# Eviction Toolkit for Self Represented Litigants in Kane County

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www.pslegal.org





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# **EVICTIONS DURING COVID-19**



### The Illinois eviction moratorium ended on October 3

Beginning **October 4, 2021**, any eviction case can be filed and any eviction order can be enforced.

## **GET HELP!**

- If you can't afford rent, Kane County residents can call 2-1-1 for information about rent assistance resources or visit <a href="www.illinoisrentalassistance.org">www.illinoisrentalassistance.org</a> or <a href="https://ilrpp.ihda.org/">https://ilrpp.ihda.org/</a>.
- If you live in income-based housing and your income has changed, ask the landlord or the Housing Authority to "recertify" your income.
- For the more information about evictions during COVID, visit <a href="www.pslegal.org">www.pslegal.org</a> or <a href="www.illinoislegalaid.org">www.illinoislegalaid.org</a>.

If you get an eviction notice, ask for legal help by calling 855-631-0811 or visit evictionhelpillinois.org.





# HELP WITH RENT IS NOW AVAILABLE



Are you in eviction court because you fell behind on rent?
Did you lose income or suffer financial hardship because of Covid-19?
Are you at risk of becoming homeless?

If you answered "Yes" you may be eligible for rental assistance

#### **Tenant Documentation Requirements:**

- Government-issued photo ID
- Proof of address
- Proof of household income
- Proof of public assistance (if applicable)
- Amount of past due rent
- Eviction court papers (Complaint/Summons)
- Valid email address

# Housing Providers/Landlords Documentation Requirements:

- Proof of ownership
- Proof of unpaid rent
- Written lease (if applicable)
- Eviction court papers (Complaint/Summons)
- Valid email address

NOTE: Proof of citizenship is not required. Rental assistance is not considered a "public charge" benefit.

Tenants and Housing Providers/Landlords should work together to apply online at <a href="mailto:ilrpp.ihda.org">ilrpp.ihda.org</a>



Need additional support? Call 866-ILHELP1 (866-454-3571)













Eviction Help Illinois provides free legal aid and mediation services to prevent evictions and increase housing stability. Visit evictionhelpillinois.org or call 855.631.0811 to learn more.



#### TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE LEGAL HELP



CALL:



VISIT

855.631.0811 evictionhelpillinois.org



**TEXT EVICTION TO:** 

844.938.4280

Text option is not available in Cook County.

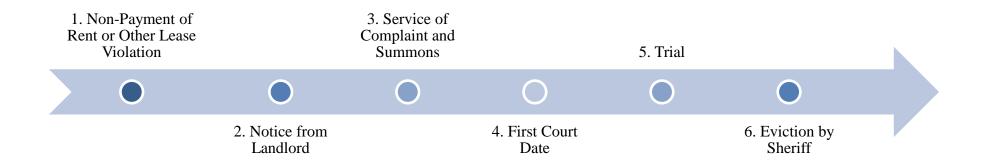
Eviction Help Illinois is a state-funded network of 16 non-profit organizations providing free legal aid, mediation services, and connections to other resources including rental assistance in response to the eviction crisis. Mediation is an opportunity for landlords and tenants to resolve issues with the help of a knowledgeable and neutral person.

These services are funded via a partnership between the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation.



By texting 844-938-4280, I agree to get text messages about my requests and related legal information from Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO). I understand that my consent to get texts is not required to get this eviction help. To stop getting messages, text STOP. For help, text HELP. Message and data rates may apply.

#### **The Eviction Process in Illinois**



- 1. The eviction process begins when a tenant violates their lease, for example, by not paying the rent on time.
- 2. The landlord must give a written eviction notice to the tenant. It can be for 5, 7, 10, 14 or 30 days, depending on the legal issue and the type of housing you live in. The tenant can stop an eviction for non-payment of rent by paying the rent in full during the notice period. In some types of subsidized housing, the tenant also has the right to request a meeting with the landlord during the notice period to try and work things out.
- 3. After the notice period ends, the landlord can file an eviction case in court. The sheriff will serve the tenant with the complaint (says what they are being sued for) and the summons (says when and where the first court date will be).
- 4. If the tenant misses the court date, the judge can enter a default judgment, granting what the landlord requested in the complaint (usually eviction and money owed). But, if the tenant goes to court, the judge will ask whether the tenant agrees with the complaint. If yes, the judge will ask how long the tenant needs to move out and enter an eviction order. If no, the judge will schedule a trial. In some counties, the landlord and tenant may attend mediation before trial.
- 5. At the trial, both sides can present their evidence and testimony. If the tenant has a defense (a legal reason to stop the eviction), the judge will dismiss the case. Otherwise, the judge will sign a court order approving the eviction and any money owed to the landlord.
- 6. The landlord must take the court order to the sheriff to schedule the actual eviction (the removal of the tenant and their belongings). The eviction can happen any time after the date listed on the court order.

PLEASE NOTE: A landlord cannot evict a tenant without a court order and assistance from the sheriff.

Call the police if you are being illegally evicted!

