



The County Division was established pursuant to General Order 1.2, 2.1 (d) of the General Orders of the Circuit Court of Cook County. The County Division hears actions concerning a variety of matters, including, but not limited to the following: adoptions, election matters, emancipation of minors, mental health, municipal incorporations, mental health, name changes, tax deeds, tax objections and other matters formerly cognizable in the Circuit Court that are not heard in another division.

### **Courtrooms**

The County Division operates six courtrooms in the Daley Center and one travelling courtroom for mental health hearings.

### **Suburban Districts**

Suburban Districts accept name change filings as long as you live in that jurisdiction. Mental Health WRIT can also be filed in any of the suburban districts.

### **Case Search**

The County Division records can be searched on the Clerk's Office website under Court Info & Online Services -> On-Line Case Information and selecting County Division Search. Confidential Matters will not be searchable.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **I want to file for a name change, what do I need to do?**

· You have to be a resident of Cook County for the last six months to qualify. You need to fill out a name change petition provided by the State of Illinois which can be found on the State of IL website and eFile the application with District 1 – County Division. You can also obtain the forms, in person, from the information counter in the County Division, Room 1202.

### **Can I file for my name change at any cook county location?**

· Yes, as long as you live in that jurisdiction

### **What is the cost of filing a name change?**

· The filing fee is \$388.00

### **How do I request access to adoption records?**

· Adoption records are restricted by statute; a court order must be obtained for access to the records.

### **How do I obtain information in my adoption case file (biological parents, medical history, siblings, etc.)?**

· The Clerk's Office, by law, cannot release adoption information. However, the petitioner in an adoption case can register with the Illinois Adoption Registry. It is possible that your birth parent(s) may already be registered and you don't need to search for them. If your birth parents are not registered, you can petition the Court for the appointment of a Confidential Intermediary.

### **How do we recommend services to people who need help filling out adoption forms? Are there any free attorneys that can help draft these?**

· Yes, they can contact Chicago Legal Clinic at 773-731-1762 or if it's an uncontested adoption, they can contact Chicago Volunteer Legal Services at 312-332-1624.

## County Division continued:

### **My parents are abusive and I want to be emancipated from my parents, how do I do that? Do I have to prove that I am being abused?**

· The Minor has to have an adult with them to file for emancipation. Please visit [illinoislegalaid.org](http://illinoislegalaid.org) for more detailed explanation.

### **Do I have to be a certain age to file for emancipation or can I go to the police?**

· Yes, you have to be 16-17 years of age to file with an adult. Please visit [illinoislegalaid.org](http://illinoislegalaid.org) for more detailed explanation.

### **Can a non-family member petition the court to have a person involuntarily committed?**

· Yes, the involuntary commitment process is the same whether a family member or non-family member petitions the court after observing a person exhibiting dangerous behavior toward themselves or others.

### **What options do I have if my child will not take their medication while they are in the hospital?**

· The treating physician may petition the Court requesting that your child be administered the required medication by force. If the Court agrees with the evidence presented in a court hearing by the treating physician that your child is in need of medication, a court order will be issued indicating that your child will receive the necessary medication by force. If the Court does not agree with the treating physician, an order will be entered in favor of your child. The Court will weigh all of the evidence presented at the hearing to make a determination.

### **I just received a "Take Notice" stating that my property has been sold for delinquent taxes and I did not own the property at the time of delinquent taxes were due. Do I have to pay these taxes?**

· The tax purchaser is responsible for notifying all interested parties, including the owner, that the taxes have been sold on a particular property. If you are the owner, you should request an Estimate of Redemption from the Real Estate Taxation Services Division of the County Clerk's Office located at the Cook County Building, 118 North Clark St., Room 434, Chicago, IL.

If you are an occupant or an otherwise interested party, you are being given notice that the taxes have been sold on the property. You should contact the owner right away to determine if they are aware of the situation. Please note that the current property owner is responsible for payment of all taxes due and owed on their property.

## **COOK COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATIONS**

District 1 – Richard J. Daley Center, 50 West Washington Street, Room 802 Chicago, IL 60602

District 2 – Skokie, 5600 Old Orchard Road, Skokie, IL 60077

District 3 – Rolling Meadows, 2121 Euclid Avenue, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

District 4 – Maywood, 1500 Maybrook Drive, Maywood, IL 60153

District 5 – Bridgeview, 10220 South 76th Avenue, Bridgeview, IL 60455

District 6 – Markham, 16501 South Kedzie Parkway, Markham, IL 60426

Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County  
County Division  
Richard J. Daley Center  
50 West Washington St., Room 1202  
Chicago, IL 60602  
(312) 603-5030

Hours of Operation:  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
Excluding Court Holidays

Clerk of the Circuit  
Court of Cook County



[www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org)

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