz Santiago
Regina A. Scannicchio
Catherine A. Schneider
Debra A. Seaton
James A. Shapiro
Patricia O'Brien Sheahan
Patrick J. Sherlock
Anthanasios S. Sianis
Rosa M. Silva
Maura Slattery Boyle
Levander Smith, Jr.

Tiesha Smith
Patricia S. Spratt
Christ Stanley Stacey
Susan Kennedy Sullivan
William B. Sullivan
Shelley Sutker-Dermer
Stephen A. Swedlow
Sanjay T. Tailor
Lisa M. Taylor
Perla Tirado
Gerardo Tristan, Jr.
Bradley R. Trowbridge
Kathryn M. Vanhey
Rena Marie Van Tine
James M. Varga
Kenneth J. Wadas
Carl Anthony Walker
Ursula Walowski
Elizabeth A. Walsh
Tyria B. Walton
Maureen Ward Kirby
Steven Gregory Watkins
Michael W. Weaver
Lynn Weaver Boyle
Andrea M. Webber
Arthur Wesley Willis
Thaddeus L. Wilson
Jeanne Marie Wrenn
E. Kenneth Wright, Jr.
Timothy Wright
Maura McMahon Zeller

**CIRCUIT COURT OF
COOK COUNTY**

CIRCUIT JUDGES

Jueces de Circuito

Robert F. Harris
 Toya T. Harvey
 Elizabeth M. Hayes
 Sheree D. Henry
 William H. Hooks
 Cecilia A. Horan
 Carol M. Howard
 Lindsay Huges
 Doretha Renee Jackson
 Lionel Jean-Baptiste
 Daryl J. Jones
 Linzey D. Jones
 Preston Jones, Jr.
 Nicholas Kantas
 Paul A. Karkula
 Martin C. Kelley
 Thomas J. Kelley
 David L. Kelly
 Kerry M. Kennedy
 Diana L. Kenworthy
 John P. Kirby
 Steven A. Kozicki
 Daniel J. Kubasiak
 Geary W. Kull
 Robert D. Kuzas
 Anthony C. Kyriakopoulos
 Kathaleen T. Lanahan
 Kimberly D. Lewis
 Matthew Link
 Anna M. Loftus
 Diana Elena Lopez
 Pamela E. Loza
 Stuart F. Lubin
 John Fitzgerald Lyke, Jr.
 Freddrenna M. Lyle
 Thomas V. Lyons, II
 Aicha MacCarthy
 Terence MacCarthy
 John J. Mahoney, III
 Daniel B. Malone
 Daniel E. Maloney
 Edward M. Maloney

Kerrie Maloney-Laytin
 Lisa A. Marino
 Jill C. Marisie
 Diann K. Marsalek
 LeRoy K. Martin, Jr.
 Maritza Martinez
 Viviana Martinez
 Mary C. Marubio
 Celestia L. Mays
 Kelly Marie McCarthy
 Terrence J. McGuire
 Thomas F. McGuire
 Michael B. McHale
 Mary Kathleen McHugh
 Scott D. McKenna
 Clare Elizabeth McWilliams
 Regina A. Mescall
 Pamela McLean Meyerson
 Mary L. Mikva
 Bridget A. Mitchell
 Teresa Molina
 Caroline Kate Moreland
 Michael T. Mullen
 John G. Mulroe
 James Patrick Murphy
 Lorraine Mary Murphy
 Patrick T. Murphy
 Thomas W. Murphy
 Leonard Murray
 David R. Navarro
 Lewis Michael Nixon
 Thomas E. Nowinski
 Brendan A. O'Brien
 Eileen M. O'Connor
 Kevin M. O'Donnell
 Karen L. O'Malley
 Shannon P. O'Malley
 Ramon Ocasio III
 Erika Orr
 Susana L. Ortiz
 Jesse Outlaw
 Nichole C. Patton
 Paul S. Pavlus
 Linda Perez
 Marian E. Perkins

ods in the delivery of clinical services and submits clinical opinions and recommendations to the court. Forensic Clinical Services also provides expert witness testimony where mandated.