# Tips for Landlords and Tenants to Settle an Eviction Case

- Explore rent assistance options!
- Consider lowering rent, either temporarily for a set period of time or for the rest of the lease.
- Consider a repayment agreement to allow the tenant to catch up on past due rent and stay in the unit. This may be a good option for tenants who are temporarily out of work due to the pandemic.
- Document payments with a receipt.
- If staying in the unit isn't an option, consider a move out agreement that will avoid entry of an eviction order. An eviction order may make it harder to find new housing in the future.
- If you reach an agreement, put it in writing. Have both parties sign and date the agreement, and make sure both parties get a fully signed copy. Be specific about dollar amounts, dates, and everything else. This will help prevent miscommunication and disagreements later on.
- Talk to each other! If an eviction court case has already been filed, you don't have to wait for your court date to make an agreement. If you make an agreement before your court date, you might be able to submit an agreed order to the judge before court. Contact your local Circuit Court Clerk to find out the rules in your county.

#### Why should a landlord consider settling?

- Getting partial rent payments may be better than getting no rent, especially if it means keeping a good tenant.
  - Eviction court cases and finding new renters costs money.
    - An occupied unit may be safer than an empty unit.
- There may be a long delay in getting and enforcing an eviction order.





### **Additional Resources for Tenants in Kane County**

- Rental assistance resources: <a href="http://www.illinoisrentalassistance.org">http://www.illinoisrentalassistance.org</a>
- Court-Based Rental Assistance Program (CBRAP): <a href="https://ilrpp.ihda.org/">https://ilrpp.ihda.org/</a>
- Kane County residents can **call 2-1-1** (or 1-888-865-9903) or visit <u>helpillinoisfamilies.com</u> for help with rent, utility, and food assistance and more
- Eviction Help Illinois: Free legal help; visit evictionhelpillinois.org, call (855) 631-0811, or text 1-844-938-4280
- Kane County Circuit Clerk: <a href="http://cic.countyofkane.org/">http://cic.countyofkane.org/</a>
   (information about court operations, online access to court records, e-filing information, and more)
- Sixteenth Judicial Circuit: www.illinois16thjudicialcircuit.org (Kane County court website)
- Kane Court Partners: <a href="www.kanecourt.org">www.kanecourt.org</a> (information about Kane County court proceedings)
- How to Attend Zoom Court videos: https://www.illinois16thjudicialcircuit.org/Pages/watch-helpful-videos-on-coming-to-court-during-covid-19.aspx
- Kane County Law Library & Self Help Legal Center: <a href="https://www.kclawlibrary.org/">https://www.kclawlibrary.org/</a>
- Statewide court forms: <a href="https://atjil.org/">https://atjil.org/</a>
   (including Application for Waiver of Court Fees, Appearance, Notice of Motion, and Interpreter Request)
- Prairie State Legal Services' Renters Handbook: <a href="https://www.pslegal.org/covid-resources/">https://www.pslegal.org/covid-resources/</a>
- <u>www.illinoislegalaid.org</u>: Free legal information
- <u>covidhelpillinois.org</u>: 24/7 free automated help for people facing housing and other problems during the pandemic

Initials

Initials

#### **RENT REPAYMENT AGREEMENT**

Landlo	ord name	e:
Tenan	t name:	
Prope	rty addre	ess:
	1.	Amount owed. We agree that the tenant owes the landlord:
	\$	(dollar amount) in past due rent; and
	\$	(dollar amount) in late fees (if allowed by the lease)
	as of	(date).
These	amounts	s include any reduction in or waiver of past due rent or late fees that we have agreed to.
For pr	operties	covered under the CARES Act, landlords cannot charge late fees for rent due between
March	27 and J	luly 24, 2020.
	2.	Payment plan. The tenant agrees to pay the amounts listed in paragraph 1 by paying the
landlo	rd:	
	\$	(dollar amount) per week month other
	for	(number)  weeks months other
	beginni	ing on (date).
	Special	payment instructions (e.g. payments are due on the first of the month):
These	payment	ts are in addition to any current rent that becomes due during this time period. The
landlo	rd will no	ot charge any additional late fees for payments made under this Rent Repayment
Agreei	ment. Bo	th parties are strongly encouraged to document payments with receipts.
		Page <b>1</b> of <b>2</b>
Landlo	ord	Tenant

3. **No eviction.** The landlord agrees not to file an eviction court case against the tenant for non-payment of rent as long as the tenant makes the payments required by this Rent Repayment Agreement plus current rent payments. If an eviction court case is already pending, the landlord agrees to dismiss that eviction case.

By signing this Rent Repayment Agreement, the parties agree that the tenancy shall continue, all prior eviction notices are rescinded, and the tenant may remain in the property.

- 4. **Signatures.** This Rent Repayment Agreement is not valid until it is signed by both the landlord and the tenant. Both the landlord and the tenant should receive a fully signed copy.
- 5. **Changes.** Any changes to this Rent Repayment Agreement must be in writing and signed by both the landlord and the tenant.

