



# Mariyana T. Spyropoulos

Clerk of the Circuit Court Cook County

# All About 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, name changes, tax deeds, tax objections and other matters formerly cognizable in the Circuit Court that are not heard in another division.

County Division, Room 1202  
Daley Center, 50 W. Washington  
Chicago, IL  
(312) 603-5710

## Changing Your Name:

You have to be a resident of Cook County for the last three months to qualify for a name change. Name change petitions can be found on the State of Illinois website or from the information counter in the County Division. Forms must be eFiled with District 1 – County Division and the filing fee is \$388.00.

## Mental Health

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. If you have a child who refuses to take their medication, their 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, a court order will be issued. If not, 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.

***The Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County is barred by law from providing legal advice. This document is not legal advice.***

## Adoption Records:

The Clerk's Office, by law, cannot release adoption information. This means that a court order must be obtained for access to the records. If you are looking to obtain information in an adoption case, you 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.

## Emancipation:

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

Self Represented Litigant Center: (872) 529-1093  
Customer Service: (312) 603-5030  
[www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org)

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 The Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County