Interpreter Services

The Office of Interpreter Services provides persons having limited English proficiency or speech or hearing impairments with court interpreters to help facilitate court proceedings. Interpreters help ensure that all persons enjoy equal access to justice and that court proceedings function efficiently and effectively. The most common languages interpreted are Spanish, Polish, Korean, Arabic and Russian. Sign language interpreters are also requested frequently.

Jury Administration

The Office of Jury Administration is responsible for providing the pool of qualified jurors for the Circuit Court. It accomplishes this goal by mailing out jury summonses to prospective jurors. The Circuit Court does recognize, however, that jurors may be summoned at times which may not be convenient. To address problems based on hardship, the Circuit Court makes every effort to honor requests to be rescheduled to another date or to be transferred to another courthouse. Prospective jurors should make such requests in writing and submit them to the Office of Jury Administration for review. Additionally, the Circuit Court gives prospective jurors age 70 or older the option of not participating in jury service under the court's Opt-Out Program. Those wishing to opt-out must call jury administration at 312.603.JURY before their scheduled date of service. Opting-out does not permanently remove the juror's name from the juror list. The juror may be summoned again at a later date, at which time he or she may choose to serve or may opt-out again. Under the Opt-Out Program, prospective jurors age 70 or older can opt-out without limitation. In addition to scheduling juror service, the Office of Jury Administration acquaints prospective jurors with their responsibilities through the use of a juror orientation video.

Juvenile Court Clinic

The Juvenile Court Clinic is responsible for providing a variety of services to judges and court personnel regarding clinical information in juvenile court proceedings. These services include consultation regarding requests for clinical information, forensic clinical assessments in response to court ordered requests, information regarding community based mental health resources, and education programs on issues relating to mental health information and court proceedings. Juvenile Court Clinic staff comprise lawyers and mental health professionals who use a multi-disciplinary approach to provide high quality mental health assessments that are relevant, timely, culturally sensitive, and in a form that bridges the legal and mental health fields. Forensic clinical assessments can only be initiated by court order. Forensic clinical information is defined as mental health information that is to be used for a legal decision. After a family has been

ordered to undergo a clinical evaluation, a clinical coordinator facilitates the process, which includes evaluating the information request, documenting the request, and arranging an intake interview.

The assessment is written by a clinician, who is usually a psychologist or psychiatrist, and is delivered to court before the family's next court date. The information contained in the assessment is used by judges, lawyers, and probation officers to help them make informed decisions that promote better outcomes for minors and their families.

Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department

The Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department provides a myriad of supervision and intervention programs for minors under the age of 17 who have been found delinquent by the court. In each case where a child is found delinquent, the court carefully considers how it can best meet the needs of the child and at the same time ensure the protection of the public. A judge allows a juvenile to remain at home under supervision as long as the special conditions established by the court and the terms set by the probation officer are followed. The primary objectives of the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department are threefold: 1) to respond with a plan of action that builds the competence of the minor 2) to redirect negative behavior while promoting accountability 3) to restore the victim and the community.

Juvenile Temporary Detention Center

The Juvenile Temporary Detention Center provides temporary secure housing for youth ages 10 through 18 who are awaiting adjudication of their delinquency cases in the Juvenile Division or trial in the adult criminal court in the Circuit Court of Cook County. The five-story, six-level facility is the largest free standing juvenile detention center in the nation and serves more than 4,000 juveniles annually. The mission of the JTDC is to provide a safe, secure, and structured environment that offers the highest quality of integrated services to ensure youth are challenged to make positive changes.

Based on the results of screenings and assessments, residents are assigned to one of nine (9) living centers. Each center is configured with three (3) pods with 16 to 18 beds on each pod. These centers offer cognitive behavior training (CBT) and token economy and balanced and restorative justice (BARJ) programming. (A token economy program reinforces positive actions of residents by giving tokens which can be exchanged for privileges, commissary items, and special visits.) Residents receive individual service plans with goals monitored weekly.