Landlord printed name	Date
Landlord signature	
Tenant printed name	Date
Tenant signature	

Landlord Tenant Initials Initials

# Electronic Proposed Orders through E-file Information

Kane County Civil and Family Divisions will now be accepting Proposed Orders through the State Mandated E-Filing systems using your existing E-filing account.

Civil Division effective 04/05/21 Family Division effective 04/12/21

All instructions from the Administrative Orders for each division are to be followed. If there are documents that you are instructed to be emailed to all Parties/Judge according to the Administrative Order please use those emails listed on the Administrative Order.

The Proposed Order E-file process is used for the Proposed Orders that are final and ready to be signed by the Judge. The previous emails of CICFamilyRemoteOrders & CICCivilPropsedOrders will not be utilized for the routing of these orders after the dates above. Any proposed orders received in these emails from Attorneys or Self Represented Litigants after the dates above will be returned and asked to be E-filed using the Proposed Order code.

When using your Electronic Filing Service Providers (EFSPs) here are some helpful hints to make it a successful transition.

- Kane County has a drop down box in the Select Filing Code field, named PROPOSED
   ORDER you must choose this to have it routed to the Judge.
- Kane County is using an Auto Receipt function, so your proposed order goes directly to the Judges E-file queue that is assigned in the Case Management System. It is "Receipted" in your history. It creates a new envelope number from this receipted functionality but the service/case contacts follow all envelopes.
- The filer is suggested to type the upcoming Court appearance date, or the court date that it was heard in the FILING DESCRIPTION field. This could be used as a communication tool from you to the Judge.
- If you want a copy of the File Stamped/ Signed Order via Email then you must use the SERVICE CONTACTS/CASE CONTACTS feature through your EFSP. All EFSP's have the functionality to include yourself and the opposing party as a CASE SERVICE CONTACT. When using this you will both receive Signed Orders back from your EFSP provider via email. If you are unsure how to use the Case Service Contacts, please contact your service provider for the functionality as each vendor may be different. Since the applications has this functionality, the clerk will not be sending any orders back via Email.

This form is approved by the Illinois Supreme Court and is required to be accepted in all Illinois Circuit Courts.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT COUNTY		AGREED DISMISSAL ORDER (CASE MAY BE REINSTATED IF DEFENDANTS VIOLATE AGREEMENT)	For Court Use Only
Instructions -			_
Instructions ▼ Directly above, enter the name of the county where	Plaintiff (Fo	r example, the landlord or owner):	
the case was filed.			
Enter the full names of Plaintiff, Defendants, and the case number as listed on the Eviction Complaint.	v. Defendants	(For example, the tenants or occupants):	Case Number
		on Occupants (Check the box for Unknown ts if it was checked on the Eviction Complaint.)	
Notice to Defendants:	you violate the as All residential ev	g dismissed, which means it is now over. But Plai greement. iction actions filed between March 9, 2020 and N ed, alert the judge.	
In 1, check the reason for your court date today.	<b>1.</b> This case v ☐ Trial	vas in court for <i>(check all that apply)</i> :  ☐ Hearing on Motion ☐ Status ☐ 0	Other:
In 2, check who went to your court date.	· ·	ourt (check all that apply):  Plaintiff dants:	Plaintiff's Lawyer
Fill out 3 only if the parties agree Defendants will pay	_		
money. Otherwise, leave blank. Enter the total amount the		dants will pay Plaintiff the agreed amount of _ ssessments, court costs, and other amounts du	
parties agree is owed. Check <b>3a</b> or <b>3b</b> to show how the money will be paid			edule below <i>(check a or b)</i> :  graph every two weeks graph every week ing until paid in full on:
back. Include any other agreed terms like method of payment or the	b	Date  The total amount on or before:  Date	Date
address where payment will be sent in Section 9.		dants are staying in the unit. They must make rent/assessment payments as they come due	
Check 4 or 5 depending on your agreement.			at
In 5, list the date and time the parties agree on for		Date dants must also (check all that apply):	Time
Defendants to move out. Then check all		eturn the keys to Plaintiff on  Date	at a.mp.m.
the boxes that apply to your agreement.		notify Plaintiff that they have moved out by phon or by email at:	ne or text at:

