

Getting Help With Your Eviction Case

Option (1) Use Covid HELP at <http://covidhelpillinois.org>. Covid HELP (which stands for Housing & Economic Loss Prevention) is a completely **free resource guide available 24/7** for people in Illinois facing legal problems as a result of the pandemic. This tool explains where and how you can get help with:

- threat of eviction or foreclosure
- difficulty paying bills
- challenges getting unemployment benefits
- filing for bankruptcy
- concerns about what to do when a loved one has passed away
- and many other topics

Option (2) Use <http://www.illinoislegalaid.org> which includes free forms and articles about legal topics, including eviction related issues. This site can help you understand your rights as a tenant or as a landlord in Illinois and can help you fill out forms you may need for Court.

Option (3) If you need legal representation and cannot afford an attorney, please call this organization who will need to screen your case to see if you are eligible for **free legal assistance or aid**. ***Please be patient as you contact these organizations. If there are high call volumes, you may be asked to hold, leave a message with your contact information, or try your call again later.*

Land of Lincoln Legal Aid (<https://lincolnlegal.org/>)

EVICITION HOTLINE: (855) 601-9474

- **Hotline answered Mon – Fri from 9:00am – 4:00pm.** When you call, you will be screened for eligibility for a free lawyer; please be ready to provide information about your household, your legal issue, and the name of the other party involved in the case.

Option (4) Contact the **Madison County Legal Self-Help Center** at **(618) 296-4900**, or lawlibrary@co.madison.il.us. The staff at the Self-Help Center can also guide people to the necessary forms, guide them through the filing process, or direct them to further assistance.

Option (5) If you are comfortable, or desire to proceed with filing paperwork for Court on your own, there are **free forms and instructions** offered through the Illinois Courts at <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/Circuit.asp>. Some helpful documents for responding to an Eviction are:

Answer (Response): http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/procedures/Answer_Response.asp

Motion (Request): <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/procedures/motion.asp>

Request for Fee Waiver: http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/procedures/Fee_Waiver.asp

When finished, you may either **1.** e-file the forms from home *or* **2.** turn in the forms in-person at the Circuit Clerk's Office (Rm 120). If you have questions about filing procedures, you may contact the **Circuit Clerk's Office** at **618-296-6200**.