The JTDC offers the following services to its residents: Chicago Public School educational services earning credits for grades 4 through 12; on-site 24-hour nursing care for minor illnesses and routine physical complaints; on-site pediatrician and dentist; on-site psychiatrists, psychologists, and clinical social workers; faith based services and chaplaincy; case management; volunteer coordination; structured and supplemental recreational opportunities; gender relevant services; and certified food service dietary consultation.

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

CIRCUIT JUDGES

Jueces de Circuito

Martin S. Agran
Julie B. Aimen
James L. Allegretti
John M. Allegretti
Erin Haggerty Antonietti
Edward A. Arce
Laura Ayala-Gonzalez
Robert Balanoff
Maria M. Barlow
Bernadette Barrett
Michael B. Barrett
Ronald F. Bartkowicz
Charles S. Beach, II
Steven James Bernstein
Aileen Bhandari
Tiana S. Blakely
Carl B. Boyd
Daniel Patrick Brennan
Tommy Brewer
Janet Adams Brosnahan
Mary Margaret Brosnahan
Andrea M. Buford
Kathleen Marie Burke
Charles P. Burns
Krista D. Butler
Thomas J. Byrne
Thomas J. Carroll
Iris Y. Chavira
Joel Chupack
Elizabeth Ciaccia-Lezza
Michael R. Clancy
Cynthia Y. Cobbs
Mary Ellen Coghlan
Neil H. Cohen
Bonita Coleman
H. Yvonne Coleman
Arlene Coleman-Romeo
Ann Collins-Dole
Alison C. Conlon
Marcia O. Conway
Donna L. Cooper
Patrick K. Coughlin
Kevin P. Cunningham
John J. Curry, Jr.

*For judges' information visit
www.cookcountycourt.org*

Thomas M. Cushing
Colleen Reardon Daly
Adrienne E. Davis
Araceli R. De La Cruz
Eulalia V. De La Rosa
Daniel R. Degnan
Kent A. Delgado
Anna Helen Demacopoulos
Maire Aileen Dempsey
Sondra Nicole Denmark
Jamie Guerra Dickler
Thomas More Donnelly
Daniel P. Duffy
John H. Ehrlich
Jerry A. Esrig
Timothy C. Evans
Patricia M. Fallon
Peter A. Felice
Rossana P. Fernandez
Kathy M. Flanagan
James P. Flannery, Jr.
Ellen L. Flannigan
Michael A. Forti
Beatriz A. Frausto-Sandoval
Carolyn J. Gallagher
Daniel J. Gallagher
John T. Gallagher
William G. Gamboney
Celia G. Gamrath
Aleksandra Nikolich Gillespie
Barry Goldberg
Megan E. Goldish
Peter M. Gonzalez
Ieshia E. Gray
Jonathan Clark Green
Ruth I. Gudino
Joseph M. Gump
Jack J. Hagerty
Sophia H. Hall
Carrie E. Hamilton
Maureen O. Hannon
Anjana M. J. Hansen

**CIRCUIT COURT OF
COOK COUNTY**

JUVENILE JUSTICE & CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

La Dependencia de Justicia Juvenil y Protección Infantil

Juvenile Justice Division

Honorable Stuart F. Lubin
Interim Acting Presiding Judge
1100 S. Hamilton Ave., Rm. 8004
Chicago, IL 60612
312.433.4757

Child Protection Division

Honorable Robert Balanoff
Presiding Judge
1100 S. Hamilton Ave., Rm. 8004
Chicago, IL 60612
312.433.4756

**Juvenile Justice & Child
Protection Resource Section**

Honorable Sophia H. Hall
Administrative Presiding Judge
50 W. Washington St., Suite 2301
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.4181

Mandatory Arbitration

The Mandatory Arbitration program is an alternative dispute resolution process for civil suits seeking money damages of \$30,000 or less. The process is less formal and less time consuming than a jury trial and is conducted by a three-member panel of arbitrators. The arbitrators are licensed attorneys who have at least three years of experience and are certified by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts as having successfully completed a course in dispute resolution.