		Enter the Case Number	given by the Circuit Clerk:
In 6a-d, check the boxes and/or fill in the blanks with your agreements.  In 6c, a material violation is one that defeats the purpose of the agreement.  For example, if the tenant is using the residence as a business location.	6.	all that apply):  a.  violate the repayment agreement b. do not move out by the date in Sc. materially violate the lease after d. other:	
In 7, enter the final date the Plaintiff may file a motion to request a hearing. This date can be agreed on by the parties or provided by the judge.	8.	Defendants may assert relevant defenses defenses to the motion, must be based on Plaintiff may not file a motion to reinsta  If Plaintiff proves that Defendants violated a.   an Eviction Order (if Defendants as	to Plaintiff's motion. A motion to reinstate, and any events that occurred after the entry of this <i>Order</i> .
In <b>8a</b> , if you checked the third box, write in the number of days you agree on.		Order is entered), OR  only after	eriff can evict Defendants right away when the Eviction
	1	Number a	ofter the Eviction Order is entered to evict Defendants).
The amount in <b>8b</b> does not have to be the same as what is in section <b>3</b> .		b. a money judgment against Deferminus any payments made.	ndants for the agreed amount of _\$
	9.	Other agreed terms (if applicable):	
Complete 9 only if applicable.			
In cases that have			
not yet been sealed,			
the parties may agree			
to seal the court file			
in a residential eviction action		The newtice agree to each the account file	The clark shall place the file under each upon
under: (735 ILCS			e. The clerk shall place the file under seal upon
$\frac{5/9 - 121.5)}{1}$ The		entry of this Order. (Note: In some cour	nties, the court may enter a separate sealing order.)
parties' right to seal by agreement expires on August, 1,		Signed and agreed to,	
2022.	J	Plaintiff (or lawyer)	Defendant (or lawyer)
All parties (or their		, ,	, ,
lawyer) who agree to this <i>Order</i> should			Defendant (or lawyer)
sign it.			Defendant (or lawyer)
	•		Defendant (or lawyer)
Enter the name and			
contact information		Name:	ENTERED:
of the person completing this		Address:	Date
Order. DO NOT Telephone #:			
complete the section		Email:	
to the right for Date and Judge.		Attorney # (if any):	<del></del>
0	1		

Judge

This form is approved by the Illinois Supreme Court and is required to be accepted in all Illinois Circuit Courts.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT COUNTY		AGREED SETTLEMENT ORDER WITH STATUS DATE (DEFENDANTS WILL MOVE)	For Court Use Only
Instructions▼			
Directly above, enter the name of the county where the case was filed.	Plaintiff (For e	xample, the landlord or owner):	- -
Enter the full names of Plaintiff, Defendants, and the case number as listed on the Eviction Complaint.  V.  Defenda  Defenda		For example, the tenants or occupants):	Case Number
		Occupants (Check the box for Unknown if it was checked on the Eviction Complaint)	-
Notice to Defendants:	All residential eviction has not been sealed,	on actions filed between March 9, 2020, and Maralert the judge.	rch 31, 2022 must be sealed. If the file
In 1, check the reason for your court date today.	<b>1.</b> This case ☐ Trial	e was in court for <i>(check all that apply)</i> :  ☐ Hearing on Motion ☐ Status	Other:
	2. People in	Court (check all that apply):	☐ Plaintiff's lawyer
In 2, check who went to your court date.	· ·	endants:	
	☐ Defe	endants' lawyer	
In 3, list the date and time the parties agree on for Defendants to move out.			Time □ a.m. □ p.m.
Then check all the boxes that apply to your agreement.		nts must also <i>(check all that apply)</i> : rn the keys to Plaintiff on at  Date	Time □ a.m. □ p.m.
	notif	y Plaintiff that they have moved out by phone o	or text at:
Fill out 4 only if the parties agree Defendants will pay money in addition to		y email at:  outs will pay Plaintiff the agreed amount of \$\_\$	for all past due
moving. Otherwise, leave blank.	·	essments, court costs, and other amounts due ne move out date. Defendants will make payme	
In 4, enter the total amount the parties agree is owed (if any). Check 4a or 4b to	below <i>(ch</i> □ a.		ery two weeks
show how the money will be paid back. Include any other agreed terms like	☐ b.	Date  The total amount on or before:  Date	Date
method of payment, the address where payment will be sent, etc. in Section 9.		e is continued to at at	
	in courtro	the amount listed in <b>4</b> (if any).	ants have moved out of the property

	_				
6.	If Defendants have moved out and paid any amount owed as stated in Section <b>4</b> of this <i>Agreed Order</i> , this case will be dismissed with prejudice and Plaintiff may re-enter the property. Any of Defendant's personal property left behind after the move-out date will become the property of Plaintiff.				
7.	If Defendants have moved out but Plaintiff pramount listed in Section <b>4</b> , the claim for possible <i>Judgment for Money Only in Eviction Case</i> of for what is still owed:	•			
	Any money paid between now and the next of amount listed above in Section <b>4</b> .	court date will be subtracted from the full			
3.	a. an Eviction Order (if Defendants are (choose one):	ne terms of this Agreed Order, the court will enter: e still in the property). The Order can be enforced riff can evict Defendants right away when the			
	only after da	lys (meaning the sheriff must wait that number of days er the Eviction Order is entered to evict Defendants).			
	<ul><li>b. a money judgment against Defend minus any payments made.</li></ul>	dants for the agreed amount of _\$			
9.	Other agreed terms (if applicable):	-			
	<ul> <li>The parties agree to seal the court file.</li> <li>entry of this order. (Note: In some counties,</li> <li>Signed and agreed to,</li> </ul>	The clerk shall place the file under seal upon the court may enter a separate sealing order.)			
	Plaintiff (or lawyer)	Defendant (or lawyer)			
		Defendant (or lawyer)			
		Defendant (or lawyer)			
	Name:	Defendant (or lawyer)			
	Address:	_ ENTERED:			
	Telephone #:	Date			
	Email:	<del>_</del>			
	Attorney # (if any):	 Judge			
	,	caage			

Enter the Case Number given by the Circuit Clerk: \_\_

On the left, enter the name and contact information of the person completing this *Agreed Order*. **DO NOT** complete the section on the

All parties (or their lawyer) who agree to this *Agreed Order* should sign it.