Official Court Reporters

The Office of Official Court Reporters employs court reporters who are licensed by the State of Illinois. An official court reporter uses a stenographic machine to record verbatim each and every word spoken in a court proceeding.

Parenting Education Program

The Parenting Education Program, known as Focus on Children, provides half-day parenting education class sessions. The classes address parenting in divorce situations, post-decree situations and never-been-married situations where the parents do not live together. The classes are initiated by court order. A fee is charged for attending the class, however, it may be reduced or waived by the judge.

Public Guardian

The Office of the Public Guardian represents minors in juvenile court cases involving abuse, dependency and neglect, as well as in contested child custody cases heard in the Domestic Relations Division. The Office of the Public Guardian also acts as guardian of disabled adult wards of the court. The Chief Judge of the Circuit Court is responsible for appointing the Cook County Public Guardian.

Social Service Department

The Social Service Department provides casework services to primarily misdemeanor offenders. Some misdemeanor offenses include theft, indecent exposure, unlawful use of a weapon, assault and battery. The department develops and implements an individualized supervision plan for each offender and monitors the offender while he or she remains under the court's supervision. Some of the services include the Domestic Violence Program and the DUI (Driving Under the Influence) Intervention Program.

THE TRIAL PROCESS

When attending a criminal or civil trial, who or what can you expect to see?

The Participants

Judge: acts as a legal referee to ensure that proper trial procedure is followed and issues rulings on points of law. In a bench trial, the judge gives the verdict in place of a jury.

Jury: present if demanded in a civil case and present in a criminal case unless waived by the defendant. Their names are chosen at random from the lists of registered voters and licensed drivers in Cook County.

Once a juror appears for jury duty, the juror is assigned a panel number. Panels are divided randomly into groups of 6 or 18. The juror then takes part in an orientation program explaining the trial process which includes watching an orientation videotape.

When a trial is ready to begin, the judge sends the deputy sheriff to the jury room to request potential jurors. The judge generally requests a group of 6, 12, 18 or 36 jurors. Jurors, chosen by panel number, are sent to the courtroom to be questioned by the judge and the attorneys to determine the juror's ability to keep an open mind and be fair. Eventually a jury panel of 12 is selected. In some instances, two alternate jurors are also chosen. They are present throughout the trial but do not deliberate unless taking the place of an absent jury member. Any jurors not selected to sit on the courtroom panel return to the jury room and may be sent to a new courtroom to be questioned for another trial.

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

La Dependencia Municipal

First Municipal District

Honorable E. Kenneth Wright, Jr.

Presiding Judge
50 W. Washington St., Suite 1303
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.6132

Fourth Municipal District

Honorable Ramon Ocasio III

Acting Presiding Judge
1500 Maybrook Drive
Maywood, IL 60153
708.865.6060

Second Municipal District

Honorable Shelley Sutker-Dermer

Presiding Judge
5600 Old Orchard Road
Skokie, IL 60077
847.470.7200

Fifth Municipal District

Honorable Kerry M. Kennedy

Presiding Judge
10220 S. 76th Avenue
Bridgeview, IL 60455
708.974.6288

Third Municipal District

Honorable Jill C. Marisie

Presiding Judge
2121 Euclid
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
847.818.2287

Sixth Municipal District

Honorable Tommy Brewer

Presiding Judge
16501 South Kedzie Parkway
Markham, IL 60428
708.232.4170

Marriage and Civil Union Court

119 West Randolph St.
County Building - Lower Level
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.5660

**CIRCUIT COURT OF
COOK COUNTY**

*Tribunal de Circuito
del Condado de Cook*

**Honorable Timothy C. Evans
Office of the Chief Judge**

Oficina del Juez Presidente
50 W. Washington St., Suite 2600
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.6000

COUNTY DEPARTMENT
Dependencia del Condado

Chancery Division

Honorable Sophia H. Hall
Interim Acting Presiding Judge
50 W. Washington St., Suite 2403
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.4181