In 6 and 7, "with prejudice" means the claim is forever dismissed.

In 7, this paragraph will not apply if no money is listed in 4. Include only those Defendants who have agreed to this *Agreed* 

In 8, check all that

In **8a**, if you checked the second box, write in the number of days you agree on.

The amount in **8b** does not have to be the same as what is in

Complete 9 only if applicable.

In cases that have not yet been sealed, the parties may agree to seal the court file in a residential eviction action under: (735 ILCS 5/9 – 121.5)
The parties' right to seal by agreement expires on August, 1,

Section 4.

2022.

Order.

apply.

**DO NOT** complete the section on the right for Date and Judge.

This form is approved by the Illinois Supreme Court and is required to be accepted in all Illinois Circuit Courts.

#### For Court Use Only STATE OF ILLINOIS. AGREED SETTLEMENT ORDER **CIRCUIT COURT** WITH STATUS DATE **COUNTY** (DEFENDANTS WILL PAY & STAY) **Instructions ▼** Directly above, enter Plaintiff (For example, the landlord or owner): the name of the county where the case was filed. Enter the full names of Plaintiff. Defendants, and the Defendants (For example, the tenants or occupants): case number as listed **Case Number** on the Eviction Complaint. **Unknown Occupants** (Check the box for Unknown Occupants if it was checked on the Eviction Complaint.) All residential eviction actions filed between March 9, 2020 and March 31, 2022 must be sealed. If the Notice to **Defendants:** file has not been sealed, alert the judge. In 1, check the This case was in court for (check all that apply): reason for your court ☐ Trial ☐ Hearing on Motion Status Other: date today. People in Court (check all that apply): Plaintiff Plaintiff's lawyer In 2, check who went to your court date. Defendants: Defendants' lawyer Other: 3. Defendants will pay Plaintiff the agreed amount of \_\$ for all past due rent, In 3, enter the total amount the parties assessments, court costs, and other amounts due under the lease / condo declaration. agree is owed. Check 3a or 3b to show how Defendants will make payments according to the schedule below (check a or b): the money will be paid back. Include monthly every week every two weeks any other agreed beginning on and continuing until paid in full on: terms like method of Date Date payment, the address where payment will b. The total amount on or before: be sent, etc. in Date Section 8. Defendants are staying in the unit. They must make any payments listed above PLUS all future rent/assessment payments as they come due. In 5, enter the date This case is continued to and time the judge told you to come Date Time back to court. to see whether defendants paid the amount listed above. In 6, "with prejudice" If Defendants make all the payments listed in Section 3, this case will be dismissed with means the case is prejudice at the next court date and Defendants can stay in the property. over and the claims cannot be brought back to court.

In 7a, if you checked the second box, write in the number of days you agree on.  The amount in 7b	enter (check all that apply):  a. an Eviction Order (if Defendants a enforced (choose one):  immediately (meaning the she Order is entered), OR  only after d	If the terms of this Agreed Order, the court will are still in the property). The Eviction Order can be exiff can evict Defendants right away when the Eviction ays (meaning the sheriff must wait that number of days fiter the Eviction Order is entered to evict Defendants).
does not have to be the same as what is in section 3.	_	ndants for the agreed amount of \$\frac{\$ \text{Amount}}{Amount}\$
	minus any payments made.	
Complete <b>8</b> only if applicable.	8. Other agreed terms (if applicable):	
In cases that have not		
yet been sealed, the		
parties may agree to seal the court file in a		
residential eviction		
action under: ( <u>735</u>		
$\frac{\text{ILCS } 5/9 - 121.5)}{\text{The parties' right to}}$	The parties agree to seal the court fil	e. The clerk shall place the file under seal upon
seal by agreement expires on August, 1, 2022.		ome counties, the court may enter a separate sealing order.)
	Signed and agreed to,	
All parties (or their		
lawyer) who agree to this Agreed Order	Plaintiff (or lawyer)	Defendant (or lawyer)
should sign it.		Defendant (or lawyer)
		Defendant (or lawyer)
		Defendant (or lawyer)
On the left, enter the	Name:	ENTERED:
name and contact	Address:	Date
information of the person completing	Telephone #:	
this Agreed Order.		
DO NOT complete	Email: Attorney # (if any):	
the section on the right for Date and	Autorites # (II ally).	Judge
Judge.		-

Enter the Case Number given by the Circuit Clerk: \_

This form is approved by the Illinois Supreme Court and is required to be accepted in all Illinois Circuit Courts.

STATE OF I		COMPLIANCE (FOLLOW-UP) ORDER	For Court Use Only
	COUNTY	IN EVICTION CASE	
<b>Instructions</b> ▼			
Directly above, enter the name of the county where the case was filed.	Plaintiff (For	example, the landlord or owner):	
Enter the full names of Plaintiff, Defendants, and the case number as listed on the Eviction Complaint.	v. Defendants	For example, the tenants or occupants):	Case Number
		Occupants (Check the box for Unknown if it was checked in the Eviction Complaint.)	
NOTE:	Case (Pay & Stay)	if Defendants have complied with an earlier agreed of Agreed Order in Eviction Case (Defendants Agree to eartial compliance, use the Eviction Order, Judgment for as needed.	Move). If Defendants have not complied
In 1, enter the date of the earlier agreed order.	1. This cas	e was in court for compliance of the agreed or	der entered on
In 2, check all who are present at today's court date.	<u> </u>	n court <i>(check all that apply)</i> :  Plaintiff  endants:	Plaintiff's Lawyer
	☐ Defe	endants' lawyer	
	3. The Cou	rt finds Defendants have complied with the ea	rlier agreed order.
In 4, "with prejudice" means the case is over and the claims cannot be brought back to court.	4. This cas	e is dismissed with prejudice.	
On the left, enter the name and contact information of the person completing this <i>Order</i> . <b>DO NOT</b> complete the section	Name: Address: Telephone #: Email: Attorney # (if a	ENTERED:	•
on the right for Date and Judge.		Judge	

# Attending Court by Phone or Video: Questions and Tips for Court Users



# How do I know if my court date is by phone or video rather than at the courthouse?

The court will notify you if your hearing is remote. You may be contacted by mail, email, text message, or phone so check all of your messages regularly.

### Can I ask to appear for court by phone or video?

You can request to appear remotely by phone or video. Call the Clerk's office for information.

#### How do I attend a remote hearing?

The court will send you instructions on how to join your remote hearing by phone or video. If you still have questions, you can call the Clerk's office.

#### Will it cost me money to attend remotely?

There are many free options for appearing remotely. If cost is a concern, you can ask the court to use a free service or ask for a fee waiver.

#### Can I reschedule my remote hearing?

You must contact the Clerk's office ahead of time if you cannot attend your scheduled remote hearing.

#### What if I don't have a computer or phone?

If you do not have a computer, you can ask to appear by phone. If you do not have a phone, ask the Clerk what other options are available.

# Can I still get an interpreter or disability accommodation for a remote hearing?

Yes, the court should provide the same services they would provide at an in-person hearing. Contact the Clerk's office to let them know you need help.

#### What should I expect during the hearing?

- You may be placed on hold or in a "waiting room" before the hearing starts.
- If you are appearing by video, set your screen name to appear as First Name Last Name.
- Introduce yourself when the hearing starts.
- Your hearing is live, and everyone can hear what you say. It may even be recorded by the court or viewable by the public.
- You should ask what will happen next in your case and how to get a copy of the court order.

#### **Getting Ready for Your Remote Hearing**



Check your Internet or phone connection.



Download the program the court tells you to use (for example, Zoom or Skype). Practice until you feel comfortable using it.



Charge your computer or mobile device.

Make sure your phone has enough minutes.



Use earbuds or headphone if you can. This makes it easier to hear you speak.



Check with the court ahead of time if you have evidence to share (including documents and photos) or witnesses to call.



If you communicate directly with the judge (not the clerk), you are required to also include the other party in your messages.



Use an empty, quiet place where no one will interrupt you and with no background noise.



Set the camera at eye level. If using a phone, prop it up so your hands are free.



Pause before speaking in case there is any audio/video lag. Mute yourself when not speaking to improve sound quality. Let the judge know immediately if you cannot hear what is being said.



Even if you are at home, remember that a remote hearing is still an official court hearing and you should dress and behave appropriately.

If you have any questions, reach out to the Clerk's office as soon as possible. If you wait until right before your hearing, it may be too late to get help.					
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#### **How to Use Zoom for Court**

Sixteenth Judicial Circuit

#### What will I need to attend Court using Zoom?

You will need a **desktop computer**, **laptop**, **smartphone** or **tablet that are equipped with a camera and microphone and a stable internet connection**. If you do not have access to those devices, see the **Call-In Options** section.

#### First Step: Install Zoom for Free

- For **smartphones** and **tablets**, install Zoom from the Play Store or App Store.
- For your **desktop computer**, **laptop** or **notebook** device with webcam and microphone, please visit <a href="www.zoom.us">www.zoom.us</a> and follow the instructions to download the app.

#### **Second Step: Create an Account**

Create a Zoom account by going to Zoom.us, click, "sign up, it's free," and follow the prompts from there. You will need to use your email address and create a password. You only need to do this one time; this is the account you will use each time you enter a Zoom virtual hearing.

You should test audio and video at least 24 hours before the conference. This can be done in the "**Preferences**" or "**Settings**" window of the program. Test the program to be sure you have a strong Wi-Fi connection. If your signal strength is too weak this may impact your ability to participate in the virtual hearing. If you are unable to participate by video, see the section titled "**Call-In Options**."