Criminal Division

Honorable Erica L. Reddick
Acting Presiding Judge
2600 S. California Ave., Rm. 101
Chicago, IL 60608
773.647.3160

Domestic Violence Division

Honorable Judith C. Rice
Acting Presiding Judge
555 W. Harrison St.
Chicago, IL 60607
312.325.9000

County Division

Honorable Rena Marie Van Tine
Acting Presiding Judge
50 W. Washington St., Suite 1701
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.6194

**Domestic Relations Division
Honorable Regina A. Scannicchio**

Acting Presiding Judge
50 W. Washington St., Suite 1901
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.6556

Law Division

Honorable James P. Flannery, Jr.
Presiding Judge
50 W. Washington St., Suite 2005
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.6343

Pretrial Division

Honorable Mary C. Marubio
Acting Presiding Judge
2600 S. California Ave, Room 2H
Chicago, IL 60608
773.674.0513

Probate Division

Honorable Daniel B. Malone
Presiding Judge
50 W. Washington, Suite 1803
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60608
312.603.7546

Traffic Division

Honorable Diann K. Marsalek
Acting Presiding Judge
50 W. Washington St., Suite 400
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602
312.603.2600

The Circuit Court operates on a one day or one trial system. This means that if a juror is not selected to serve on a jury by the end of the day, the juror is not required to return the next day. Jury service is considered fulfilled and the juror will not be called for at least another year. However, jurors chosen to sit on a panel in a particular courtroom for a particular trial are required to serve for the duration of that trial.

While the trial judge determines the evidence and instructs the jury as to the law, the jurors are responsible for deciding the facts, following the law and rendering a final decision.

Plaintiff: in a civil case, the person who files the complaint.

Defendant: person against whom a civil or criminal complaint is filed.

Prosecutor: in a criminal case, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office acts as the legal representative of the people of the State of Illinois in prosecuting the accused defendant. Certain cases may be prosecuted by municipal prosecutors.

Witness: gives testimony during the trial relating to the case.

Court Reporter: records every word spoken during the trial on a stenograph machine or a recording device.

Deputy Sheriff: keeps order in the court, guards defendants in criminal cases and maintains custody of the jury.

Clerk: swears in witnesses and maintains court orders and exhibits in a trial.

Trial Proceedings

Most trials have five stages:

Stage 1

Jury Selection

The judge and attorneys question the jurors sent to the courtroom until a panel of twelve is agreed upon by all sides. The questioning is designed to excuse jurors who might have difficulty in rendering a fair and impartial verdict in that particular case.

Stage 2

Opening Statements

These are brief statements made by the attorneys to the jury in which the attorneys outline the facts as they see them and what they hope to prove. The attorneys are not considered witnesses and their statements are not evidence. The plaintiff's attorney in a civil case or the prosecutor in a criminal case gives the first statement and the defense attorney follows.

Stage 3

Presentation of Evidence

Witnesses for the plaintiff in a civil case or for the prosecution in a criminal case testify first, witnesses for the defense testify next and any rebuttal witnesses testify last. Each witness is sworn to tell the truth. The attorney who calls the witness asks questions in direct examination. The attorney for the opposing side then questions the witness in cross-examination. The purpose of this questioning is to elicit evidence. Exhibits and physical objects such as photographs and x-rays may also be presented at this time as evidence.

Stage 4

Closing Arguments

This is the final opportunity for the attorneys to address the jury. The plaintiff's attorney in a civil case or the prosecutor in a criminal case proceeds first. The attorney analyzes the evidence and attempts to convince the jury to decide in favor of his or her side of the case. The defense attorney follows with his or her argument, attempting to do the same. Finally, the plaintiff's attorney or prosecutor has the opportunity to present a rebuttal to the defense attorney's argument.

Stage 5

Jury Deliberations

The judge instructs the jury on the law they must apply in the particular case. Jurors then retire from the courtroom to deliberate in secret. When the jurors reach a verdict, the jury foreman who is elected by fellow jurors informs the deputy sheriff that a decision has been reached. The jury returns to the courtroom and the verdict is read aloud to the parties.