#### Third Step: Join the Zoom Call

#### Be sure to join the Zoom call 15 minutes before the start time

To join, you will need to access the Zoom remote court session information found at <a href="https://www.illinois16thjudicialcircuit.org">https://www.illinois16thjudicialcircuit.org</a>.

- 1. Click on the LIVESTREAMING icon in the center of the page or "Attend a Remote Court Hearing" below it, locate your assigned courtroom and click on the link "Join Hearing."
- A Meeting URL link to the hearing is provided. Click on the link, your Zoom app will open, and a screen should load showing your face. After you see this screen, click "Join with Video."
- 3. The name you choose for yourself will be shown on the screen during the call. You must use your full name as it appears in your case AND your case number so you can be identified. If you fail to do so, you may not be admitted into the proceeding from the Waiting Room.
- 4. Once these above steps have been completed, you will have joined the Zoom session and be placed into the Zoom **Waiting Room**. (When in the Waiting Room, you cannot hear or see the court proceedings.)
- 5. When the court is ready to hear your case, you will be given entry into the Zoom meeting from the Waiting Room.
- 6. A message box will then appear asking you to "Join with Computer Audio," or "Join with Internet Audio." Making your selection will allow you to hear the meeting and speak through your device.

#### **Call-In Options**

If you do not have internet access and are unable to join using a computer, laptop, smartphone or tablet you may join the hearing by **calling in**. While you will not be able to see the other participants, and they will not be able to see you, you will still be able to hear each other. You may need to ask a family member or friend with an internet connection to find the below information for you.

The number to call to join the hearing on your scheduled date and time can be found on the 16th Judicial Circuit website https://www.illinois16thjudicialcircuit.org.

- 1. Click on the **LIVESTREAMING** icon in the center of the page or "**Attend a Remote Court Hearing**" below it, locate your assigned courtroom and click on the link "**Join Hearing**."
- Under Schedule, there is a Meeting ID and Password listed, as well as a Phone Only number. When you call the Phone Only number, you will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID and Password.
- 3. You will join the meeting on mute. To **unmute** yourself when dialing in by phone, you will have to press \*6. You should remain on mute except when it is your turn to speak. Please identify yourself when it is your turn to speak, please speak clearly and loudly so that everyone can hear you.

#### Tips

- Do not join the Zoom meeting while in a moving vehicle. Internet connectivity may affect your Zoom connection.
- You may join the Zoom court session if you join before the host is ready to start the session.
   Please do not leave the meeting; once the host begins the session, you will be placed into the Waiting Room.
- Join the Zoom Court Session 15 minutes before the scheduled time. If you arrive late, you will end up waiting longer in the Waiting Room.
- When you are admitted from the Waiting Room, you should mute yourself by clicking on the microphone icon. If there is a red line through the microphone you are muted and cannot be heard by the people in the meeting. When it is your turn to speak, you will need to unmute yourself by clicking the microphone.
- If you have not previously clicked on the "Join by Video" button, you may click on "Start Video" after joining the meeting so that others can see you. If the "Start Video" icon on the bottom left corner has a red line through it, that means that no one else can see you.

#### Behave as You Would in a Courtroom

- You should be appropriately dressed if appearing by video for a virtual hearing.
- Be aware of your background (area behind you). Make sure it is appropriate; it will be seen by the Judge and other people attending the hearing. Make sure you are not sitting directly in front of or behind a window, because the light or reflection can affect the video.
- Choose a quiet place to participate in the hearing. Cell phones should be muted, doors to rooms closed and disruptions minimized.
- You should remain on mute until it is your time to speak. Do not speak over anyone and do not interrupt anyone. Use appropriate language as you would in a courtroom.

- If there is a court reporter or language interpreter present, be aware that he or she may interrupt from time to time to clarify who is speaking.
- If you do not follow the Court's rules, you may be removed from the Court hearing, and the Judge can impose a fine or other punishment.
- Recording/Photographs/Reproduction: Any video recording, audio recording, photographing, taking screenshots, and/or reproducing of the livestream is strictly prohibited. The recording, publishing, broadcasting or other copying or transmission of courtroom proceedings by video, audio, still photography or any other means is strictly prohibited by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 68(A)(8) and is subject to the penalties for contempt of court. Observers should keep their video off and sound on mute.

#### **Other Zoom Features**

- **Breakout Room**: If two or more participants need to have a private conversation, the Judge can send them into their own meeting and then bring them back into the hearing when the conversation is over.
- Share Screen: This feature can be used to share documents that you have on your computer. The ability to present documents will depend on the courtroom. If a document needs to be shared with the participants, be prepared to show a PDF version from your computer with the "Share Screen" feature or in any other manner in which that court deems appropriate (i.e. Dropbox). The Host will be the only one to assign participants to share screen.
- Chat Room: This feature can also be used to send documents or messages. Some
  courtrooms may allow the chat rooms. However, you may not have a private chat with the
  judge at any time. If anyone uses the chat to have an ex parte communication (private chat)
  with the Judge, the Judge will let everyone know, and that person may be removed from the
  proceeding.
- Interpretation: An interpreter can join the Zoom meeting.

Rev. 17 June 2020

# **ZOOM FROM YOUR PHONE**

How to use Zoom on your smart phone for your remote court hearing



#### **GO TO YOUR APP STORE**

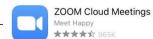
On iPhones, it is called the App Store. On Androids, it is called Google Play.





#### DOWNLOAD THE ZOOM APP

Search for the Zoom Cloud Meetings app in the search bar and download the FREE app called "ZOOM Cloud Meetings," and create a Zoom account.



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#### GO TO THE 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WEBSITE

Go to your search engine (not in the Zoom app) and enter the URL for the Court's website: <a href="https://www.illinois16thjudicialcircuit.org">https://www.illinois16thjudicialcircuit.org</a>. Click on the LIVESTREAMING icon to attend your remote court hearing.



#### **ACCEPT THE CONFIRM AGREEMENT**

Click on "Agree." You may need to scroll around inside the pop up window to see the Agree button.

Please read the YouTube Privacy Policy, and Terms of Service to continue. Kane County Government does not collect user information related to YouTube. You will have reduced functionality if you decline. Agree Decline

#### FIND COURT ROOM OR JUDGE

Once you find your Court Room or Judge, click on the "Joir Hearing" link on the same line.

	Court Room	Division	Judge	Court Call	Meeting Information
	001	Family	Varied	Court Call	Join Hearing
<u> </u>	005	Special Assignment	Hon. Michael Noland	Court Call	Join Hearing
_	101	Family	Hon. Julia Yetter	Court Call	Join Hearing
7	110	Civil	Hon. John A Noverini	COUP	Join Hearing
	111	Family	Hon. William Parkhurst	Court Call	Join Hearing

#### **CLICK ON THE MEETING URL**

The Zoom app will open and you will see your face.

Judge: Hon. Julia Yetter
Session Time: Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. sessions are remote only,
Meeting ID: 988 0113 2835
Password: 417730 assword: 41/730 hone Only: (312) 626-6799 leeting URL: <u>https://zoom.us/j/98801132835?pwd=T3FHQlM2cmFROFg3a2dwRXBaZjNK:</u> hone One-Tap: <u>+13126266799, 98801132835#.....0#.,417730#</u>

101 SCHEDULE

#### CLICK "JOIN WITH VIDEO"

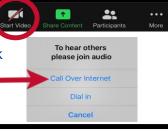
You will be automatically asked to connect to video. If you are not asked, look for the camera symbol and click "Start Video."

Join with Video

**CLICK "JOIN AUDIO" AND CHOOSE** "CALL OVER INTERNET"

You will be automatically asked to connect to audio. If you are not asked, look for the headphones symbol, click "Join Audio," and select "Call Over Internet."

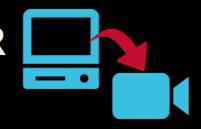
You are now ready for your Zoom Hearing. You may need to wait your turn.



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# **ZOOM FROM YOUR COMPUTER**



How to use Zoom on your computer or laptop (with a webcam) for your remote court hearing



#### GO TO zoom.us/join

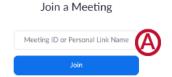
If the court gave you a link, click the link and follow the instructions.



2

#### TYPE YOUR INFORMATION AND CLICK "JOIN"

Type in the Meeting ID Number the court gives you in the box labeled A and click "Join."



3

#### CLICK "OPEN ZOOM MEETINGS"

If you don't have Zoom installed on your computer, click on "download and run Zoom" and open the .exe file to install Zoom.





#### TYPE YOUR INFORMATION AND CLICK "JOIN MEETING"

Type in the Meeting ID Number the court gives you in the box labeled B. Type in your full name in the box labeled C.



5

#### TYPE THE ZOOM MEETING PASSWORD

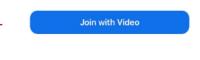
Type in the Zoom Meeting Password the court gives you in the box labeled **D** and click "Join Meeting."



6

#### **CLICK "JOIN WITH VIDEO"**

You will see a video preview before you join with video. If you do not want to appear with video, click "Join without Video."



7

#### CLICK "JOIN WITH COMPUTER AUDIO"

You can test your speaker and Microphone by click the words under "Join with Computer Audio."



#### **Getting Ready for Your Remote Hearing:**

- Check your internet or phone connection.
- Charge your computer or phone. Make sure you have enough minutes.
- Use earbuds or headphones if you can. This makes it easier to hear you speak.
- Look for the microphone symbol to mute and un-mute yourself.
- Keep yourself on mute when your case is not before the judge.
- Use an empty, quiet space where no one will interrupt you and with no background noise.
- Set the camera at eye level. If using a phone, prop it up so your hands are free.
- Pause before speaking in case there is audio/video lag.
- Even if you are at home, remember that a remote hearing is still an official court hearing and you should dress and behave appropriately.

